

Flintshire County Council
Education and Youth Services

St David's High School, Saltney

Consultation on Proposals to change the age range of
St David's High School from 11-18 to 11-16

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information as to why a change in the age range of St David's High School from 11-18 to 11-16 is proposed.

Funding for provision of post-16 education is provided through Welsh Government grant, which is diminishing each year creating significant increasing pressure on small sixth forms. In order to safeguard the right of learners to access a broad and high quality range of learning opportunities, the Council through its Schools Modernisation Strategy has an agreed trigger point to review post-16 provision in any secondary school where the number of pupils within the 6th form education falls below 150 pupils for three years in succession.

In light of the recent Judicial Review associated with another Local Authority in Wales which brought new learning and findings, this Local Authority has made a decision to renew the consultation, to ensure that the consultation paperwork reflects the new findings associated with the recent case law. Therefore, there will be an additional opportunity for all affected parties to contribute their views on the proposals outlined in the individual consultation reports.

The new consultation to proposed change of age from 11-18 to 11-16 at St David's High School Saltney will commence 5th June 2015 and close 17th July 2015. A report on the outcomes of this consultation will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for consideration in July 2015 (date to be confirmed) and it will consider, based on the consultation feedback and evidence whether to proceed and ask the Welsh Minister to determine with the proposal, or not proceed with the proposal.

If the proposal is supported, the Council will then proceed under the same timeline as the previous consultation and will link to the complication of the post 16 learning hub based at Coleg Cambria, Connah's Quay, which will commence from start of the academic year (September 2016).

Who will we Consult

We are seeking the views of the following stakeholders:

- The Governing Body of St David's High School
- Pupils of St David's High School
- Parents, carers, guardians, and staff members of St David's High School
- Parents, carers, guardians of pupils attending Primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to St David's High School
- Other governing bodies of neighbouring primary schools
- Members of Parliament
- AMs
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- GwE
- Welsh Minister for Education & Skills
- Assembly members for Flintshire County Council and regional Assembly Members for the area
- Flintshire Transportation Officer & neighbouring LA Transport Officers
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- The local Communities First Partnership
- Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board
- Urdd
- Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- Coleg Cambria

A supplementary version of this consultation document has been produced for children and young people who are likely to be affected by the proposal.

Background to the Proposals

The Welsh Government introduced The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure in 2009. This resulted in enhanced entitlements for young people through the Learning and Skills Measure. "The Measure" was a means of enforcing implementation of 14 to 19 Learning Pathways. It has ensured that all learners at Key Stage 4 in Wales are able to choose from a minimum of 25 courses of which three must be vocational and that 30 choices are available to 16-18 year old learners, of which 5 must be vocational.

Before the Learning and Skills Measure, Flintshire's County Council sixth form provision was offered at 11 out of Flintshire's 12 secondary schools.

After the Measure, consortia arrangements were implemented to ensure that schools via their consortium arrangement were able to offer the ranges of courses prescribed by 'The Measure'.

St David's High School Saltney is a remaining part of the Deeside Consortium working with Connah's Quay High School, John Summers High School and

Holywell High School. The consortium has a shared 6th form offer which involves learners moving between schools to access the preferred courses.

Flintshire's strategic programme for the development and transformation of St David's High School meets the goals set out in Welsh Government guidance on 21st Century Schools, Delivering Skills that Work for Wales and the Learning Pathway 14-19 Guidance.

The Proposals

The proposal is to reduce the age range at St Davids High School, Saltney (community based, English medium school) from 11-18 to 11-16, discontinuing the post 16 provision at the school from 31st August 2016.

From September 2016, Post 16 learning provision will be available to students from St Davids High School, Saltney at the purpose built post 16 hub located at Coleg Cambria, Connaught Quay.

The proposed Post 16 Hub is a collaborative project between Flintshire County Council and Coleg Cambria. This will enable students to access a broader range of subjects to meet the 'The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure'.

The new facility will assist in providing improved educational outcomes and more flexibility around curriculum choice it will also enable access to an additional range of courses offered at the college.

Additionally this proposal will also result in students from the existing consortium area being able to access an appropriate range of courses at one specialist facility, rather than access courses on multiple school sites.

There is a 'Memorandum of an Agreement' between Flintshire County Council and Coleg Cambria covering the capital build and a 'Governance Agreement' which covers how the Post 16 hub will be governed. The Hub will be governed by Coleg Cambria governors under this agreement and in line with Further Education Regulations.

