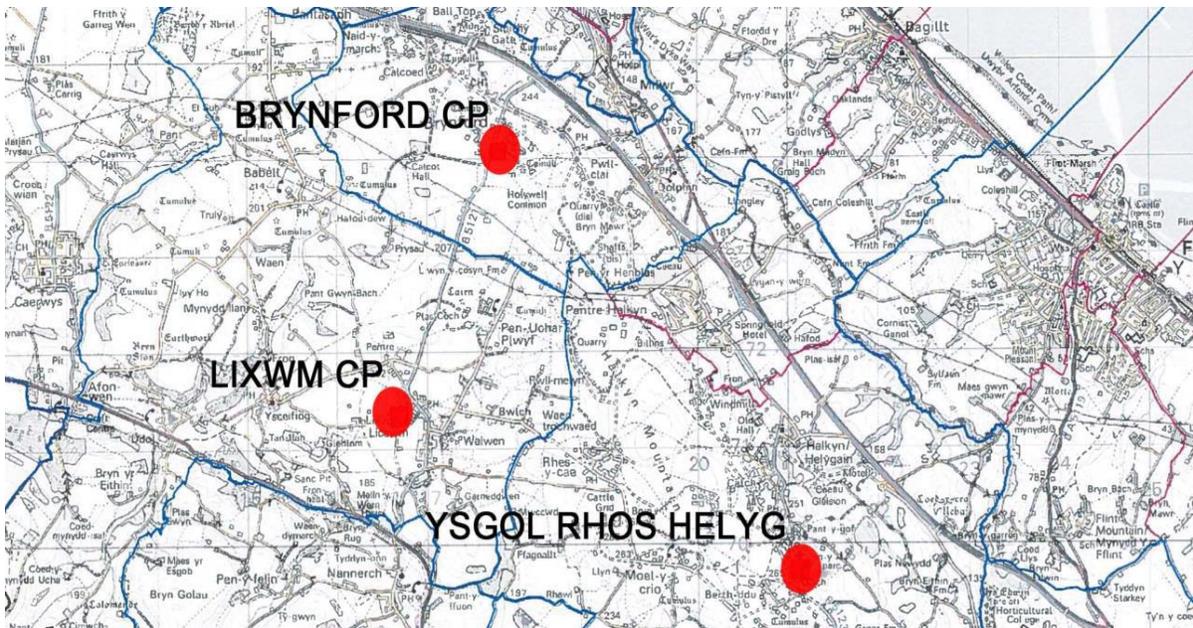




# Options Appraisal Document

## Review of Primary School Provision in the Brynford/Lixwm/Rhosesmôr Area



June 2016

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## 1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 In June 2015 Cabinet determined that we enter into informal consultation on options for school organisational change for the following schools:-

- Brynford CP School
- Lixwm CP School
- Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor

1.2 The area school review will assess the education provision in the areas of Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor.

1.3 The options for the area, as agreed with the schools governing bodies are as follows:-

- Option 1: Status Quo
- Option 2: One Area School on One Site
- Option 3: Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one Area School on one site (either Brynford C.P. or Lixwm C.P. School)

### **What do the options mean?**

**Option 1: Status Quo** - Each school remains as it is, retains its name, category, budget, governors, staff and remains in its community.

**Option 2: Area school on one site** - Area school - one site, the school would retain its category but would have a new name, governing body, head and budget and would remain in one of the communities either Brynford, Lixwm or Rhosesmor.

**Option 3: Area Schools on two sites** - Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor would remain as it is, retain its name, category, budget, governors, staff and would remain in its community. Brynford CP and Lixwm CP would amalgamate onto one site. The amalgamated school would retain its category but would have a new name, governing body, headteacher and budget and would remain in one of the communities either Brynford or Lixwm.

1.4 Key information, including Impact Assessments Equality and Welsh Language; Transport; Community and a Buildings Appraisal, have been undertaken in order to inform this report and are available to view on the following links:-

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)

1.5 Informal consultation meetings have already been conducted with children and young people from Brynford CP, Lixwm CP and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor to get their views on the options for the area, this information has been used to inform the scoring in the options appraisal.

- 1.6 An informal drop in session will take place for parents/carers/staff and governors to discuss in more detail the options considered for the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor area during this informal consultation period.
- 1.7 Flintshire County Council wishes to seek the views of interested parties on the options for the area school review during this informal consultation period.
- 1.8 All information obtained from the informal consultation period will be collated and presented to Flintshire's Cabinet during Autumn 2016, together with the option appraisal documents. Cabinet will consider all information carefully before determining which option Officers should proceed with for the area.
- 1.9 Following Cabinet meeting, stakeholders will be informed of the outcome via the Council's website and schools. Further information will be provided on the next steps and process.

## **2. Background Drivers for the Area School Review**

- 2.1 The area school review for Brynford CP School, Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor is put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:-

- Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio

Brynford C.P School as at January 2016 (PLASC) had gone over capacity by 10 full time pupils with unfilled places of over capacity of 17.24%. Brynford C.P. School has gone over their Admission Number following Admission Appeals.

Lixwm C.P School as at January 2016 (PLASC) had 22 full time pupils with unfilled places of 30.99%.

Ysgol Rhos Helyg as at January 2016 (PLASC) had 38 full time pupils with unfilled places of 22.62%.

As at January 2016 (PLASC) the three schools as an area has a total of 50 full time pupils with unfilled places for the area of 12.12%.

- Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio)

57.63% of pupils (Jan 2016) attending Brynford C.P School are not attending their local school;

48.83% of pupils (Jan 2016) attending Lixwm C.P School are not attending their local school;

10.09% of pupils (Jan 2016) attending Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor are not attending their local school.

- Small School Criteria – The School capacity of Brynford C.P School and Lixwm C.P School is lower than national designation of a small school<sup>1</sup>, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council’s School Modernisation Strategy.
- School Building information

	Condition Score	Suitability Score
Brynford C.P. School	B	C
Lixwm C.P. School	B	C
Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	B	B

### Condition Information

Flintshire’s school Condition surveys are carried out by external consultants using Asset Management DfEE guidelines and include for work required within the next 5 years to bring the property/building up to a good standard. However, minor day-to-day maintenance (e.g. replacement of locks, broken glass, tap, washers, etc.) and minor routine works (e.g. inspection, testing, cleaning, servicing, adjusting, overhauling etc.) are generally excluded unless they present a danger to life and limb or would involve a significant risk to health and safety if not carried out. Surveys are graded as follows:

- A – Good** – Performing as intended and operating efficiently
- B – Satisfactory** – Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration
- C – Poor** – Exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended
- D – Bad** – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

### Suitability Information

Flintshire’s school suitability surveys are carried out by Officers following DfEE national asset management guidance and are graded as follows:

- A – Good** – Facilities suitable for teaching, learning and well-being in schools
- B – Satisfactory** – Performing as intended but does not support the curriculum in some areas
- C – Poor** – Teaching methods inhibited/adverse impact on school organisation
- D – Bad** – Buildings seriously inhibit the staff’s ability to deliver the curriculum

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<sup>1</sup> (The Welsh Government has recently defined a small school as being one with 91 pupils or fewer).

- In terms of the educational standards for the schools, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 1 being the highest and 4 being the lowest for educational standards.

Brynford C.P School is currently (December 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 3.

Lixwm C.P School is currently (December 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 3.

Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor is currently (December 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4.

- Resilient School Leadership - as at September 2016 Brynford CP School has a temporary headteacher in place. Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor both have permanent headteachers.

### 3.0 **Impact Assessments – Key Findings**

Each Impact Assessment has considered the following options for the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor Area.

<b>Schools</b>	<b>Option 1 Status Quo</b>	<b>Option 2 Area School on one Site</b>	<b>Option 3 Area School on two Sites</b>
Brynford C.P. Lixwm C.P. Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	Each school remains as it is, retains its name, category, budget, governors, staff and remains in its community.	Area School – one site, the school would retain its category but would have a new name, governing body, head and budget and would remain in one of the communities of either Brynford, Lixwm or Rhosesmor.	Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor would remain as it is, retains its name, category, budget, governors, and staff and would remain in its community. Brynford C.P. and Lixwm C.P. would amalgamate onto one site. The amalgamated school would remain in one of the communities of Brynford or Lixwm.

### 3.1 Impact Assessment 1: Views Children and Young People

<b>Views of Children and Young People</b>	<b>1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse</b>	<b>2 Disagree / Slightly Worse</b>	<b>3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change</b>	<b>4 Agree/Slight Improvement</b>	<b>5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement</b>
Option 1 (Status Quo)				✓	
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)		✓			
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)					✓

With the permission of the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of the three schools, workshop sessions were held with the School Council's at Brynford CP School, Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor, as all of the schools teach through the medium of English each of the workshops were also carried out in English.

The purpose of the sessions was to share with the School Council's the options for their schools, and what each of the options will mean for them.

This was done by explaining the options as follows:-

Option 1: Stay the Same

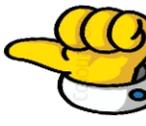
Option 2: Joining all of our schools together

Option 3: Joining some of our schools together

The School Council were then asked for their views on the options. For each option the School Council were able to note down their views.

The final activity for the School Council was for them to vote for each option for their school, using a thumbs up, thumbs in the middle and thumbs down selection for them to make under each of the options.

**BRYNFORD CP**

School	Option 1 Stay the same		Option 2 Joining all of our schools together		Option 3 Joining some of our schools together	
<b>Brynford</b>		0		1		9
	Thumbs Up		Thumbs Up		Thumbs Up	
		9		7		0
	Not sure		Not Sure		Not Sure	
	0		1		0	
Thumbs Down		Thumbs Down		Thumbs Down		

Key themes from discussions at Brynford CP:

**Option 1 – Stay the Same**

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small School</li> <li>• You can all join in competitions</li> <li>• Nobody would need to move</li> <li>• You know everyone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money</li> </ul>

**Option 2 – Joining all of our schools together**

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More money</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Bigger playgrounds</li> <li>• More places to explore</li> <li>• Bigger sports day</li> <li>• New clothes</li> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• New name</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busy roads</li> <li>• Everything would change</li> <li>• Might lose friends</li> <li>• Uniform</li> <li>• New logo and name</li> <li>• 3 schools will be too big</li> </ul>

### Option 3 – Joining some of our schools together

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• More room</li> <li>• More teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busy roads</li> <li>• Headteachers</li> <li>• Change in Governors</li> <li>• Different teachers</li> </ul>

### LIXWM CP

School	Option 1 Stay the same		Option 2 Joining all of our schools together		Option 3 Joining some of our schools together	
<b>Lixwm</b>		6		2		11
	Thumbs Up		Thumbs Up		Thumbs Up	
		3		1		0
	Not sure		Not Sure		Not Sure	
	4		10		2	
	Thumbs Down		Thumbs Down		Thumbs Down	

