



Secondary School Review

Holywell

We want your views - have your say

Why do we need change?

Flintshire County Council is committed to securing high quality learning opportunities for all. It also seeks to use the resources that it has (people, funding, buildings, information and technology) efficiently and effectively to secure better outcomes and value for money.

Planning of school places and managing school organisation is a statutory duty of every Local Authority. The County Council must ensure a sufficiency of school places, with the right schools in the right locations.

In this programme we aim to improve standards and efficiency through:

- securing a greater range of academic and vocational learning pathways available than is currently the case;
- building upon recent achievements in raising levels of attainment in public examinations;
- supporting our young people to attain even better rates of success and progress into Higher Education and employment;
- securing opportunities to increase the skill level of the workforce in general;
- securing better learning and working environments for students and staff;
- our community ethos, with renewed facilities increasingly open to the wider community.

What other factors need to be considered?

Any options involving substantial capital funding will be heavily dependent on the level of funding available from the Welsh Government, local authority and other sources.

What are we asking you?

We are asking you to let us know your views on any of the options within this document. If you wish to propose alternative options, the Council will be happy to consider them.

We would encourage all concerned to attend the consultation events. There will be an opportunity to explore the options in greater detail and provide a forum to ask questions.

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The Options for Holywell

Background

- The Council is committed to modernising its schools by replacement or refurbishment whenever possible
- The Welsh Government will only provide part of the funding needed for this very costly development, and additional funding will have to be found by the Council
- The school modernisation strategy for Flintshire includes area reviews of provision, to look at the improvement of school buildings and the way in which education is provided

The Case for Change

- Holywell has one Secondary School with the highest percentage of surplus places in the county, (over 38%)
- The low number of pupils at the school reflects changing demography and is causing financial strain for the school budget in maintaining a viable body of teaching and support staff to provide the required curriculum
- Numbers in the sixth form do not attract sufficient funding from the Welsh Government to cover its costs, and this is an additional financial strain
- There are four schools providing primary education in the town of Holywell:

Ysgol Gwenffrwd – Welsh medium primary school

St. Winefride's – Catholic primary school

Ysgol Perth y Terfyn – English medium infant school

Ysgol y Fron – English medium junior school

All of these schools have deficiencies relating to the buildings, including their suitability and condition and, in the case of the infant and junior schools, the restrictions brought about by the limited site area.

Curriculum Provision

- The existing schools provide for the full range of provision from pre-school to Key Stage 5
- There are issues relating to the suitability of some of the buildings in providing the modern curriculum
- Holywell High School, in common with other Flintshire secondary schools, is an improving school
- The Catholic primary school had issues outlined in Estyn Inspections but is now an improving school
- The curriculum provision is planned to be in accordance with the relevant Welsh Curriculum

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Demographic Information

SCHOOL	TYPE	NUMBER OF PUPILS ON ROLL YEARS 7 - 11	NUMBER OF PUPILS ON ROLL YEARS 12 - 13	NUMBER OF PUPILS ON ROLL TOTAL	CAPACITY	SURPLUS CAPACITY	% SURPLUS PLACES
Holywell High	11-18	575	91	666	1075	409	38.05%

Key Points:

- In January 2011 there were three Flintshire County Council secondary schools with surplus places in excess of the Welsh Assembly Government's current recommended maximum level of 25% surplus places.
- These three schools; Elfed High, Holywell High and John Summers High taken together accounted for 64.44% of the surplus place capacity in the 12 Flintshire County Council mainstream secondary schools in January 2011.
- The average surplus place percentage level for all 12 mainstream secondary schools in January 2011 was 13.13%.
- Some Flintshire sixth forms (Year 12 and Year 13) are small, causing difficulty in terms of planning for curriculum breadth and financial sustainability.

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POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

OPTION	OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION	POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES	POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES
OPTION 1	Maintain the status quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No disruption to existing schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains the present level of surplus places Does not address the issues relating to the repairs and maintenance back log Would be unlikely to attract capital funding to replace like for like Limited improvements to the learning environments
OPTION 2	Reduce the capacity of Holywell High school to match local need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal disruption Lower cost option Removes surplus places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address the issues above – apart from surplus places Limited improvement to learning environment
OPTION 3	Replace Holywell High School with a new building – matched in capacity to local need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes surplus places Provides a secondary school for the 21st Century in terms of learning environment Would be attractive to parents and students, and could reduce losses of pupils to other schools in Flintshire and neighbouring Authority areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost Less likely to attract Welsh Government funding due to straight replacement of provision, albeit better matched in capacity to the local need

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OPTION	OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION	POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES	POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES
<p>OPTION 4</p>	<p>Replace Holywell High School with provision as above, but linked to the establishing of a 'learning campus' which would provide new co-located schools for primary provision in the town.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision of 21st Century facilities for all schools, all of which have significant issues relating to repairs and maintenance, and fitness for purpose and some with surplus places ● Improvement of the perception by parents and pupils of the town of Holywell as a 'learning community' ● More likely to fit into the 21st Century Schools funding programme ● Innovative project which could transform and regenerate Holywell significantly ● All local providers engaged in developing a vision for the future of education in Holywell and district ● Schools that are designed based on research into how learning environments can be optimised for learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Costs – likely to be significant if all schools want to be replaced ● Unlikely to be funded as one project, would need to be staged over a number of years ● Debate surrounding retention of post 16 provision would need to be held ● Issues relating to the identity and ethos of individual schools

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TIMETABLE

Stage of Process	Description of process	Details
Stage One	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Consultation Stage</i>● Informal information gathering and sharing of data. In depth discussion of issues and ideas. Consultation events. Comments to be submitted to the County Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meetings with Headteachers, Governors, Students and Public● Consultation deadline September 30 2011.● Report back to Executive in October 2011
Stage Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Publication of Notices</i>● If agreed, Local Authority to formally propose changes to the schools through publication of a Statutory Notice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● November 2011
Stage Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>End of Statutory Notice Period</i>● Decision taken in light of comments and objections received and whether a referral to the Welsh Assembly Government is required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● December 2011
Stage Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● September 2012-September 2014

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will I be able to voice my opinion?