Additionally, an advisory group has been set up and is tasked to develop operating methodology which embraces the ethos of partnership working and that this is integrated into the operating models for the new facility. The group consists of representatives from the College governors, Flintshire County Council Officers and Head teachers and governor representatives from the partnership schools including St David's High School.

The need for places and the impact on accessibility

Table 1 – Numbers of pupils on Roll - St David’s High School (Post 16)

Age	Sept 11	Sept 12	Sept 13	Sept 14
Year 12 (16-17)	55	56	50	46
Year 13 (17-18)	26	41	42	39

***Table 2 – Numbers of Pupils on Roll - St David’s High School (Projected Numbers)**

	Actual Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Year 7 -11	422	442	446	465	496	512	509
Year 12 - 13	86	80	0	0	0	0	0
Total NOR	508	522	446	465	496	512	509

* Figures do not include anticipated pupils from current housing developments.

Table 3 – Projected Unfilled at St David’s High School (11-18) and (11-16). Actual (A) Projected (P)

Capacity	(A)% Jan 15 Unfilled Places	(P)% Jan 16 Unfilled places	(P) % Jan 17 Unfilled places	(P)% Jan 18 Unfilled places	(P)% Jan 19 Unfilled places	(P)% Jan 20 Unfilled places	(P)% Jan 21 Unfilled places
Pre Sept 16 (687)	26.93	26.20					
Post Sept 16 (725)			40.83	38.21	33.93	31.72	29.29

**Pre Sept 16 – figures include Post 16 Pupils. Post Sept 16 – figures do not include Post 16 Pupils. Capacity increases in Sept 16 as there will be no post 16 pupils.*

As other schools in the area are also involved with the post 16 transformation project at Coleg Cambria, there is no evidence to suggest the change in age range will have an influence on projections in other schools as a direct result of the proposal to change the age range at St David’s High School.

The stay on/retention rate at St David's High School, from year 11 is a little lower than the Flintshire average. The Local Authority has not completed

detailed research around this statistic. However, it is presumed that the stay on rate is lower in this school than the Flintshire average primarily due to the availability and proximity of alternative options for post 16 provision in the locality, including Coleg Cambria and provision across the Welsh Border in nearby Chester.

The Local Authority's School Modernisation Strategy (2010) stated that the minimum figure for a sixth form was 120, this figure was derived from an assessment of the ability of schools to resource the number and breadth of courses under the measure from their financial allocations.

This was supported by the schools themselves as they entered into consortium arrangements for post 16, in the area whereby a range of courses were offered across the consortium to meet the learning measure as individual schools were unable to do so. As stated earlier this meant that some pupils were required to travel to multiple sites to access courses of their choices rather than be available in their local schools. This was unpopular with both learners and parents/carers.

The figure of 120 was raised in the updated Flintshire Schools Modernisation Strategy of 2015 to 150. This was due to the continuing challenge for schools in the form of budgetary pressures and decreasing levels of post 16 Welsh Government grant funding in future years.

The long term plan for remodelling post 16 learning provision will ensure that the county has a more balanced and diverse range of post 16 learning provisions.

In terms of the viability of the 11-16 provision, currently the projected numbers at the school are below the threshold of the Authority's School Modernisation policy, as this states that admissions to secondary schools should be at four form entry (120 students per admission year group) or 600 places in total for the 11-16 age range.

However, the school has a unique geographical location in the east of the county, a secondary school is required to cover a large area. Direct comparisons cannot be made with the Deeside and Hawarden area/s, where 4 or more high schools provide places (subject to parental preference) for local communities.

There are housing developments currently under way in Saltney and the nearby Broughton, further afield is the longer term development of the Northern gateway. Additionally the Local Authority is undertaking to consult with the community of Deeside on proposed closure of John Summers High School. Therefore, capacity at St David's High School is required to ensure that we have the right number of High Schools in appropriate geographical areas to meet pupil demand.

The Local Authority use a housing yield formula which is derived from researching the work of other Local Authority. The housing yield for secondary schools (11-16) gives 0.15 children per house (or 0.18 for 11-18 schools) and for primary 0.24 children per house.

Housing Developments

Immediate Area

- South of the Retail Park, Broughton - 75 dwellings have been completed by April 2015 and there are a further 200 dwellings remaining which are likely to be built before April 2019
- Former Compound Site, Broughton - permission has been granted for 24 units and these are proposed to be built by April 2019
- 142 High Street, Saltney - all 58 dwellings are expected to be complete by April 2019.

