

**What are the educational benefits of co-location?**

Co-locating schools can be more efficient and can create savings that can be used for extra resources for children and young people.

There is also an opportunity for the schools to share certain facilities such as, for example, library, kitchen, sports facilities and drama studio.

By renewing and/or remodelling school buildings we can create buildings that are fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**If there are any objections, will schools have their say?**

We are currently at an informal stage of consultation and views and opinions on options agreed by councillors are being sought.

When councillors get to the stage when they want to formally publish a single proposal then any person or group are entitled to put forward an objection.

**What is the issue with the Elfed High School, is it that the building is too big or is it the extra maintenance costs?**

Elfed High School was designed for a specific number of pupils but there are now significant surplus places which come with a cost. Schools receive money based on the number of pupils who are registered to attend them.: that means that large schools with significant surplus places are funding empty spaces.

**Is there a reason why children are not coming to the Elfed High School?**

Schools are chosen on parental preference and families have many different reasons for choosing the schools their children attend.

It is also important that high schools have good relationships with their local primary schools to help encourage the progression of pupils.

There are no catchment areas in Flintshire.

In Wales there is 'parental preference'. This means that parents have the legal right to choose the school they want their child(ren) to attend and so long as there is room in the school (and parents meet all transportation costs), then they can be admitted.

If there isn't room for everyone who wants to go there then parents can appeal against the decision to refuse admission.

## ELFED HIGH SCHOOL – Parents/Carers event – Monday 27 February 2012

<b>Is the 10% Surplus Places adhered to?</b>	10% surplus places is a National guideline from Welsh Government and local authorities should ensure that there are no more than 10% surplus places overall.
<b>If savings are made would the money be put back into providing more subjects and if so, how soon?</b>	Any savings made that can be made from efficiencies within the school (revenue funding) would be directed to provide more resources for the school. How this is used is the decision of the headteacher and governors.
<b>If the Westwood were to close and relocate to the Elfed, would the money made from the sale of the Westwood land be spent on developing Elfed High School?</b>	<p>Any potential sale of schools/land etc. (capital funding) is based on the land/site being declared surplus to educational requirements by the Director of Lifelong Learning.</p> <p>The land/site then becomes the responsibility of the Council's Corporate Asset Management Team and a decision is made on whether the Council could use the land / site for something else or whether it could be sold.</p> <p>If the land were to be sold then the money raised from the sale could be used for educational purposes across the county.</p>
<b>Is it true Drury C.P. are having an extension and have they been given funding for an extension?</b>	<p>No Drury CP School is not having an extension.</p> <p>Some money has been made available by a developer under a dedicated Section 106 Agreement in this area but it is not enough to build an extension on the school.</p>
<b>It is nonsense, we are building extensions on some schools and knocking other schools down.</b>	
<b>What is a Section 106 Agreement?</b>	<p>This is an agreement between the Council and a housing developer when planning permission is granted for a significant number of houses on one site.</p> <p>Housing developers are required to pay the council a sum of money towards increasing capacity in local school(s). The amount of money depends on the number of houses completed and is only available if the school has less than 5% surplus places.</p> <p>This is because the families who buy the houses may have children who will need to go to the local school(s) and the Council needs to make sure there is room in the school(s) to take them.</p>

## **ELFED HIGH SCHOOL – Parents/Carers event – Monday 27 February 2012**

**In 2 years time, the law is changing and children have to stay in full time education until the age of 18 years. Is this the case?**

Extending education to age 18 is currently being debated in England. There is no indication that this will happen in Wales.

However, this would have very little impact on surplus places in our schools as over 97% of students in Flintshire already progress to post- 16 education either in schools or colleges.

**Are the Options discussed with Welsh Government and are these discussions held behind closed doors?**

The options are not discussed with Welsh Government. They are discussed locally by councillors and in consultations such as this.

When councillors get to the stage when they want to formally publish a single proposal, should only one objection be received to that proposal, then the matter will be passed to Welsh Ministers at Welsh Government to make a final decision.

**It must be made clear that Councillors will accept alternative options to those put forward in the consultation booklet**

**Speaking as Chair of Governors of Elfed High School the option to include Argoed should be brought back into the equation.**

Elected members have been very clear that additional options will be received during this consultation process however they need to be supported by the reasons why people feel they are worthy of consideration to help Councillors evaluate their potential.