Key themes from discussions at Lixwm CP:

### Option 1 – Stay the Same

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More attention and time with the teachers which you can educationally benefit from</li> <li>• It's small</li> <li>• There won't be anybody having to get used to space</li> <li>• Less arguing</li> <li>• More people that you know</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A little bit bigger</li> <li>• Need harder maths lessons</li> </ul>

**Option 2 – Joining all of our schools together**

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People would want to come because it is new modern and big</li> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• Shorter journeys</li> <li>• New teachers</li> <li>• Win more tournaments</li> <li>• More teachers</li> <li>• Different uniform/school name/different badge</li> <li>• You will get more play ground</li> <li>• Get more play time equipment</li> <li>• More people to play with</li> <li>• Better sports team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More food to make</li> <li>• More arguing</li> <li>• More falling out</li> <li>• You might lose your friends</li> <li>• People might be mean</li> <li>• Less room to play</li> <li>• More enemy's</li> <li>• Longer journey</li> <li>• There might be people that we don't know and they are mean</li> <li>• Friends will leave</li> </ul>

**Option 3 – Joining some of our schools together**

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• You will have a bigger play ground</li> <li>• You will have better sports teams</li> <li>• So other girls or boys aren't the only girls and boys in their year</li> <li>• More teachers</li> <li>• Shorter journeys</li> <li>• Win more tournaments</li> <li>• Get more equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More enemy's</li> <li>• Longer journey</li> <li>• Transport (Bus)</li> <li>• Losing your best friend</li> </ul>

## YSGOL RHOS HELYG, RHOSMOR

School	Option 1 Stay the same		Option 2 Joining all of our schools together		Option 3 Joining some of our schools together	
Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	 Thumbs Up	8	 Thumbs Up	0	 Thumbs Up	7
	 Not sure	1	 Not Sure	5	 Not Sure	2
	 Thumbs Down	0	 Thumbs Down	4	 Thumbs Down	0

Key themes from discussions at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor:

### Option 1 – Stay the Same

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less population</li> <li>• Less transport issues</li> <li>• You don't have to make lots of school jumpers</li> <li>• Big field</li> <li>• Nothing would change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different money for each pupil</li> <li>• No new friends</li> <li>• No loos</li> <li>• We don't want to leave</li> </ul>

### Option 2 – Joining all of our schools together

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New friends</li> <li>• Save energy because we would be sharing the same kitchen</li> <li>• Save energy from wind turbine if we all moved to Rhos Helyg site</li> <li>• More playing things i.e. trim trail, slide, swing</li> <li>• More toilets</li> <li>• Water fountains</li> <li>• More room to put things where the other school was</li> <li>• bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more pollution because people are travelling further</li> <li>• new school uniform</li> <li>• new teachers</li> <li>• might have to move</li> <li>• school trip</li> <li>• not enough space to play</li> <li>• not enough room in classroom</li> <li>• more work for school</li> <li>• wouldn't have a choice of school</li> </ul>

### Option 3 – Joining some of our schools together

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less pollution</li> <li>• Full class rooms</li> <li>• More toilets</li> <li>• New friends</li> <li>• Save Energy</li> <li>• Greenhouse</li> <li>• One cook</li> <li>• They are both small schools so they should join to make the bigger school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Uniforms</li> <li>• Losing jobs</li> <li>• Car rides longer for some family's</li> <li>• More tables because there is no room</li> <li>• More food for the cook to make</li> </ul>

The votes from each school were then counted to provide a positive, neutral or negative score for each option. The scores were then totalled from across the 3 schools to provide an overall result for the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor area.

Scoring is based on the following:-

- 5 Strongly Agree/Improvement
- 4 Agree / Slight Improvement
- 3 Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
- 2 Disagree / Slightly Worse
- 1 Strongly Disagree / Worse

## **SUMMARY OF ALL SCHOOLS**

Name of the School	Option 1 Stay the same		Option 2 Joining all of our schools together		Option 3 Joining some of our schools together	
<b>TOTAL</b>	 Thumbs Up	14	 Thumbs Up	3	 Thumbs Up	27
	 Not sure	13	 Not Sure	13	 Not Sure	2
	 Thumbs Down	4	 Thumbs Down	15	 Thumbs Down	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>+10</b>		<b>-12</b>		<b>+25</b>
<b>Scoring</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>5</b>

During the informal consultation period we will also be seeking the views of the parents/carers/staff and governors.

### **3.2 Impact Assessment 2 : Buildings Appraisal**

#### **Assessment on the buildings**

<b>Buildings Appraisal</b>	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)		✓			
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)					✓
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)				✓	

On the basis of the buildings appraisal and associated financial study the report recommends the following:-

### Option 1: Maintain Status Quo

All three of the school sites have the capacity to improve their existing facilities to meet Building Bulletin 99 minimum benchmark standards. In terms of planning consent, Lixwm C.P. site would need further consideration due to the restricted area for a new development and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor would need very careful consideration in designing a suitable proposal due to the existing building being Grade 2 listed.

### Option 2: Area School on One Site

If the Brynford C.P. site utilised the adjoining Flintshire County Council owned land located on the eastern boundary, this would allow the new site area the ability and capacity to accommodate both Lixwm C.P and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor. Also, planning consent would be achievable for an Area school on the Brynford C.P. site.

The Lixwm C.P. School however, does not have the capacity to accommodate an Area School due to the size of the existing site, nor does it benefit from further development as part of the site is outside the settlement area.