75 dwellings have been completed on the sites above and it is anticipated that a further 282 dwellings are to be completed by April 2019.

Using the formula, the housing developments in the immediate area are likely to produce 54 secondary age pupils with St David's High School being the nearest community secondary school and 86 primary age pupils (These numbers do not take into account parental preference or pupils within the education system).

Wider Area

The development at Northern Gateway will be developed over a period of time from 2016/17. The pace of the housing developments will be constrained by the pace of infrastructure development, plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable. If the housing development sites within the Northern Gateway were to be developed to the maximum capacity of 1325 homes (source: outline planning permission) and, in applying the housing yield formula (0.15), the total 'yield' of secondary school age would be 199.

Quality and Standards of Education

ESTYN Inspection 2011

St David's High School, Saltney was last inspected by ESTYN, April 2011, the full ESTYN report available at:

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/provider/6644013>.

More guidance is available on the Welsh Government Website on the following link:-

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/>

The School is currently categorised as the following under the national system:-

- Standards Group - 2
- Improvement Capacity – B
- Support Category – Yellow

Summary of Data: Local Secondary schools (Jan 2014) Source: My local school:-

	Saltney, St David's High School	John Summers High School	Connah's Quay High School	Hawarden High School
Number of pupils on roll (Year: 2014)	514	374	932	1,152
Free school meals (FSM) - 3 year average (Year: 2014)	14.7%	31.9%	14.7%	7.5%
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) (Year: 2014)	14.9	12.9	17.4	16.7
% Attendance during the year (Year: 2014)	92.7%	92%	92.8%	95.2%
School budget per pupil (Year: 2015)	£4,301	£4,794	£3,936	£3,870
Support category (Year: 2014)	Yellow	Amber	Yellow	Yellow
Pupils achieving the expected level in the core subjects at Key Stage 3 (Year: 2014)	80.3%	78.1%	86.4%	90.6%
% Pupils achieving the level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Maths (Key stage 4) (Year: 2014)	57.3%	28.1%	57.1%	72.4%
Average capped points score (Key stage 4) (Year: 2014)	359	323	351	360

Comparison of Secondary School Category Data WG & GwE (local Area) 2014

School	WG Data Category*	GwE (Capacity to improve)	Support Category
Saltney St David's High School	2 (50)	B	Yellow
John Summers High School	4 (75)	C	Amber
Connahs Quay High School	3 (58)	B	Yellow
Hawarden High School	2 (42)	A	Yellow

*A range of data set gives a total school for each school (in brackets). These are then placed into categories as below:

1=21-36.5. 2=37-52.5. 3=53-68. 4=68.5-84

Outcomes Achieved by Free School Meals Learners 2014

School	Level 1 threshold	Level 2 threshold	Capped points score
Saltney St Davids High School	72.7%	18.2%	286.4
John Summers High School	92.9%	7.1%	286.3
Connahs Quay High School	95.5%	40.9%	325.0
Hawarden High School	100%	46.2%	339.2

Post 16 - Consortium Outcomes 2012-2014

The table below highlights that the L3 threshold performance for the consortium has been below both the Flintshire and the national average for 3 consecutive years. Additionally the consortium average points score has also been below the national figure for 3 consecutive years and below the Flintshire average for 2 out of the last 3 years.

Definitions:

L3 - is the Level 3 Threshold. This is the percentage of learners entering two or more A Levels or equivalent who achieved two or more pass grades.

APS - This is Average Points Score. (system to give points to each grade received and then average them out across the cohort).

*	L3			APS		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
Deeside Consortium	89%	91%	91%	655	755	563
Flintshire	97%	96%	97%	750	750	700
Wales	97%	96%	97%	807	805	773

* All data extrapolated from Welsh Government's Summary of Secondary School Performance returns (SSSP)

The curriculum impact for St David's High School will change from provision of 11-18 curriculum with the post 16 provision being delivered as part of a local consortium, to a facility providing curriculum for 11-16. The proposal will therefore have a positive impact on ensuring that learners have an appropriate range of course choices at the post 16 hub based at Coleg Cambria in order to meet with the learning measure and enable the school to focus its teaching resource around 11-16 curriculum delivery.

As the proposed post 16 hub will not be operational until Sept 2016, it is yet to have an Estyn inspection. Once the facility is operational, an inspection will be programmed in line with Estyn's inspection cycle.

