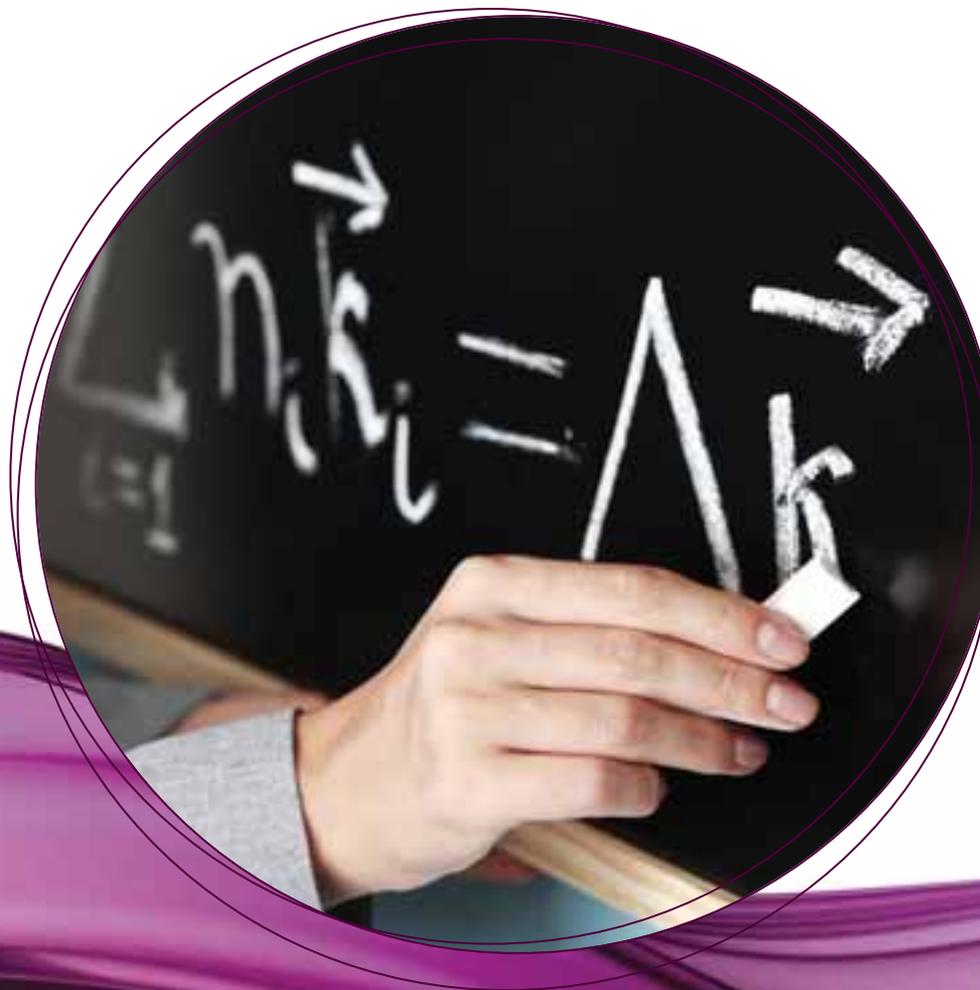




Area Schools Review

Queensferry, Shotton and
Connah's Quay Area

Connah's Quay and John Summers High Schools



Introduction

The Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council want to make efficiencies and reduce surplus places to enable more available funding to be spent directly on children and young people's education in schools.

The review of schools in the Holywell, Queensferry/Shotton/Connah's Quay and Buckley/Mynydd Isa/Mold areas is the next stage in Flintshire's School Modernisation Strategy and aims to address significant numbers of surplus places.

The area reviews will consist of three stages:

- the informal consultation process (which is where we are now),
- a period of reflection when councillors will decide on preferred options for each of the three areas
- the formal statutory stage

The Next Steps section of this booklet, which can be found on page 9, explains the process in a little more detail.

During the Summer of 2011 informal consultations began around future arrangements for Secondary Schools in these areas. Whilst it was understood by all that there was a need to review the future of schools in Flintshire, County Councillors halted the process so that they could do further work on the options for consideration before re-opening the consultation process.



Following a number of workshops held over the autumn, Councillors now have renewed confidence in inviting your views and opinions on the options contained in this booklet.