The existing Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor site is undersized when compared to Building Bulletin 99 minimum benchmark standards for the proposed pupil numbers. Even though this shortfall is only by a small margin, the existing school could still be sympathetically remodelled and a 'standalone' building extension could be proposed to accommodate the amalgamation. However, it is important to note that any future growth would be extremely restricted and the potential to future proof the new Area School would not be possible.

### Option 3: Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one Area school on one site (either Brynford or Lixwm)

It has already been established that the Brynford C.P. site can accommodate an Area School for all three schools when consolidating the adjacent land owned by Flintshire County Council. However, with regard to meeting the aspirations for Option 3, this can be achieved within the parameters and area of the existing school site. This can be accommodated either in the way of an extension or via a new build development.

There is insufficient area to accommodate pupils from both schools in an area school on the existing Lixwm C.P. site. Therefore, the only site that can fully fulfil this option, is the Brynford C.P. site.

### 3.3 Impact Assessment 3 : Pupil Places Assessment

#### Assessment of Matching of Demand for and Supply of Pupil Places

Assessment of Pupil Places	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)			✓		
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)					✓
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)			✓		

When looking at the pupil numbers and places for this area looking at the Pupil Numbers in January 2016 the average figure of unfilled places across the 3 schools was 50 full time unfilled places or 12.12%.

The individual schools unfilled places are as follows:-

Brynford C.P School as at January 2016 (PLASC) had gone over capacity by 10 full time pupils with unfilled places over the capacity of 17.24%. Brynford C.P. School has gone over their Admission Number following Admission Appeals.

Lixwm C.P School as at January 2016 (PLASC) had 22 unfilled full time pupil places (30.99%)

Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor as at January 2016 (PLASC) had 38 unfilled full time pupil places (22.62%)

All of the schools in the area school review have challenges around their unfilled places. Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor currently have unfilled places which exceed the Welsh Government target of less than 10% unfilled places. Brynford CP School currently has more pupils compared to the schools capacity which has an impact on the teaching accommodation. It has been noted from the demographical information from this school, that a large percentage of pupils (57.63%) at this school are not attending their local nearby school, as a number of pupils reside the Holywell area. Additionally the pupil numbers in some year groups have gone over their admission number following appeals for admission places.

There are currently no housing developments (with planning permission) in the area which indicate they may yield more potential pupils.

Looking at the options for the area in line with the projections for pupils in each school the following assessment has been made:-

#### Option 1: Retaining the Status Quo

Pupil projections for the year 2020 suggest that the total area school unfilled pupil places will decrease over the number of years from 12.2% to 9.27%, this area unfilled pupil places total is within the target set for Welsh Government. However, individual schools unfilled pupil places projected for 2020 suggest Brynford C.P. would be at (0.00%) unfilled pupil places assuming admission numbers do not go over their Admission number, Lixwm C.P. School would be at (2.82%) unfilled pupil places and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor would be at (25%) unfilled pupil places. The surplus total is significantly over the target set by Welsh Government of less than 10% surplus places for Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor.

#### Option 2: Area School on One Site

Pupil projections for the year 2020 suggest that should an area school on one site be created, school unfilled places would decrease from 12.2% to 6.29%, this would meet the target set by Welsh Government of less than 10% surplus places.

#### Option 3: Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one area school on one site (either Brynford or Lixwm)

Pupil projections for the year 2020 suggest that should an area school be created on two sites, school unfilled places would decrease over the number of years from 14.24% to 12.15%, this area total remains slightly over the target set by Welsh Government of 10% unfilled places. Capacity of a new area school/s would be determined following detailed feasibility studies of the selected sites, this would include reviewing the running of the school and current classroom spaces, and assessing future pupil projections. For a new build area school capacity of a new area school would be managed to fit the current and projected pupil numbers. Unfilled places would be reviewed and managed in line with Welsh Government targets.

A full breakdown of pupil numbers and unfilled places for the 3 schools is available to view in Appendix 3.

### 3.4 Impact Assessment 4 : Transport Impact Assessment

#### Assessment of pupils arriving at school within an appropriate travelling time.

Transport Assessment	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)			✓		
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)			✓		
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)			✓		

On the basis of the Transport Impact Assessment, the findings are that Option 1 are both equal in their outcome, and would provide no change to the current arrangements or journey times.

For option 2 & 3, there is likely to be a change in journey times for some pupils, this may be an increase or decrease in journey times but this would be within the learner travel measure due to the location of the sites.

Brynford to Lixwm = approximately 2.4 miles

Brynford to Rhosesmor = approximately 4.7 miles

Lixwm to Rhosesmor = approximately 5.7 miles

The estimated numbers of pupils with reduced or increased journey time is provided in the table below.

Option	Estimated Number and % of Pupils with a Reduced Home to School Journey Time	Estimated Number and % of Pupils Home to School Journey Time remains the same	Estimated Number and % of Pupils with an Increased Home to School Journey Time
Option 1	No change	No change	No change
Option 2 – Area School on Brynford site	39 (15.73%)	70 (28.23)	135 (54.44%)

<b>Option 2 – Area School on Ysgol Rhos Helyg Site</b>	13 (5.24%)	127 (51.21%)	108 (43.55%)
<b>Option 3 – Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg and Area school on Brynford site</b>	19 (7.66%)	197 (79.44%)	32 (12.9%)

Note: All pupils journey time from home to school is less within the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and within the below the recommended journey time of less than 45 minutes

It is also noted that from the information on the current pupil cohorts there are a number of pupils which are located in the area and under parental preference are opting not to attend their nearest available school and travel to another school in the area, this would potentially mean that depending on the location of the area school/s some pupils may see an increase or potentially decrease in their travel time, this is particularly the case with pupils from the Brynford and Lixwm CP Schools.