Implication of the proposals on existing 11-16 provision

There are no significant implications of the proposals on the quality of the existing 11-16 provision at St David's High School. The school has a history of being successful at KS4. The Welsh Government School Categorisation system placed the school in the 2nd Quartile for learner outcomes in 2014, having previously been in Band 2 (out of 5) in 2013.

The school was last inspected by Estyn in 2011 and was judged to be "Good" with "Excellent" prospects for improvement. Estyn judged the school to be likely to improve based on highly effective leadership and support provided by senior and middle management, a culture of high expectations and a successful track record.

The Regional School Improvement Service (GwE) judged the school's prospects for further improvement to be good. Their most recent Focus Visit Report comments on well-constructed planning, staff being aware of priorities and good progress in meeting targets published in the School Improvement Plan. It recognised strengths and areas of outstanding practice and no significant areas requiring support.

GwE will continue to support and monitor the school on a termly basis.

The Local Authority's school funding formula contains "lump sum" elements in acknowledgement of the general overheads/fixed costs which all schools have regardless of their size or pupil numbers. This approach to funding schools ensures that smaller schools are not unfairly disadvantaged.

Increased opportunities for post 16 learning

If the proposals are agreed there will be enhanced opportunities for effectively meeting the needs of post 16 learners in their local communities. The Post 16 learning hub will provide a secure and supportive base for addressing post 16 learners needs with a purpose-built sustainable post 16 learning hub.

Placing learners in a broader post 16 learning hub will enhance learning opportunities as the curriculum options will increase as will the potential for learning attainment. It will also reduce learner dropout rates and maximise curriculum time and also provide more vocational based courses.

Longer term, the post 16 learning hub may potentially increase learner take up as standards of achievement increase.

Impact on Post 16 provision and 11-16 Provision within the immediate area and wider local authority

North Flintshire Consortium Schools

School Name	Implications of Post 16 Age Range Change	Implications on existing 11-16 provision
Holywell High School (Community school, English medium)	The Statutory notice to change of age range from 11-18 to 11-16 has been completed – Post 16 offer from September 2016 will be provided by the new post 16 hub based at Coleg Cambria.	Given the geographical location of the Holywell High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current and ongoing 11-16 provision.
Connah's Quay High School (Community school, English medium)	The Statutory notice to change of age range from 11-18 to 11-16 has been completed – Post 16 offer from September 2016 will be provided by the new post 16 hub based at Coleg Cambria.	The proposal is unlikely to increase pupil numbers at the Connah's Quay High School as 16-18 provision will not be offered from Sept 2016. However the school is projected to have in excess of 300 unfilled places post September 2016, therefore it would be able to accommodate pupils through parental preference.
John Summers High School (Community School, English Medium)	<p>The Local Authority is undertaking a period of formal consultation to change the age range of John Summers High School from 11-18 to 11-16 for alignment to the post 16 hub by September 2016. Post 16 offer from September 2016 will be provided by the new post 16 hub based at Coleg Cambria.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also undertaking a period of formal consultation for closure of the school 11-16 by Sept 2017.</p>	The proposal is unlikely to increase pupil numbers at John Summers High School through parental preference.

11-18 Schools in Flintshire

School Name	Implications of Post 16 Age Range Change	Implications on existing 11-16 provision
Hawarden High (Community school, English medium)	Currently has its own post 16 learning provision. Some St David's post 16 learners may opt to use this facility potentially impacting on numbers in the school.	Hawarden High School is currently oversubscribed due to parental preference. Pupils from Saltney are unlikely to gain a place at Hawarden High school as current protocol is based on qualification based around the nearest school. There are sufficient places available in other Flintshire schools to accommodate any learners whose parents express a preference for Hawarden, but whose preference could not be met once the school reaches its admission number in each year.
Alun School, Mold (Community school, English medium)	Currently has its own post 16 learning provision. Given the geographical location the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.	Given the geographical location of Mold Alun High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current and ongoing 11-16 provision.
Ysgol Maes Garmon (Community school, Welsh medium)	Currently has its own post 16 learning provision, with delivery of the whole curriculum offer through the medium of Welsh. We would not anticipate learners who have been part of English medium delivery moving to post 16 Welsh medium provision in significant numbers.	We would not anticipate learners who have been part of English medium delivery moving to Welsh medium provision in significant numbers. The proposals do not, therefore impact on this provision at the current time.
Hope, Castell Alun (Community school, English medium)	Currently has its own post 16 learning provision. Given the geographical location the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.	Given the geographical location of this High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Specialist	Given the specialist learning provision at this school the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.	Given the specialist learning provision at this school the proposal is likely to have no

chool	impact on current provision.
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Other Consortium Arrangements

Governing bodies of Flint High School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School have been working collaboratively to deliver post 16 opportunities to their learners since 2013.