Consultation

Councillors have agreed a number of options for consideration relating to Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School. The options have been agreed for consideration as a way of reducing the number of surplus places in John Summers High School and improving the viability of sixth form provision.

The options also suggest the establishment of a Post- 16 facility adjacent to Connah's Quay High School and Deeside College. You may also already be aware that Welsh Government has, in principle, approved funding for a new Post- 16 facility adjacent to Connah's Quay High School and Deeside College. No decisions have yet been made and any final decisions councillors make will be dependent on the outcome of consultation with parents, teachers, staff, pupils and governors of affected schools.

A number of meetings will be held at Connah's Quay High School, John Summers High School and Deeside Leisure Centre to discuss these options. On page 12 you will find more details about the dates and times and how the meetings will be run. Consultations with children and young people will be arranged separately.

There are a number of ways you can let us know what you think. You can:

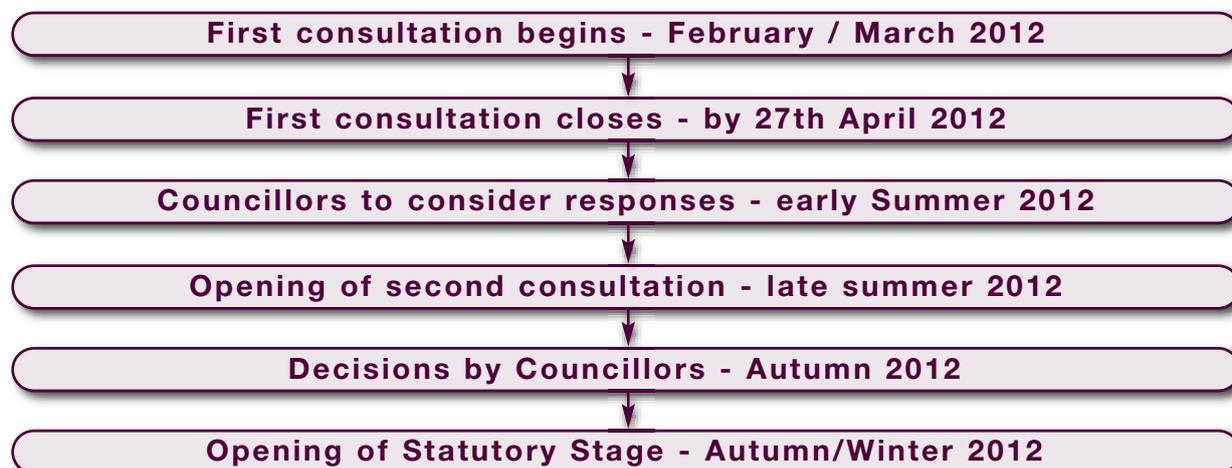
- ask questions and let us know your views at these meetings
- put your responses in writing to the Director of Lifelong Learning, Area Schools Review, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6DN
- complete a questionnaire and return it to the Director of Lifelong Learning, Area Schools Review, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6DN; **or**
- complete a questionnaire on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview



The consultation will close on Friday 27 April 2012. Your views are important to us and they will help to inform any future decisions we make. The decisions made by Councillors will be based on well thought out views and opinions that meet the future needs of Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay.

After reading this document, as a parent or carer, you may already have questions you will want to ask at the event. You can, if you wish, put your questions forward before the event. We will then pull all these questions together and provide answers during the presentations. You can email your questions to 21stCenturySchools@flintshire.gov.uk. You can ask your question on the FCC Area Schools Review 2012 Facebook page, or you can put your question in writing to the address shown above. Please be sure to make clear which area or school your question is about.

How long will this take?



See page 9 for more detailed information

Background leading to the consultation

Welsh Government says schools should not have more than 10% surplus places overall. It also says that sixth form education across Wales needs to be efficient and effective providing a wide range of subjects that students can choose to study.

To make sure schools in Flintshire meet the requirements set by Welsh Government, Councillors approved the Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy.

The Strategy states that for a secondary school to be viable it should have no less than 600 (11-16) pupils registered to attend. It also states that a sixth form should have no less than 120 students. This is to make sure that schools receive enough funding from Welsh Government and that students are able to choose from a wide range of subjects.