**The information provided in the booklets is basic and not really sufficient to make informed decisions. Where can further information be found?**

Further detailed background information can be found on the Council's website [www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview)

## ELFED HIGH SCHOOL – Parents/Carers event – Monday 27 February 2012

**Why doesn't Buckley qualify for funding like Holywell Area / Buckley area?**

The Welsh Government has approved in principle funding for Holywell on the basis of a range of criteria including the condition and suitability of buildings and levels of local deprivation.

**Why is there no funding to support the Buckley area?**

The County Council cannot make changes to any school until funding is in place. The Council would need to look carefully at all its priorities and balance them against the need to reorganise its schools.

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**How long will it take given the demographic changes for the expenditure required (£11 - £15m) to be over taken by the costs of maintenance and running costs?**

Any new development in schools is planned according to pupil projections for the medium term.

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**What are the sixth form numbers for the last five years and for September this year?**

Further detailed background information can be found on the Council's website [www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview)

**What are the numbers in other sixth forms and what capacity do they have – there is not enough information on the four options.**

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**Is it true that you have plans to use the Westwood site for a new Health Centre?**

There are no plans for the Westwood Primary School site. Proposals for a new Health Centre have been agreed for the former Belmont school site.

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## WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL – Parents/Carers Event Tuesday 28 February 2012

**Have there been any successful co-located school examples?**

There are examples of co-located school proposals in Telford and Ceredigion, however long term success in these areas has yet to be evidenced. The Telford approach works for 3-16 year olds on a shared campus.

We also have a long term successful example here in Flintshire at Queensferry.

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**If a high school co-locating with a high school was rejected as a 'bad' option, why would you choose 2 new options which involve a primary school integrating which is much more complicated?**

Elected members found that they wanted to explore the possibilities of co-locating a primary and secondary function on one site.

**There are such good options concerning Elfed expanding leisure facilities – why has Westwood been brought into the equation?**

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**Did other amalgamations/co-locations include, sport leisure and canteen arrangements?**

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Flint High School share kitchen facilities but have separate dining areas. The site also shares leisure facilities with the wider community.

Elfed High School also currently shares leisure facilities with the community.

It is possible and would be manageable, but it requires very thoughtful development.

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**What are you planning for the Westwood land?**

We are only looking at options at the present time. There are no firm plans for this or any other site.

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**What about the catchment area for Westwood?**

There are no catchment areas in Flintshire.

In Wales there is 'parental preference'. This means that parents have the legal right to choose the school they want their child(ren) to attend and so long as there is room in the school (and parents meet all transportation costs), then they can be admitted.

If there isn't room for everyone who wants to go there then children are admitted based on how close they live to the school. If parents are unsuccessful in gaining a place for their child(ren) they can appeal.

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**Would the money saved from this exercise fund a new County Hall building?**

There is no possible issue in this schools related consultation about any funding for a possible new County Hall building.

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**What happens to the monitoring of the projections used to inform your decisions?**

Demographics are fully considered. It will be as far ahead as 2019 before numbers in some secondary schools start to increase.

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**Has the Local Development Plan been taken into consideration?**

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**Is the Argoed still in the equation?**

Elected members have been very clear that additional options will be received during this consultation process however they need to be supported by the reasons why people feel they are worthy of consideration to help Councillors evaluate their potential.

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**Is this a done deal?**

There are no done deals. This is an initial informal consultation exercise to gather views and opinions on the options contained in the booklet to help councillors make informed decisions.

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## ELFED HIGH SCHOOL – Primary School Parent/Carer Events – 29 February 2012

**What is the capacity of Westwood School?**

226 full time pupils and 21 Nursery pupils – totalling 247 pupils  
The admission number for Westwood Primary School is 32.

**The projected figures for Buckley show Buckley is growing in regards to development plan.**

Any new development in schools is planned according to pupil projections for the medium term.

**What will happen to Elfed High School if the money cannot be found for the options?**

The County Council cannot make changes to any school until funding is in place. The council would need to look carefully at all its priorities and balance them against the need to reorganise its schools.