In the case of Option 2 – Area School on one site and Option 3 – Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one area school on one site (either Brynford or Lixwm), there is likely to be an increase in journey times for some pupils. For some pupils there is likely to be a decrease in journey times. The home to school journey times are within the recommended Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 of a journey time for these pupils of less than 45 minutes.

A number of pupils may be eligible for free Home to School transport based on Flintshire County Council's Transport Policy. It is anticipated that there may be additional costs in transporting pupils should option 2 or 3 be progressed.

### Summary of Estimated Transport Costs

	<b>Estimated Transport Costs (day costs)</b>
Option 1 (Status Quo)	£900.00
Option 2 (Area school on the Brynford site)	£640.00
Option 2 (Area school on the Rhos Helyg site)	£760.00
Option 3 (Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and One Area School on One site)	£805.00

For option 1 (status quo) if every child who is eligible for free transport accesses home to school transport, the transport costs would be higher than that of option 2 and 3.

### 3.5 Impact Assessment 5 : Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessment	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)			✓		
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)		✓			
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)		✓			

The findings from the Community Impact Assessment are that an area school on one site or an area school on two sites would have a detrimental effect on the community in the area. It is observed that there is limited use of the school as community facilities through the Community Questionnaires completed by the Headteachers.

Should option 2 and 3 be selected it is recognised that there would potentially be a loss of schools from the area, especially in the communities of Brynford and Lixwm, who would potentially also have an increased journey times to school.

There may be some scope for a number of activities currently taking place on the school site to relocate to another location, potentially to the community hall based in the other villages, to help mitigate impacts on the community.

Actions can be taken to mitigate the impact on the community, including fostering wider links between the Headteacher and Governors and with communities to ensure that the communities continue to thrive.

#### Option 1: Retaining the Status Quo

There would be no impact on any of the communities

#### Option 2: Area School on One Site

There would potentially be an impact on all three of the communities either Brynford, Lixwm or Rhosesmor, depending on the selected site. There will be some positive impact on where the Area school site is located. There could be a positive impact in that the area schools would be brought up to a suitable standard to ensure curriculum delivery into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Actions can be taken to mitigate the impact on the community, including fostering wider links between the Headteacher and Governors and with communities to ensure that the communities continue to thrive.

Option 3: Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and one area school on one site (either Brynford or Lixwm)

There would potentially be an impact on two of the communities either Brynford or Lixwm, depending on the selected sites.

The Community Impact Assessment takes into account that each of the three schools currently make use of a community facility, or have the school used by the community for various clubs and groups.

Should there be an area school on one of the sites there could be a loss of choice for members of the community who use to school as issues regarding availability and accessibility could mean that some groups/clubs may be affected. However this could be counteracted by allowing for opportunities for good relations to be formed for groups to collaborate and potentially make use of better facilities.

**3.6 Impact Assessment 6 : Equality Impact Assessment**

Equality Assessment	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)			✓		
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)			✓		
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)			✓		

The Equality Impact Assessment is carried out to ensure that the potential impacts in respect of all areas of equality including human rights and socio economic issues are reviewed when making significant decisions around school reorganisation. The Equality impact assessment should consider negative and positive consequences of any proposal.

The equality impact assessment has reviewed the protected characteristic groups and states that where there is an impact various measures can be put in place to limit any negative impacts. The impact assessment for the area school review demonstrates that there may be impacts for pupils, parents/carers; teachers and teaching staff should the area school option be implemented. The Local Authority will put in the necessary support to ensure that any impacts are

minimised and mitigated, this should mean there are no residual impacts following implementation.

### 3.7 Impact Assessment 7 : Welsh Language Assessment

Welsh Language Assessment	1 Strongly Disagree/ Worse	2 Disagree / Slightly Worse	3 Neither Agree or Disagree/ No Change	4 Agree/Slight Improvement	5 Strongly Agree/ Improvement
Option 1 (Status Quo)			✓		
Option 2 (Area School on 1 site)			✓		
Option 3 (Area School on 2 sites)			✓		

The Language Impact Assessment is carried out to ensure that the potential impacts in respect of all areas of equality including human rights and socio economic issues are reviewed when making significant decisions around school reorganisation.

Due to the designation of the schools in this review as being all English medium community schools, and there is no change to the use of the language on both the classrooms and playground environments, there should be no impact on the Welsh language, should an area school be created on one to two of the sites.

There is the option for parents in the area to choose Welsh Medium (WM) provision in the Primary sector as there are Welsh Medium Primary Schools in Flintshire.