John Summers High School has 169 surplus places (30%). The sixth form at the school is small, with 49 students in years 12 and 13; this is below the agreed number in the Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy. To make it viable, the school works closely with other schools to make sure it can offer students a wider range of subjects.

Connah's Quay High School has 111 surplus places (10%). The sixth form at the school has 137 students; this is above the agreed number in the Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy. The school works closely with other schools and Deeside College, to make sure it can offer students a wider range of subjects.

The options include the creation of a Post-16 facility at Connah's Quay. This facility would give students sufficient choices of subjects at one location in a modern facility with the latest technology.



Options

To improve these schools, the following options have been put forward by Council members:

Option One

- Replace John Summers High School with a new school building (11-16 school and Post-16 hub at Connah's Quay High School)

This would involve the replacement of John Summers High School with a new building on the existing site.

The existing sixth forms at both Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School would be closed and sixth form courses would be held at a new purpose built Post-16 facility at Connah's Quay.

There is no funding from Welsh Government for the replacement of John Summers High School with a new building. The Council would have to pay approximately £25m. This is the approximate total cost for this work.

Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £6.6m towards the cost of building a new Post- 16 facility in Connah's Quay. This is half of the total cost.

Option Two

- Remodel John Summers High School (11-16 school and Post-16 hub at Connah's Quay High School).

This would involve the refurbishment of the existing John Summers High School building.

The existing sixth forms at both Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School would be closed and sixth form courses would be held at a new purpose built Post-16 facility at Connah's Quay.

There is no funding from Welsh Government to refurbish John Summers High School. The Council would have to pay approximately £13m. This is the approximate total cost for this work.

Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £6.6m towards the cost of building a new Post- 16 facility in Connah's Quay. This is half of the total cost.

Option Three

- Develop a 3-16 facility at John Summers High School with a Post-16 hub at Connah's Quay High School

There would be no change to the existing John Summers High School building.

The existing sixth forms at both Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School would be closed and sixth form courses would be held at a new purpose built Post-16 facility at Connah's Quay.

Queensferry Primary School, which is located on the same campus as John Summers High School, would be developed to take nursery age children within its existing building.

This would mean that the Queensferry campus would cater for pupils aged 3 to 16. There would be no amalgamation of schools, they would continue to operate as they do now, with two headteachers and two governing bodies.

There is no funding from Welsh Government to undertake the works necessary at Queensferry Primary School to include a nursery area but the cost would be relatively low.

Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £6.6m towards the cost of building a new Post- 16 facility in Connah's Quay. This is half of the total cost.

Option Four

- Amalgamate John Summers High School with Connah's Quay High School, utilising the present sites. (One headteacher and one governing body involving the technical closure of two schools and opening of one new school).

This option would involve closing both Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School. They would then be joined together to make one new High School with one headteacher and one governing body. The new High School would continue to operate in the same way on both the existing high school sites.

The sixth forms at both John Summers High School and Connah's Quay High School would be closed and sixth form courses would be held at a new purpose built Post- 16 facility at Connah's Quay.

Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £6.6m towards the cost of building a new Post- 16 facility in Connah's Quay. This is half of the total cost.

Options (continued)

It is important that the Council improves its school buildings and makes them fit for the 21st century. Welsh Government is also committed to improving schools across Wales. Welsh Government will only help councils with funding where there are plans to replace schools with new buildings or where existing schools can be extended and improved to provide modern facilities.



If Councillors decided to go forward with one of the options that Welsh Government is unable to fund, the Council would then have to prioritise its own funding, alongside all its other financial commitments, and think about how it could raise the funds needed.

Any decisions made will take into account the number of pupils that statistics tell us may want to go to school in the Queensferry, Shotton and Connah’s Quay areas in the next 15 to 20 years. This will take account of things like new housing developments.

Travel arrangements

If, as a result of any school reorganisation, pupils were required to travel to another location, the Council would make appropriate arrangements for those pupils who are already registered at the affected school.

Next Steps

This stage is the initial consultation. The views and opinions you put forward will be gathered together and will be considered by councillors in the early summer when they will decide whether to move on to the next stage of consultation.

A second stage of consultation will be held during late summer before councillors make any final decision. You will be told before this second stage begins.