**If the sixth form is goes from the Elfed, where will these pupils go?**

The displacement of pupils from the Elfed sixth form would mean extra pressure on other local sixth forms. For example, £2.5 m may be required for an extension at Alun High School, Mold to accommodate approximately 80 pupils who potentially could be displaced from Elfed.

**Is the Elfed School lacking in funding?**

**Is a lack in funding failing to attract pupils because others have funding?**

**Is this the reason why the School are not attracting pupils?**

Funding for 11 to 16 year old pupils comes from the Local Authority based on a formula per pupil. Post-16 funding is grant funded directly from Welsh Government and allocated to individual schools. Post-16 funding is lower in the Elfed as a result of the smaller sixth form.

Schools are chosen on parental preference and families have many different reasons for choosing the schools their children attend.

It is also important that high schools have good relationships with their local primary schools to help encourage the progression of pupils.

There are no catchment areas in Flintshire.

In Wales there is 'parental preference'. This means that parents have the legal right to choose the school they want their child(ren) to attend and so long as there is room in the school (and parents meet all transportation costs), then they can be admitted.

If there isn't room for everyone who wants to go there then parents can appeal against the decision to refuse admission.

## ELFED HIGH SCHOOL – Primary School Parent/Carer Events – 29 February 2012

<b>Mixing of children, can't CRB check sixth formers? What plans to address this?</b>	Safety is paramount. An example in Flintshire is Broughton Library public access and a large primary school co-exist. A separate entrance has been built to keep the primary children separate from the public. It is recognised that it is not appropriate to mix secondary with primary phases and any development would ensure that this doesn't happen.
<b>How will you deal with young children mixing with older pupils outside school, also in regards to walking to school?</b>	Separation in the building also applies to outside i.e. outdoor education has to be segregated. Consideration would also need to be given to making the route to school safe for younger pupils for example by walking routes, buses and different start/finish times..
<b>How much office space if rationalise the area?</b>	Further work would be needed to estimate how many surplus places could be taken up by transferring office accommodation from elsewhere.
<b>Will Westwood fill the surplus space?</b>	Yes, Westwood Primary School would take up current surplus space at the Elfed High School.
<b>Is less than 600 pupils the trigger figure for consulting high schools?</b>	There is actually no such thing as a minimum number, there are only triggers for review. There is no 'magic' number that makes a school viable.
<b>If 120 sixth formers compromise having the right amount, what makes a viable sixth form number?</b>	<p>In Flintshire we have set the trigger at 120 for sixth forms but national government would say this is too low and 150 is more sustainable.</p> <p>Other triggers include 600 11-16 pupils and more than 25% surplus places.</p>
<b>It is poor that Buckley contributes greatly with council tax, so why should the town lose its sixth form.</b>	Parental preference and post 16 preference are important legal principles and entitlements. It is important to encourage young people to stay in their local communities to continue their education. However, it is ultimately a matter of preference for learners and their families,
<b>Too much choice at other secondary schools or even Wrexham.</b>	
<b>Just because the building is old Buckley shouldn't suffer.</b>	
<b>Jump in numbers from three years ago, has this been addressed?</b>	There has been a drift away from the Elfed over recent years, although there can be increases in some year groups, the general number is still falling. Drift over the years has shown pupils

attending Mold Alun and Argoed High School. This is being looked into by the schools as an important issue.

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**What support are schools receiving to get back into the Elfed?**

The school promotes its many good achievements i.e. exams, leisure and primary schools all receive. The school also works positively on building relationships with families in neighbouring primary schools.

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**Falling numbers, council is responsible, can they not support further against other schools i.e. prevention better than cure.**

The local authority helps all schools with these issues, including with advice on curriculum design, standards, resource management and transitions. However, it cannot favour one school over another. It must also ensure that it does not prevent parental preference being expressed.

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**Is less than 600 pupils the trigger figure for consulting high schools?**

This is a guidance figure for the trigger of a local area review of schools.

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**If one objection is received what will happen?**

When councillors get to the stage when they want to formally consult on a single preferred proposal, should only one objection be received to that proposal, then the matter will be passed to Welsh Ministers at Welsh Government to make a final decision.

At that stage Welsh Government can only say yes or no to the proposal being implemented. They cannot suggest a different proposal or make changes to the proposal that has been put forward by the County Council.

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