School Name	Implications of Post 16 Age Range Change	Implications on existing 11-16 provision
Flint High School (Community school, English medium)	Given the geographical location of Flint High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.	Given the geographical location of Flint High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.
Richard Gwyn Catholic High School (Voluntary Aided), English medium	Given the faith based and geographical location of Richard Gwyn Catholic High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.	Given the faith based and geographical location of Richard Gwyn Catholic High School the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.

The Local Authority will continue to monitor and review this provision annually in line with its Modernisation Strategy. The annual review is based on learner outcomes and ability of the partnership to meet the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measure from the post 16 funding allocation received from Welsh Government.

11-16 Schools in Flintshire

School Name	Implications of Post 16 Age Range Change	Implications on existing 11-16 provision
Elfed High School (Community school English medium).	There is no ongoing recruitment of post 16 learners at this school. Consequently there would be no direct implication from this change.	Given the geographical location of Elfed High School of the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision
Argoed High School (Community school, English medium)	There is no ongoing recruitment of post 16 learners at this school. Consequently there would be no direct implication from this change.	Given the geographical location of Argoed High School of the proposal is likely to have no impact on current provision.

Likely Impact of the proposals on staff employed at St David's High School

A lead professional will be appointed to manage the post 16 provision, the anticipated recruitment timeline will be summer 2015.

The 1st tranche of staffing appointments will be to identify curriculum roles. Initially these roles will be ring-fenced to those staff across the consortia including St David's High School with post 16 experience in the current college and partnership schools.

Should the identified vacancies not be filled by the 1st tranche procedure, recruitment for unfilled positions will be filled in accordance with Coleg Cambria's recruitment and selection processes.

In the event that staff at St David's High School are displaced as a result of the proposal then the relevant organisational change and redundancy policy will apply and will be applied as appropriate by the governing body of St David's High School.

The transition itself may cause some uncertainty for staff based at St David's High School, and every attempt will be made by the Local Authority and School to support these staff during the change process.

It is anticipated that should the proposals be accepted there may be benefits for staff including greater opportunity for specialism and career development. It should reduce competition between the educational establishments, and reduce burden of curriculum demand in order to focus resource onto 11-16 learning provision at St David's High School.

Welsh Language

The language categorisation is defined using Welsh Government Circular 023/2007 "Defining schools according to Welsh Medium Provision".

St David's High School, Saltney is defined as English Medium (EM) – predominately English medium where 1 or 2 subjects may be taught through the medium of Welsh as an option.

Given the designation of the school there is not a requirement under the school organisation code to conduct a Welsh Language Impact Assessment. However an Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken and can be found on the Council's website.

The proposal to provide post 16 provision at Coleg Cambria, will not change the language designation. However, the Post 16 hub has the potential to provide additional opportunities to learners to access more options through the medium of Welsh should there be appropriate student demand.

To underpin this, Coleg Cambria work collaboratively within the Regional Forums to sustain and improve Welsh-medium provision as noted in the Council's Welsh Education Strategic plan (WESP) 2014, additionally they are also engaged in the Bilingual Champion project with Welsh Government.

ALN Provision

The proposed post 16 hub at Coleg Cambria will be fully accessible in terms of the Equalities Act 2010.

There are fewer than 10 pupils with a statement of Special educational needs at St David's High School, Saltney. No pupils with a statement are within post 16 education at the school.

The current arrangements within Flintshire for students who cannot attend level 3, post 16 courses, is that they can access level 1 and level 2 courses, post 16 at Coleg Cambria, this arrangement will continue.

Financial Implications

Capital Expenditure Definition - *Expenditure on non-current assets (land and buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment) intended to benefit future accounting periods or expenditure that increases the capacity, economy, efficiency or life span of an existing asset.*

Revenue Expenditure Definition - *The day-to-day costs of running Council services including expenditure on: staff, supplies and services, and repairs and maintenance of assets. Also included are charges for the repayment of debt, and interest on debt.*

Capital

The post 16 Hub at Coleg Cambria, Connahs Quay is an integral part of Flintshire's £64.2 million 21st Century Schools Band A programme.