There will be a number of ways you can tell us what you think.

Two consultation events will be held at Holywell High School.

Monday 4 July 2011 *4pm to 7pm*

Tuesday 20 September 2011 *4pm to 7pm*

At these events you will be able to ask questions and discuss any ideas you may have.

A response form can be found within this booklet. Please complete this response form and return to: School Modernisation Team, Lifelong Learning Directorate, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6ND.

Alternatively you can visit the Council's website www.flintshire.gov.uk/secondaryschoolmodernisation and complete a response form online.

Or you may hand in your completed response form to the Headteacher of any of the area schools affected by this consultation.

What happens after consultation?

At the end of the consultation period a report will be submitted to the County Council's Executive to consider a formal response. The County Council's Executive may then decide whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of the proposals referred to in this paper, or amended versions of these proposals or indeed new proposals that may be suggested during the consultation period.

Is this definitely going to happen?

Funding and phasing for these options depends on the levels of funding the Welsh Government, and other funders have available so we need to be prepared. Understanding the views of parents, students, teachers, governors, school staff and the wider community now will help us to move quickly should funding of this kind become available for Flintshire.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will we know what is going to happen?

It is intended that the Formal Consultation will be complete by the end of September 2011 and a report will go to the Executive of Flintshire County Council reporting the responses to the consultation process. If there is a decision made to publish Statutory Notices, this process will start in October 2011 and will allow one month for any formal objections to be received. If the Council decides to proceed with a proposal, and objections are received, then the proposal will be looked at by the Welsh Government and Welsh Ministers will make the decision. If a decision is made to support the proposal the timetable will be put in place on implementation of the project.

How will pupils travel to the new location?

Free School Transport is provided only to pupils of primary age living over 2 miles, and secondary pupils living over 3 miles from the nearest school, to the nearest English medium, Welsh medium or Faith school.

However, there will be no entitlement to free school transport if a pupil chooses to attend an alternative school when there is another appropriate school nearer to the pupil's home which the child is able to attend.

Any registered pupils at a school who would need to travel as a result of the proposal would receive free transport. This would be part of a travel plan for proposed changes.

Can I still choose which school I would prefer my child to go to if their school is reorganised?

Yes. Parents can express a preference to attend any school for the normal year of entry.

What will these options mean for the wider community?

New school provision is designed to encourage the community to use the facilities and encourage groups and clubs to form. Community facilities will provide a range of activities and opportunities to enrich the lives of children, families and the wider community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What would a new pattern of school provision mean for my child?

The environment that will be created will enhance a child or young person's education and give the teachers the resources to facilitate excellent teaching. This will help to raise standards and give a greater choice of subjects for all.

We envisage that new or refurbished facilities will support higher aspirations, better attainment and provide a pleasant, safe, enjoyable and effective learning environment.

Maintaining the existing Welsh and Catholic ethos would need to be ensured in any new pattern of provision.

Can the funding only be used for schools named in this project?

The Council has submitted a programme for Welsh Government funding to add to its own resources to renew facilities. The Welsh Government capital funding is only available for development on specified projects.

The timetable and extent of renewal of buildings will depend on the level of resources that can be secured from the Welsh Government, County Council and other partners to deliver the vision set out in the consultation.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do these proposals contribute to the Welsh Government's policy of tackling child poverty?

A child's successful engagement with learning enhances their life chances and there is a distinct link between an individual's education and their quality of life.

The proposals support greater employment opportunities for both the immediate and wider area of Flintshire. Opportunities will arise as a result of the development, construction and the post development phase.

Plans to enhance leisure provision within the County will ensure that disadvantaged children are actively encouraged to participate in both leisure and social activities. Stakeholder engagement regarding these proposals will be far reaching and place special emphasis on participation of children and young people from all backgrounds.

Finally, we will ensure that all sections of society have equal access to key public services. We are working to implement multi-disciplinary teams including parenting support workers, health visitors, play workers, crèche support, etc.

How will the County Council ensure good parental and pupil engagement during transitional arrangements?

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to aid learning, and to meet the expectations of pupils and parents. It is expected that a named Transition Leader for the new schools will ensure that arrangements are implemented. They will monitor and review these arrangements as necessary and feedback findings to interim governing bodies via updates.

Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of any transfer process and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the period of transition. The schools involved will work together with other agencies, in identifying families who may need additional support, at the point of, and after their children's transfer.

What are your views?

Your views and additional questions are important to us and we would like to hear them. Please raise them at the consultation events / discussions.

Further information is also available on the Flintshire website:
www.flintshire.gov.uk/secondaryschoolmodernisation

If you have any further queries or questions you may also contact the Lifelong Learning Directorate on 01352 704010 or by emailing:
21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Please complete the response form included in this booklet and return it to:
School Modernisation Team,
Lifelong Learning Directorate,
County Hall,
Mold,
Flintshire,
CH7 6ND.

Alternatively complete it online at:
www.flintshire.gov.uk/secondaryschoolmodernisation

Or you may hand in your completed response form to the Headteacher of any of the area schools that are a part of this consultation.

All consultation responses must be received by no later than Friday 30 September 2011.

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