#### 4 Brynford, Lixwm, and Rhosesmor Option Appraisal

5	Strongly Agree/Improvement
4	Agree / Slight Improvement
3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
2	Disagree / Slightly Worse
1	Strongly Disagree / Worse

Non- Financial Benefits Criteria	Agreed Weighting	Option 1 Status Quo		Option 2 Area School on One Site *						Option 3 Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and One Area School On One Site *				
		Option 1 Status Quo		Option 2 2A1 – Brynford C.P. Extension Option		Option 2 2A2 – Brynford C.P New Build Option		Option 2 2C – Rhos Helyg		Option 3 3A1 – Brynford C.P. Extension Option		Option 3 3A2 – Brynford C.P. New Build Option		
		Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	
1	Reflects the views of Children and Young People	20	4	80	2	40	2	40	2	40	5	100	5	100
2	The school buildings appraisal	20	2	40	5	100	5	100	5	100	4	80	4	80
3	Matching of demand for and supply of pupil places	20	3	60	5	100	5	100	5	100	3	60	3	60
4	Pupils will arrive at school within an appropriate travelling time	10	3	30	2	20	2	20	2	20	2	20	2	20
5	Community focus school	10	3	30	2	20	2	20	2	20	2	20	2	20
6	Equality Impact Assessment	10	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30
7	Welsh Language Assessment	10	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30	3	30
<b>TOTAL OPTION SCORE (MAXIMUM AVAILABLE 500)</b>			<b>300</b>		<b>340</b>		<b>340</b>		<b>340</b>		<b>340</b>		<b>340</b>	

\* Lixwm C.P. School does not have the capacity to accommodate option 2 & 3.

## Financial Data

Option	Option 1 Status Quo	Option 2 Area School on one site *			Option 3 Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and One Area School On One Site *	
	Status Quo	2A1 – Brynford C.P. Extension Option	2A2 – Brynford C.P New Build Option	2C – Rhos Helyg	3A1 – Brynford C.P. Extension Option	3A2 – Brynford C.P. New Build Option
<b>Est. Additional Transportation Approximate Costs</b> (per day) <b>(Score)</b>	£900.00 <b>(3)</b>	£640 <b>(4)</b>	£640 <b>(4)</b>	£760 <b>(4)</b>	£805 <b>(4)</b>	£805 <b>(4)</b>
<b>Present Cost Appraisal (Score)</b>	£25,630,767 <b>(2)</b>	£23,746,783 <b>(4)</b>	£24,081,819 <b>(3)</b>	£18,975,919 <b>(5)</b>	£23,571,064 <b>(4)</b>	£26,072,087 <b>(1)</b>
<b>Initial Capital Costs</b>	£4,040,892	£5,968,960	£6,217,675	£2,514,048	£3,959,089	£6,255,714
<b>School Revenue Allocation</b> (including NNDR impact associated with Capital investment)	£1,092,494	£899,596	£903,964	£833,006	£992,408	£1,002,751
<b>Revenue Savings (-) or Additional Revenue Required (+) (Score)</b>	(£43,381) <b>(1)</b>	(£236,279) <b>(4)</b>	(£231,911) <b>(4)</b>	(£302,869) <b>(5)</b>	(£143,467) <b>(3)</b>	(£133,124) <b>(3)</b>
<b>Cost per pupil</b> (Currently Brynford - £5,080 Lixwm - £3,660 and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor -£2,725)  <b>(Score)</b>	Brynford £4,651 Lixwm £3,389 Rhos Helyg £2,762 Average £3,600 <b>(1)</b>	£2,999 <b>(3)</b>	£3,013 <b>(2)</b>	£2,777 <b>(5)</b>	New School £2,872 Rhos Helyg £2,725 Average £2,798 <b>(4)</b>	New School £2,933 Rhos Helyg £2,725 Average £2,829 <b>(3)</b>
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>COMBINED SCORE (Financial &amp; Non-Financial Benefits)</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>351</b>

\* Lixwm C.P. School does not have the capacity to accommodate Option 2 & 3

## **4.1 Summary of the Impact Assessments**

### **Views of the Children and Young People**

The option preferred by the children and young people was option 3: Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor & one Area School on one site

### **Buildings Appraisal Assessment**

The option preferred by the buildings appraisal assessment was option 2: Area School on One site.

### **Pupil Places Assessment**

The option preferred by the pupil places assessment was as option 2: Area School on One site.

### **Transport Impact Assessment**

There was no clear option preferred by the transport impact assessment.

### **Community Impact Assessment**

There was no clear option preferred by the community impact assessment.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There was no clear option preferred by the equality impact assessment.

### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

There was no clear option preferred by the Welsh language impact assessment.

## 4.2 Summary of Assessment Areas by Options

### Option 1

Assessment Area		Score	
Ass 1	Views of children and young people	4	Agree/Slight Improvement
Ass 2	Buildings Appraisal	2	Disagree/Slightly Worse
Ass 3	Pupil Places Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 4	Transport Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 5	Community Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 6	Equality Impact Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 7	Welsh Language Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change

School Modernisation Strategy Impacts	
Unfilled Places	9.27%
Diminishing Resources	No change – 2 schools would still trigger
Small School Criteria	No change – 2 schools would still trigger
School Building Suitability	No change – 2 schools would still trigger
Education Standards	No change
Leadership	No change

### Option 2

Assessment Area		Score	
Ass 1	Views of the children and young people	2	Disagree/Slightly Worse
Ass 2	Buildings Appraisal	5	Strongly Agree/Improvement
Ass 3	Pupil Places Assessment	5	Strongly Agree/Improvement
Ass 4	Transport Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 5	Community Assessment	2	Disagree/Slightly Worse
Ass 6	Equality Impact Assessment	3	Disagree/Slightly Worse
Ass 7	Welsh Language Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change

School Modernisation Strategy Impacts	
Unfilled Places	6.29%
Diminishing Resources	Would create one school which serves area
Small School Criteria	Would create one school which would not trigger
School Building Suitability	Would create one school which would not trigger
Education Standards	Not known
Leadership	Would create one Headteacher