The Full Business Case (FBC) for the Post 16 Hub was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) by the Local Authority in Oct 2014 and approved by WG, January 2015.

The cost of the project is circa £14,626,000, which is funded by Welsh Government 50%, Flintshire County Council 25% and Coleg Cambria 25%.

The project is to build a new post-16 hub facility at Connah's Quay for 700 places to serve parts of the North Flintshire Post 16 consortium, namely Connah's Quay, Holywell, John Summers and St David's High Schools.

Revenue

Funding for post-16 education in mainstream schools is by direct grant from the Welsh Government.

The budget is allocated as a lump sum to each school by the Local Authority. However the Local Authority does not provide a breakdown of the elements it is expected to cover. It is up to schools to determine the actual costs of post 16 provision and to ensure its affordability within the grant.

In the case of small sixth forms, this results in the lump sum being insufficient to support the number of courses required under the measure and the school having to subsidise from its formula allocation and primary reason why long

standing post 16 Consortium arrangements were established. The formula allocations provided to the school by the local Authority are unaltered by the Proposal to change the age range and the cost per pupil does not change accordingly.

The Proposal is to remove the post 16 provision this will result in the school not being able to draw down grant from WG for this provision. However, as the school will not be providing post 16 provision either independently or through consortium arrangements, this will have a neutral financial impact.

As Coleg Cambria will govern the post 16 hub, they will be funded by directly by Welsh Government.

With regard to transportation costs to the new post 16 Hub, there are clear logistical benefits of having one post 16 hub which moves away from the current post 16 consortia arrangements whereby some pupils are transported to multiple sites, to access a range of courses. This however could be offset by some pupils who gain access to a full range of courses in their local sixth form and do not currently require transport. Therefore it is forecast that the cost for transport associated with this proposal will be cost neutral with a possibility of achieving transport savings when transport contracts are rationalised once the proposed post 16 hub at Coleg Cambria is operational.

Transport Implications

The proposals, if agreed, will provide more enhanced opportunities for meeting the needs of learners in local communities. This should minimise and not enhance transportation costs, particularly in comparison to earlier consortium models. The Local Authority will however continue to provide transport in accordance with the Flintshire County Council's Transport Policy.

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Transport/Transport-Eligibility-Criteria-.pdf>

The proposal to discontinue Post 16 provision at St David's High School, Saltney does not disadvantage learners who take A levels at either St David's High School, Saltney or in a combination of establishments linked to the current consortia arrangements.

As per Flintshire Council's Transport Policy, learners who meet the distance criteria will be entitled to free transport to the Post 16 Hub. Additionally the pupils travel times fall well below the guidance contained in the Transport measure.

Accommodation implications of the proposals

Existing provision - St David's High School, Saltney

Condition

A condition assessment was completed in September 2013. The Local Authority currently classifies condition in its school portfolio by the following grades:-

Grade Condition	Description
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 expectancy expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

St David's High School, Saltney was classified as condition B – satisfactory, performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.

Suitability

In terms of suitability of provision at St David's High School, Saltney, the suitability assessment which compares the school against the relevant Building Bulletin guidance, has highlighted the following deficiencies:

- A number of specialist rooms namely, Laboratories, Art, Technology, ICT fall below the minimum building bulletin size range requirements
- No music practice areas.
- School Library area deficiencies in size.
- 13 of 18 general classrooms fall below building bulletin size range requirements.
- Classrooms in some blocks suffer from seasonal environmental issues primarily due to solar gain and/or heat loss.
- Poor Circulation routes in some areas of the school.
- Access and parking configuration and facilities are poor.

Should the proposals be approved, the effect on St David's High School in terms of Measuring the Capacity of schools in Wales, would be that the school capacity will increase from 687 to 725 by Sept 2016.

However the Local Authority will work with the school to reduce the capacity in line with the Welsh Government National Policy for Local Authorities to reduce surplus places in Schools. In order to address this together with the suitability, sufficiency and condition issues, the Authority is conducting a feasibility study of St David's High School with a view that a capital scheme will be put forward for possible inclusion in the 21st Century schools programme or the Local Authority's onward Capital programme.

New Provision - The Proposed Post 16 Hub

In direct comparison the new Post 16 hub, which is currently in construction phase and will cost in the region of £14m.