After the second consultation, councillors will then decide if they want to continue with one single proposal. If they decide to do this we will then enter the statutory stage. During this statutory stage, the details of one single proposal will be clearly set out and you will be given one month to put forward any written objections you may have.

If the Council receives just one objection at this stage, then the matter will be handed over to Welsh Ministers in Welsh Government who will make the final decision.



Glossary

Amalgamation - This is where two or more schools are closed and are then joined together to make one new school with one headteacher and one governing body. The new school would be on split sites using the existing buildings.

Surplus Places - Some school buildings are too big for the number of pupils who attend them. Welsh Government says schools should not have more than 10% surplus places overall. This means if a school is big enough to take 500 pupils then it shouldn't have less than 450 pupils registered to attend it.



Rationalise Post - 16 provision - Welsh Government says that sixth forms must be able to provide at least 30 different subjects that students can choose to study. Welsh Government provides schools with funding for sixth forms. They do this by giving the school a set amount of money for each student who registers to study at its sixth form. The less pupils who register, the less money the school receives. The Council's School Modernisation Strategy says that for a sixth form to be viable it should have at least 120 students.

Post 16 Centre - Welsh Government has agreed in principle to fund a new sixth form facility in Flintshire that would provide students with the choice of a full range of subjects to study, and access to a wide range of facilities, all at one location. There has been agreement between councillors, schools and Deeside College that Connah's Quay would be the best location to provide this facility, although no final decisions have yet been taken.

Learning Campus - The creation of new and modern school buildings on one site, that share some facilities, make the most of new technology and provide a place that can be used by the whole community.

21st Century Schools - Welsh Government, working with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), wants to raise the standards of education in Wales to a world class level. To do this Wales needs modern school buildings, with the very latest technology, that inspire children, young people and the wider community to learn.

Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy - this is a document that has been adopted by councillors that sets out the challenges that face the Council in developing its schools into places that are fit for the 21st Century.

Other documents & Information

Other Area Schools Review documents

Documents for each of the three Area Schools Reviews can be found on the Council's website www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview

Holywell area – Holywell High School

Holywell area – Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron

Buckley area – Elfed High School and Westwood Primary School

Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay area – Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School

Where to find other useful information

Flintshire 14-19 Learning Partnership – Strategic Outline Case

Guide to Education Services

School Modernisation Information Pack

School Modernisation Strategy

The documents above are all available on the Council's website www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview or by contacting the Lifelong Learning Directorate on 01352 704011.

Other useful websites

21st Century Schools – available via link from

Flintshire County Council's website

www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview or

directly at www.21stcenturyschools.org



Consultation Meetings

Venue	Invitees	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
Connah's Quay High School	Connah's Quay High School Teaching and Support Staff	5/3/2012	3.45pm	Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions
	Connah's Quay High School Governors	5/3/2012	5.30pm	Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions
	Parents/Carers of Connah's Quay High School pupils	5/3/2012	6.30pm	See programme below
John Summers High School	John Summers High School Teaching and Support Staff	6/3/2012	3.45pm	Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions
	John Summers High School Governors	6/3/2012	5.30pm	Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions
	Parents/Carers of John Summers High School pupils	6/3/2012	6.30pm	See programme below
Deeside Leisure Centre	Parents/Carers of primary school pupils in the Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay areas	12/3/2012	6.30pm	See programme below

Information for Parents/Carers

- As a parent or carer of pupil(s) at Connah's Quay High School, John Summer High School or of pupils in primary schools in the Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay area, you are invited to attend the events shown above.
- You should attend the event which is most suited to you and your child(ren).
- At your meeting you can choose to attend one of two presentations when you can ask questions.
- The timings of the presentations are shown below. **The two presentations will be exactly the same.** You don't have to book, just come along at the time that suits you best.
- An informal listening area will also be available. Council officers will be on hand to answer questions. This area may appeal to people who prefer a less formal meeting. It will also be available to people who have attended a presentation and may want to speak more informally with council officers afterwards.

PROGRAMME

18.30	Presentation by senior council officers and councillors
18.50	Questions
19.20	Close of first presentation
19.30	Repeat of presentation by senior council officers and councillors
20.20	Close of second presentation
21.00	Close of event

18.30 **Informal Listening Area**

Senior officers and councillors will be on hand to answer questions in a more informal setting.

21.00