### Option 3

Assessment Area		Score	
Ass 1	Views of the children and young people	5	Strongly Agree/Improvement
Ass 2	Buildings Appraisal	4	Agree/Slight Improvement
Ass 3	Pupil Places Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 4	Transport Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 5	Community Assessment	2	Disagree/Slightly Worse
Ass 6	Equality Impact Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change
Ass 7	Welsh Language Assessment	3	Neither Agree or Disagree/No Change

School Modernisation Strategy Impacts	
Unfilled Places	12.15%
Diminishing Resources	Would create two school which would not trigger
Small School Criteria	Would create two school which would not trigger
School Building Suitability	Would create two school which would not trigger
Education Standards	
Leadership	Would create two school which would not trigger

### **4.3 Conclusions to the Option Appraisal**

Taking into consideration all of the information and evidence gathered through the various Impact Assessments and in this Option Appraisal, the options considered to be the best way forward in terms of financial and non-financial benefits are as follows:-

#### **Ranked 1**

**Option 2c                    Area School on One Site on Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor**

#### **Ranked 2**

**Option 2 (A1)            Area School on Brynford Site with Extension**

#### **Ranked 3**

**Option 3 (A1)            Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor & Amalgamate Brynford CP and Lixwm CP School**

## Appendix 1

### Weighting the Criteria

#### Non-Financial Benefits

The criteria for the Option Appraisal are listed below.

Non-Financial Benefits Criteria		Points Awarded
1	Reflects the views of children and young people	20
2	The school buildings appraisal	20
3	Matching of demand for and supply of pupil places	20
4	Community focus school	10
5	Pupils will arrive at school within an appropriate travelling time	10
6	Equality Impact Assessment	10
7	Welsh Language Assessment	10
<b>TOTAL OPTION SCORE (MAXIMUM AVAILABLE 100)</b>		<b>100</b>

#### Definitions

1	Reflects the views of children and young people	Outcome of Children's Workshops
2	The school buildings appraisal	School Buildings Options Appraisal feeds this criterion (includes accessibility)
3	Matching of demand for and supply of pupil places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in % of surplus places</li> <li>Enough spare capacity to meet demand, or appropriate scope for extending (Capacity Figures)</li> </ul>
4	Community focus school	Community Impact Assessment feeds this criterion
5	Pupils will arrive at a school within an appropriate travelling time	Sections 3 and 4 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 state that transport arrangements are not suitable if "they take an unreasonable amount of time". Welsh Ministers consider that normally journey times should be not more than 45 minutes for primary school travel and 60 minutes for secondary school travel. (Transport Impact Assessment)
6	Equality Impact Assessment	Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment feeds this criterion
7	Welsh Language Assessment	Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment feeds this criterion

## Appendix 2

### Views of Children and Young People

Schools	Option1 Status Quo	Option 2 Area school one site	Option 3 Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and One Area School on One site (either Brynford or Lixwm)
Brynford C.P., Lixwm C.P. and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	(4) Agree/Slight Improvement	(2) Disagree/ Slightly worse	(5) Strongly Agree/Improvement

## Appendix 3

### Matching of Demand for and Supply of Pupil Places

School Number	School Name	Classification	Primary Infants Junior		A – English B – Bilingual C - Welsh	School Capacity	Full Time Pupil Numbers		Projected Unfilled Places 2020		Housing Developments with Planning Permission		
							January 2016	Projected Sept 2020	Full Time Pupil Number	%	Estimated Pupil Gain	Impact on Projected Unfilled Places 2016	Impact on Projected Unfilled Places 2020
	Brynford CP School	Community	Primary		A	58	68	58	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Lixwm CP School	Community	Primary		A	71	49	69	2	2.8	0	N/A	N/A
	Ysgol Rhos Helyg	Community	Primary		A	168	130	126	42	25	0	N/A	N/A
<i>Total Across the Schools</i>						297	247	253	44	9.27	0	N/A	N/A

Option 1: Maintain Current Schools	297	247	253	44	9.27
Option 1: Maintain Current Schools (Including LDP projections)	297	247	253	44	9.27

Option 2: One Area School	270	247	253	17	6.29
Option 2: One Area School (Including LDP Projections)	270	247	253	17	6.29

Option 3: Schools in the Area Two schools in the area (One school at Ysgol Rhos Helyg with amalgamation of Brynford CP and Lixwm CP onto one site)	168 & 120 288	247	253	35	12.15
Option 3: Schools in the Area Two schools in the area (One school at Ysgol Rhos Helyg with amalgamation of Brynford CP and Lixwm CP onto one site) (Including LDP Projections)	168 & 120 288	247	253	35	12.15

Note: Modelling pupil projections – capacity of the schools would be determined based on need of the area the building selected and pupil numbers – for this exercise the modelling of the capacity of the new area school the amalgamated Brynford CP and Lixwm CP Schools has been based on 120 Full time pupils.

## **How will the informal consultation take place?**

There are a number of ways in which you can make your views known to us or ask any questions that you have regarding the options for the area. Details are included below on how you can submit responses in a number of ways:

### **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>

- 20.19 An informal consultation event has taken place for children and young people with members of the Brynford CP School, Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor School Councils. This was facilitated by officers from Flintshire County Council whose roles includes engagement and consultation specifically tailored for children and young people. The views of the School Councils have been included within this information consultation document.
- 20.20 An informal drop in session will be offered for parents/carers/staff and governors Brynford CP School, Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg. This will be facilitated by Officers from Flintshire County Council. Parents/Carers/staff and governors will have the opportunity to discuss the proposal with Officers.

## Informal Consultation Response Form

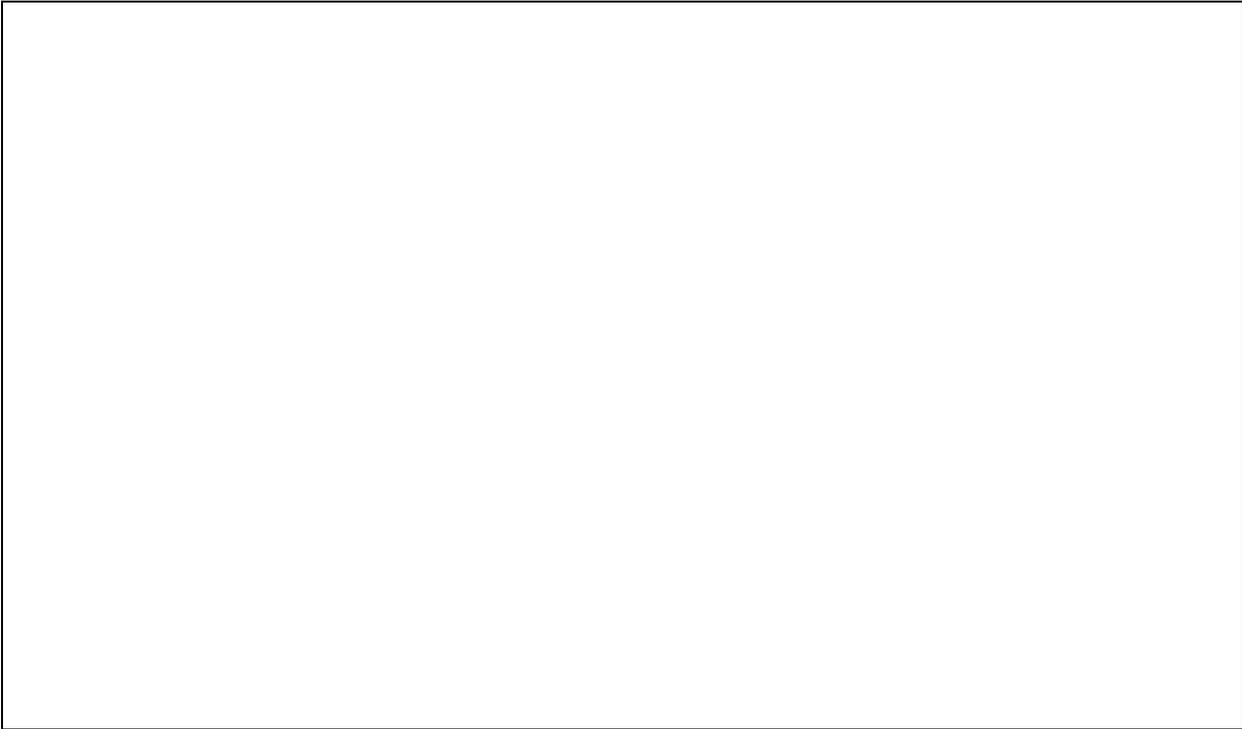
Before you begin – if you would like to fill this form in on-line please go to:

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

Based on the information you have been given in the option appraisal, at the informal consultation event and from other documents available on Flintshire County Council's website, please tell us your views on options for the area in the Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor area.

1. **What is your name?** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **What is your address? (please include postcode)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **What is your email address?** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Are you a ....**
  - Member of staff
  - Governor
  - Parent/Guardian/Carer
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Which school are you associated with?**
  - Brynford CP School
  - Lixwm CP School
  - Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Which is your preferred option?**
  - Option 1 – Status Quo
  - Option 2 – Area School on One Site
  - Option 3 – Retain Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and One Area School on one site
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use this section to feedback your comments.**



## How we use your personal information

**Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1988 we must inform you of the following:**

**Flintshire County Council is seeking your views to help inform the decision on the current proposal. The information you have provided will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other internal agencies who are involved in the Consultation, however only to inform decision makers of your views and to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your view will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge receipt of your response personally. Flintshire County Council is the data controller for the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal information will be processed in accordance with that Act and is being collected for the purpose stated above only, and will not be shared with any other party.**

In order to monitor the inclusiveness of our engagement, we would appreciate your co-operation in providing, on an entirely voluntary basis, the information as requested below. The information is confidential and anonymous, and will be used solely for statistical monitoring purposes. It will be securely destroyed after we have captured the information.

<b>Age:</b> Please provide your date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY): <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>

**Sex:** Male  Other   
Female  Prefer Not To Say

<b>National identity:</b>	How would you describe your national identity?
Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> British <input type="checkbox"/>
English	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not To Say <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Ethnic Group:</b>	What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.	
<b>White</b>	<b>Black/Black British</b>	<b>Asian/Asian British</b>
British <input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	Indian <input type="checkbox"/>

English	<input type="checkbox"/>	African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Black Background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>			Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>			Asian other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Mixed/Mixed British</b>			<b>Other / Other British</b>		
White / Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Mixed background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>
White / Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (state if required)	<input type="checkbox"/>
White / Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Sexual Orientation:** Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

Heterosexual/Straight	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gay Man	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (state if desired)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gay Woman/Lesbian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: This question should only be asked of people age over 16.

**Religion or Belief:** What is your religion?

Christian (all denominations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Atheist	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other (State)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Marital Status:**

Are you married or in a same-sex civil partnership?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