Providing an inspirational learning facility for 700 students in a centralised location between Coleg Cambria's Deeside Campus and Connah's Quay High School, the building includes specialist Performing Arts, Music, Science and Creative Arts facilities as well as general teaching classrooms and social and private study spaces. Accessed from a newly formed entrance from Golftyn Lane, the scheme includes staff and visitor car parking for the new Centre as well as a coach park area to serve the wider Coleg Cambria campus.

The highly sustainable building will promote the use of natural daylight and ventilation within whilst also incorporating a number of sustainable technologies including air source heat pumps, photovoltaic cells and solar hot water panels.

- The building will be to 21st Century school standard.
- The Condition of the building will be A.
- As it will be a purpose built facility, it will be built within Building Bulletin Guidance, therefore there will be no suitability issues.
- The Building will be BREEAM excellence and Energy rated A.
- There will be seamless access to ICT and Wi-Fi provision within the new facility.

The proposed Post 16 hub is exempt from the Welsh Government capacity assessment.

Land and buildings

There are no implications in terms of either: transfer of land or building disposal as a result of the proposal. The building and Land at Saltney St David's High School will remain as it is currently and the post 16 hub is being constructed on land owned by Coleg Cambria on their site at Connah's Quay.

Admissions to the proposed Post 16 Hub

Recruitment for the admission in 2015, will be administered by both the partnership schools and the College.

Places will be ring fenced for pupils transferring from Year 12 in partnership schools to year 13 in the proposed hub.

Thereafter, Admissions to the post 16 hub will be administered by the College as per their admissions policy.

Retaining the current Post 16 provision

Retaining the current post 16 provision through the current North Flintshire consortium arrangements is untenable. The local Authority has been progressing post 16 transformation change across this consortium and to this end has already successfully progressed statutory proposals in two areas, Connah's Quay and Holywell, and is currently progressing proposals for both St David's and John Summers' High Schools. Additionally, two schools via their Governing bodies have formed their own consortium for post 16 provision within Flint. Effectively therefore the previous consortium arrangements in this area are no longer in place in their original form.

As part of this transition to a new post 16 hub, governors and schools will be ensuring continuity of education for post 16 education students. As such they will be progressing with organisational and management arrangements given that the timing of the transition is planned for September 2016.

It is not be possible for the school offer post 16 Education independently and meet the requirements of the Learning Measure.

What are the advantages/disadvantages and risks around the proposals?

There are significant advantages to developing the post 16 learning hub and some disadvantages, although the latter are not significant.

Advantages of the Proposals

- The range and quality of courses will meet the learning and skills measure for learners.
- Wider range of both academic and vocational courses will be delivered collaboratively.
- Existing training links between schools in Flintshire and Coleg Cambria can be strengthened across a full range of vocational courses.
- Larger and better qualified pool of potential employees with a greater range of qualifications.
- The Building will be to 21st Century standard with purpose built facilities promoting better educational attainment.
- As all courses can be offered in one facility, this assists in maximising curriculum time.
- Will lead to better attendance and an increase in the % of 16-19 learners in Education and Training (EET).
- More opportunities for professional and personal development for staff at the facility.
- Improved transition for learners and staff.
- Ease of access to training resources for both staff and students.
- Improved financial sustainability.

Disadvantages & Risks

- Potential loss of some staff from St David's High School.
- Pupils may not opt to take a place at the new post 16 hub.
- Post 16 provision will no longer be provided in the local school.
- Transition for learners may be potentially disrupted post 16 due to the transition to a new learning environment.
- Post 16 hub may yield the same educational results as the existing consortium arrangements.
- Learners may opt to move to out of county post 16 learning provisions and this may impact on the community.
- A small number of pupils who are able to gain access to all their course choices at St David's High School will have to travel further to the post 16 hub.

Risks will be mitigated through effective transition arrangements and good liaison to ensure continuity in learning and the recruitment process. Support will also be provided to pupils and their families to ensure that they are also given advice and guidance where needed.

St David's High School is also part of the Post 16 Learning Hub advisory group which has been set up and is tasked to develop operating methodology which embraces the ethos of partnership working and that this is integrated into the operating models for the new facility.

Coleg Cambria have agreed to ring fence teaching staff with relevant qualifications and experience from the consortium schools and post 16 facility at the college in the 1st tranche of the recruitment process.

Alternatives Options that have been considered

The Local Authority has worked with a range of Key stakeholders with regard to the formation of its Post 16 Strategy. A long list of options, in the North Consortium included, the following:

- Option 1 – Do nothing.
- Option 2 – Concentrate post-16 provision at Connah's Quay, with some rationalisation elsewhere
- Option 3 – Split the provision and collaborate on a North West (Holywell, Flint and St Richard Gwyn) and North East (John Summers, Connah's Quay, St David's) basis
- Option 4 – Re-categorise all schools to be providers for ages 11-16 and have one post-16 provider with independent governance

This was reduced to the Short list as follows:-

- Option 1 – Do nothing
- Option 2 – collaboration in the North (concentrate post-16 provision at Connahs Quay)
- Option 4 – collaboration in the North (re-categorise all schools to 11-16 and have one independent institution for post-16 provision)

Discounted options

- Option 1 – Do nothing - was discounted as the consortium arrangements were unable to sustain the range of courses required under the Learning Measure; and outcomes of the consortium arrangement were lower than both the National and County performances averages. Other post 16 provision in the area is being re-organised by September 2016.
- Option 4 – collaboration in the North (re-categorise all schools to 11-16) and have one an independent institution for post-16 provision. This was discounted, as the Authority's policy (2010) was that post 16 provision in schools needed to be below 120 pupils before the Local Authority would review, therefore post 16 numbers in other schools were sustainable.

The Preferred option

- Option 2 – collaboration in the North (concentrate post-16 provision at Connah's Quay)

Consultation Details

This report highlights the proposal for change of age range at St David's High School from 11-18 to 11-16. The Code on School Organisation ("The Code") is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The Code came into force on 1st October 2013 and applies in respect to all schools proposals. Proposals to change the age range of a school have to follow the following process:-

1. The Council considers the Code and authorises a consultation on the changes to the school;
2. At the start of the consultation period the Council **must** provide consultees with a consultation document and give them at least 42 days in which to respond, with at least 20 of these days being school

- days. If the Council considers it appropriate, meetings are held with stakeholders during the consultation period;
3. Consultation comments are collated and summarised by the Council. This summary together with the Council's officers' own responses is published in a consultation report within 3 months of the end of the consultation period and presented to the Council's Cabinet for consideration;
 4. The Council's Cabinet decides whether to proceed with the changes within 6 months of the end of the consultation period. If the decision is to proceed, Step 5 is taken. If a new option emerges during the consultation then Steps 1-3 are repeated;
 5. Statutory notice is published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The notice **must** be published on a school day and with 15 school days (not including the day of publication) in the notice period;
 6. If objections are received, the Council **must** publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and their responses to them within 28 days of the end of the objection period;
 7. In the case of post 16 provision the proposals are sent for Ministerial determination, this is usually within 16 weeks of the end of the objection period;
 8. If the proposals receive approval they should be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice, or any subsequent modified date.

How you can express your view

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

- Complete a questionnaire on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview
- Complete a response form and return it to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND; or
- Alternatively put your responses/questions in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6ND or Email: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

The consultation will close on **17th July 2015**.

Please note that responses to consultation at this stage are not counted as objections. These can only be lodged following the next stage, which is

the publication of a statutory notice, which sets out the final option that councillors have decided on. This will appear at the school and on the Council website. The school will be told when this is due, and if you would like a notification, please provide your details in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Consultation Response Form

(Please note that a consultation response will not be counted as a formal objection)

Change of age range at St David's High School, Saltney from 11-18 to 11-16.

The new consultation to proposed change of age from 11-18 to 11-16 at St David's Saltney will commence 5th June 2015 and close 17th July 2015.

Before you begin – if you would like to fill this form in on-line please go to: www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview

Based on the information you have been given in this booklet, at the consultation event and from other documents available on the Council's website, please tell us your views on the Council's preferred option in your area.

How strongly do you agree with the consultation to change the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11-16?

- Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree or Disagree
- Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please tell us why you feel this way. Please give a description of any alternative option you wish to put forward.

About you:

To help us understand what different groups of people think, please tell us a little about yourself:

Please provide your contact details below (*unfortunately we are unable to consider responses unless contact details, including full postcode are provided*)

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Are you:

Parent/Carer

Teacher

Support Staff

Governor

Other (Please specify) _____

Name of School:

I would like to be informed of any future statutory notice relating to this consultation.

Please supply email address:
