

Flintshire Local Development Plan 2015-2030

Position Statement
Flintshire Local Education Authority

March 2021

Flintshire Local Education Authority Position Statement to LDP Examination in Public Strategic and Allocated Sites and the Potential impact on the Local Schools Network

1. The previous UDP in context of Flintshire Schools and School Place Planning

1.1 The previous UDP covered the period from 2000 to 2015. Within this plan there were significant housing units delivered within the County.

1.2 The current Measuring of Capacity of Schools in Wales was adopted in 2007. Tables 1 and 2 depict school capacity, pupil numbers and unfilled places in 2007 and 2015, and serves as comparator.

Table 1: Primary

	2007	2015	Comparison
Number of Roll (NOR)	12642	12226	-416
Schools Capacity	14293	14179	-114
Unfilled Places	1675	1953	+278

Table 2: Secondary

	2007	2015	Comparison
Number on Roll (NOR)	10651	9563	-1088
School Capacity	11863	11707	-156
Unfilled Places	1212	1523	+311

1.3 Pre-2015, LA's received an annual formula funded capital allocation from Welsh Government to invest in their priorities for the school estate. At this time the amounts received by Authorities were insufficient to enable strategic decisions and investment relating to the school estate.

1.4 However, since the introduction of the 21st Century School funding 2014, the level of capital investment and the availability to programme beyond a one to two year period has provided LA's with an appropriate platform in which to consider and implement both large scale and strategic investment in their school portfolios.

1.5 School data at September 2020 across the primary and secondary network, is set out below. The Welsh Government target for unfilled places should be no more than 10%.

Table 3:

<i>(sept 2020 stats)</i>	Primary	Secondary
Number of Roll (NOR)	11952	9559
School Capacity	14059	10718
Unfilled places	2107	1159
% of unfilled places	14.99%	10.81%

1.6 The tables reflects the overall County wide situation in relation to unfilled places. There are a number of areas within the County where there is pressure for pupil places in individual schools.

1.7 The document “Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales” (MCSW) provides guidance on how to measure the capacity in Welsh Authority Schools. This assessment of school capacity includes for areas of the school which are not classrooms, thereby not all unfilled places are “spare” and available for additional pupils.

2. Pupil Number projections

2.1 The table below shows historic pupil numbers from 2015, and a projected forecast of pupil places based on historic trends, to 2025. These projections indicate over that over the next five years pupil numbers within primary school age range is likely to reduce by up to 971, and, the projected trend at secondary level is predicted to reduce by up to 184 pupils.

2.2 Forecasts are produced biannually and use previous school admissions to predict future numbers on roll. Pupil numbers likely to be generated from housing developments, which would be calculated using the SPGN23 formula, are not included. This is because of the many variables involved such as, for example, when will the units be built; what will be the final number of units constructed; how many of these units will be eligible for inclusion in the SPGN23 formula; and parental preference.

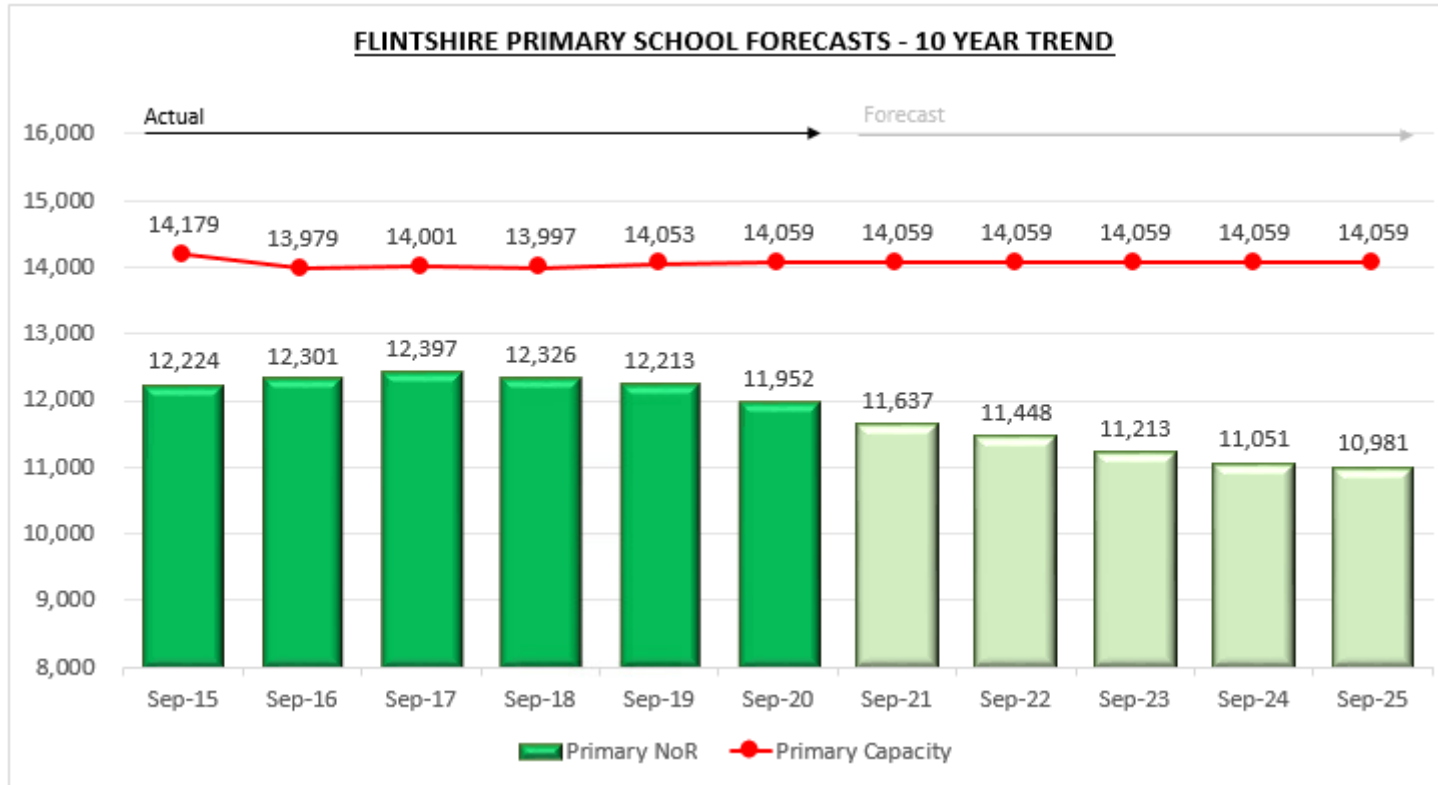
2.3 As can be expected, pupil populations at schools, within areas and throughout the County as a whole can fluctuate over time, meaning that schools under pressure for places today may not be in a few years’ time, whilst the reverse is also true. Although there is currently sufficient capacity at both primary and secondary levels across the County overall, these places may not necessarily be available where demand is highest.

Table 4 – Overall pupil population 2015-2025

	Actual					Latest	Forecast				
Date	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25
Primary NoR	12,224	12,301	12,397	12,326	12,213	11,952	11,637	11,448	11,213	11,051	10,981
Seceonday NoR	9,563	9,403	9,188	9,314	9,471	9,559	9,646	9,737	9,676	9,551	9,375
Total NoR	21,787	21,704	21,585	21,640	21,684	21,511	21,283	21,185	20,889	20,602	20,356

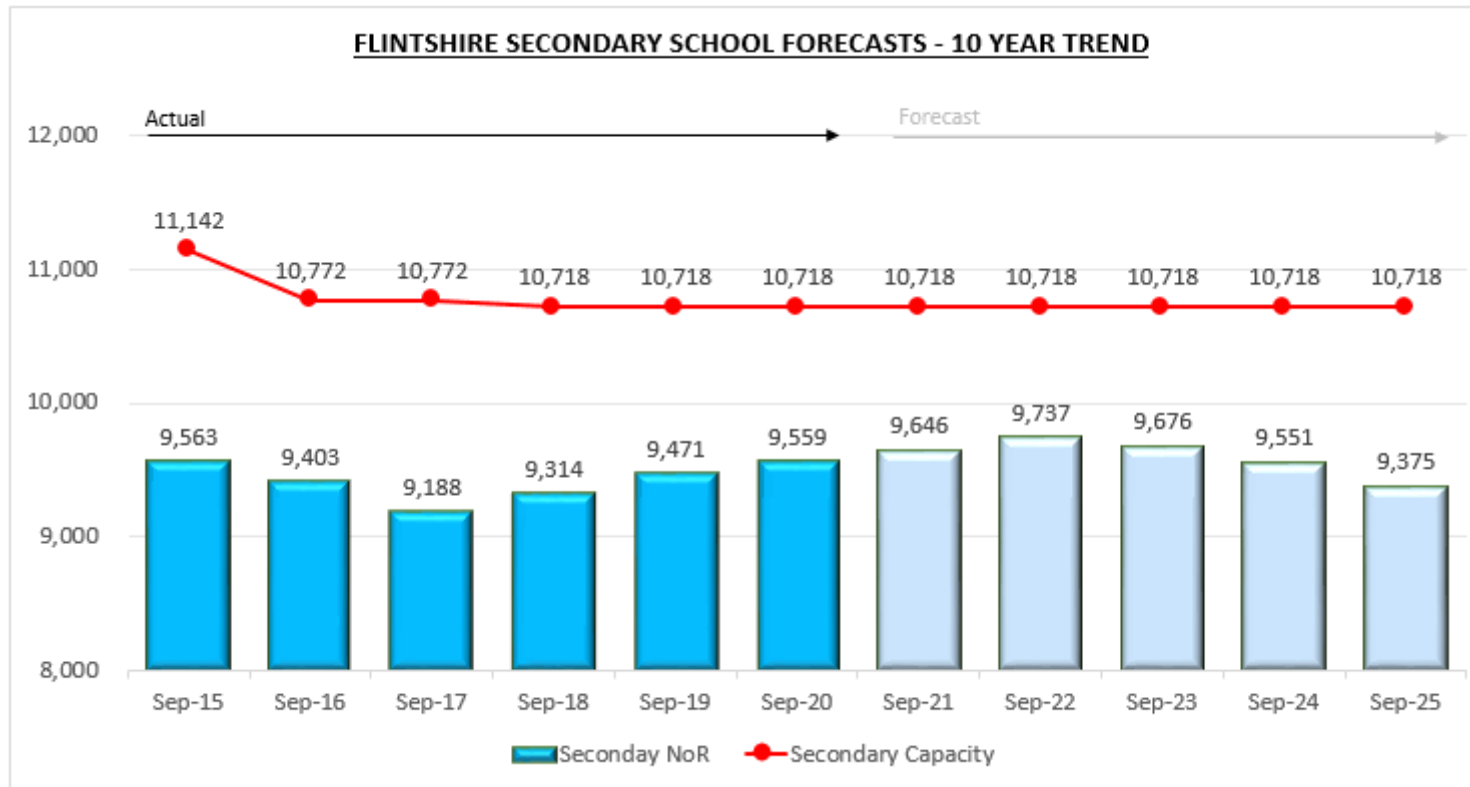
Primary Sector

	Actual					Latest	Forecast				
Date	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25
Primary Schools	68	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
Primary Capacity	14,179	13,979	14,001	13,997	14,053	14,059	14,059	14,059	14,059	14,059	14,059
Primary NoR	12,224	12,301	12,397	12,326	12,213	11,952	11,637	11,448	11,213	11,051	10,981
Total Surplus	1,955	1,678	1,604	1,671	1,840	2,107	2,422	2,611	2,846	3,008	3,078
Total Surplus %	13.79%	12.00%	11.46%	11.94%	13.09%	14.99%	17.23%	18.57%	20.24%	21.40%	21.89%



Secondary Sector

	Actual					Latest	Forecast				
Date	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25
Secondary Schools	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Secondary Capacity	11,142	10,772	10,772	10,718	10,718	10,718	10,718	10,718	10,718	10,718	10,718
Secondary NoR	9,563	9,403	9,188	9,314	9,471	9,559	9,646	9,737	9,676	9,551	9,375
Total Surplus	1,579	1,369	1,584	1,404	1,247	1,159	1,072	981	1,042	1,167	1,343
Total Surplus %	14.17%	12.71%	14.70%	13.10%	11.63%	10.81%	10.01%	9.15%	9.72%	10.89%	12.53%



3. Funding Sources

3.1 The Council has a number of funding sources in which to consider its capital investment priorities for its schools. They are as follows:

- WG 21st Century school and college investment programme – (part funded by WG and Council with agreed intervention rates)

- The Council Capital programme (funded by the Council) The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been agreed to 2021/22 – 2023/24.
- S106 construction from developers (which contribute, rather than fully fund school projects)

3.2 In terms of S106 contributions for housing developments that fall outside of those identified as allocated sites in the LDP (windfall sites), these are unpredictable in terms of when they will arrive in the council system, and consequently it is difficult to forecast the impact of these pupils in to the education system as these developments are only known at the point in time when the developer enters the planning consent process.

3.3 The Council will seek to secure S106 contributions where appropriate, to support the provision of school accommodation requirements, where the number of pupils generated from the development takes the school to within 5% of the capacity as outlined in the SPG23 Guidance Note.

3.4 For those schools (nearest to the development) where the number of pupils from the development do not take the school affected by the development to within 5% of the school capacity, and consequently does not meet the trigger identified in the SPG23 Guidance Note, S106 contributions will not be sought.

3.5 Band “A” of the Welsh Government 21st Century School and College Investment Programme ran from 2015 to 2019, with Flintshire completing all of its planned projects within this planned timeline.

3.6 Band “B” of this programme runs from 2019 to 2024/25. The Council's Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) for this programme was submitted to WG, and agreed the funding envelope in principle on 29th March 2017.

3.7 Finances beyond the aforementioned dates are not guaranteed, however, the Council will work towards an assumption of the continuation of the Council's investment strategy beyond 2022 and that WG 21st School Band C of the national investment programme will continue and run as anticipated 2025 – 2030.

4. Strategic and Allocated sites

4.1 Table 6 below highlights the sites allocated for housing (identified as 3-13) as outlined in the Local Development Plan (LDP). The sites are part of the planned provision for housing in the LDP and will need to be delivered by 2030. In addition, two strategic sites (identified as 1-2) were included as mixed use development sites in the Preferred Strategy in 2018, and are also allocated in the Deposit LDP, and have a housing element to their mix of proposed uses. In total, 3168 units are expected to be constructed over the timespan of the LDP.

Table 6¹: Table includes all developments some of which have already commenced for the lifetime of the LDP

Identifier	Site	Nearest Primary	Nearest Secondary	Total Units	Exempt Units	Total Net Units	Primary Pupils Generated	Secondary Pupils Generated
1	STR3A North West of Garden City	Sealand CP School	Hawarden High School	994		994	239	173
2	STR3B Warren Hall, Broughton	Higher Kinnerton, Derwen Foundation Primary School	Hope, Castell Alun High School	300		300	72	52
3	HN1.7 Holywell Rd/Green Lane, Ewloe	Ewloe Green CP School	Hawarden High School	298		298	72	52
4	HN1.8 Ash Lane, Hawarden	Hawarden Village CiW VA School	Hawarden High School	288		288	69	50
5	HN1.6 Land between Denbigh Rd & Gwernaffield Rd, Mold	Mold, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia	Mold, Alun High School	246		246	59	43
6	HN1.11 Chester rd, Penymynydd	Penymynydd, St John's CiW VA School	Buckley, Elfed High School	186		186	45	32
7	HN1.4 Northop Rd, Flint	Flint, St Mary's RC VA School	Flint High School	170		170	41	30
8	HN1.5 Maes Gwern, Mold	Mold, Ysgol Bryn Coch	Mold, Alun High School	160		160	38	28

¹ Some of the sites in the Table already have planning permission and are under development, and all sites are phased to come forward as per the LDP housing trajectory

Identifier	Site	Nearest Primary	Nearest Secondary	Total Units	Exempt Units	Total Net Units	Primary Pupils Generated	Secondary Pupils Generated
9	HN1.1 Well St, Buckley	Buckley, Southdown CP School	Buckley, Elfed High School	159		159	38	28
10	HN1.3 Highmere Drive, Connah's Quay	Connah's Quay, Ysgol Bryn Deva	Connah's Quay High School	150		150	36	26
11	HN1.10 Cae Isa, A5119, New Brighton	Sychdyn CP School	Mynydd Isa, Argoed High School	105		105	25	18
12	HN1.9 Wrexham Road, Hope	Abermorddu CP School	Hope, Castell Alun High School	80		80	19	14
13	HN1.2 Broad Oak Holding, Connah's Quay	Connah's Quay, Wepre CP School	Connah's Quay High School	32		32	8	6
	13			3,168	0	3,168	761	552

4.2 The nearest primary and secondary schools to each site have been identified in the table as well as the potential number of pupils that could be generated as a result of the developments. The formula used for generating pupil yield from housing developments is noted in the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) 23 'Education Contributions'. Using the agreed formula the proposed sites develop a potential of up to 1313 additional pupils, that would impact upon school places across Flintshire.

4.3 A high level analysis has been undertaken to identify potential issues at the nearest schools, with proposed actions to mitigate any resulting pressures.

4.4 The table below identifies options available to LA to manage the impact of increasing pupil numbers in to schools/area

Table 7 - Action Options:

<u>Consequence of Development</u>	<u>Likely Response</u>
A school or area can comfortably accommodate all pupils potentially generated from a development	1: No action required, but will be monitored as part of our planned bi-annual monitoring activities
A school or area can comfortably accommodate all pupils potentially generated by a development but surplus places at the school(s) are reduced below 5%	2: Monitoring pupil numbers to ensure delivery of curriculum is not compromised. Seek S106 developer contributions where appropriate.
A school or area can accommodate some but not all of the pupils potentially generated by a development	3: Pupil numbers will be monitored, and where demand arises provision of a mobile classroom to meet shortfall in demand short term, and seek S106 developer contributions where appropriate.
A school or area cannot accommodate the numbers of pupils potentially generate by a development	4: Mobile classroom will be provided where appropriate to accommodate the immediate demand, and seek S106 developer contributions will be sought where appropriate towards addressing shortfall in accommodation needs..
	5: The area or school is already included in the Council investment programme until 2025, in such cases capacity issues can be reviewed, and S106 developer contributions where appropriate will be sought to maximise investment.
	6: A feasibility study will be commissioned to determine accommodation requirements, and S106 developer contributions where appropriate will be sought towards proposals.
	7: Not a local Authority school, discussions will be required with the Diocesan Authority regarding accommodation requirements. S106 developer contributions will be sought where appropriate.
	8: A project within the existing programme is substituted for one with a greater strategic need. S106 developer contributions would be sought where appropriate.
	9: The area or school to be considered for inclusion in the Council's investment programme beyond the current Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 and or 21 st century school band C (2025-2030). S106 developer contributions sought where appropriate

5. General Information

- Pupil Numbers and school capacities quoted are the latest available (September 2020) and full time only (i.e. do not include nursery pupil numbers, as they are non-statutory)
- This study will be reviewed bi-annually and adjustments made, as a consequence of fluctuations in pupil numbers.
- The report assumes that pupils generated by proposed development will turn up all at once, however development is usually phased.
- The analysis cannot and does not take into consideration parental preference through the admissions framework, whereby the Council cannot direct pupils to a particular school or does not know parental preferences prior to their application. By Law arrangements must be made to enable parents to express and preference for a school they wish their child/children to attend. All pupils will be admitted if the Admission Number has not been reached, this means that parents may be able to access a place in a school of their choice, even if that school is not the school nearest to their home. The Admission Number for each school relates to the number of children that can be admitted to each year group during the school year. The Admission Number for a school is calculated using the capacity method in the Welsh Government's guidance document "measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales".
- The figures do not consider pupil movement (churn) within the area, they assume the worst case scenario for the nearest local school. Churn will not be referred to in any public document as in our view that it weakens the Council's position and opens up more challenge from developers in respect of S106 contributions to schools.
- The analysis assumes that the projected pupil yield from proposed new housing developments will access their nearest school as per the SPG23 Policy. However, in areas where a denominational or Welsh Medium school is noted as the nearest to the proposed development, the reality is that percentage of pupils/parents may choose another school.
- National practice is that short term demands for pupil places can be considered and met through the provision of mobile classrooms in order to assess the sustained local demand for pupil places before capital investment is considered and implemented.

5.1 Pupil forecasts are carried out twice per year to assess demand for places, forecasts are projected for a 5 year maximum only because of volatility in pupil numbers and consequential accuracy impact. Current projections indicate a drop in pupil numbers over the next five years.

5.2 The document "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" (MCSW) provides guidance on how to measure the capacity in Welsh Authority Schools. The capacity assessment includes areas within the school which are not classrooms but area considered to be teaching

spaces, and so count for pupil places in the overall capacity assessment. Therefore, not all unfilled places are “spare” and available for additional pupils.

Primary Summary

School	Current Capacity	Current Number on Roll (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Developments	Additional Pupils forecasted	Action
Abermorddu CP School	206	181	25	12.14%	(12) Wrexham Road, Hope	19	Action 9: address size of teaching bases and address shortfalls in suitability and sufficiency.
Buckley, Southdown CP School	382	356	26	6.81%	(9) Well Street, Buckley	38	Action 9: Develop a scheme to increase capacity, remove mobile classrooms, address size and shape of existing teaching bases, Provision of suitably sized hall, provision of studio and food tech space. SEN provision.
Connah's Quay, Wepre CP School	307	296	11	3.58%	(13) Broad Oak Holding, Connah's Quay	8	Action 9: Develop a scheme to increase pupil capacity, increase size of hall, provide a studio and address organisation of classroom spaces.
Connah's Quay, Ysgol Bryn Deva	283	250	33	11.66%	(10) Highmere Drive, Connah's Quay	36	Action 9: .Develop scheme to address size and shape of the majority of teaching bases and provision of practical spaces and sufficiency of toilet provision. Changing room provision.
Ewloe Green CP School	349	349	0	0.00%	(3) Holywell Road,/Green Lane, Ewloe	72	Action 6: Feasibility study completed to determine future expansion requirements and additional land purchase needed

School	Current Capacity	Current Number on Roll (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Developments	Additional Pupils forecasted	Action
Flint, St Mary's RC VA School	317	211	106	33.44%	(7) Northop Road, Flint	41	Action 1: Monitor pupil admission numbers, and demand for pupil places. Address short-term demand for places with modular buildings until such time that demand is understood and is sustainable.
Hawarden Village CiW VA School	429	408	21	4.90%	(4) Ash Lane, Hawarden	69	Action 7: Feasibility study completed and options for expansion identified. Address shortfalls in teaching accommodation, and increase capacity of school. Consult with Diocese.
Higher Kinnerton C.P. School	201	185	16	7.96%	(2) Warren Hall	72	Action 9: Develop a scheme to increase pupil capacity. Seek S106 contributions where required.
Mold, Ysgol Bryn Coch	599	560	39	6.51%	(8) Maes Gwern, Mold	38	Action 2: Monitor demand for pupil places in Mold area. Seek S106 contributions as and when required to address shortfalls in provision.
Mold, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia	210	158	52	24.76%	(5) Land between Denbigh Road/Gwernaffield Road	59	Action 2: Monitor demand for pupil places in Mold area. Seek S106 contributions as and when required to address shortfalls in provision.
St. John's V.A. School Penymynydd.	110	101	9	8.18%	(6) Chester Road, Penymynydd	45	Action 6 & 7: Discuss with Diocese the demand for faith education, commission feasibility study to determine how capacity could be increased.
Sealand CP School	215	167	48	22.33%	(1) North West of Garden City	239	Action 6: Feasibility study completed to determine options for expansion at the site. Land allocation from developer for

School	Current Capacity	Current Number on Roll (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Current Surplus Places (Sept 20)	Developments	Additional Pupils forecasted	Action
							school expansion coming forward. Seek developer contributions where required.
Sychdyn CP School	177	153	24	13.56%	(11) Cae Isa, A5119, New Brighton	25	Action 9: Address size and shape of teaching bases to increase capacity, increase size of hall, provision of changing accommodation. Seek developer contributions where required.

Primary Sector – Recommendations

- Develop schemes in areas where there are popular schools and or Strategic/Candidate housing development sites where demand cannot be met.
- Consult with the Diocesan Authority in respect of potential issues for Hawarden Village and Pentrobin schools.
- Review capacities of schools included in the current investment programme namely, Ysgol Croes Atti, Drury CP, Mynydd Isa CP, Saltney primary schools.
- Conduct feasibilities and develop schemes for which S106 developer contributions can be sought towards capital investment where appropriate.

Secondary Summary

School	Current Capacity	Current Number on Roll (NoR)	Current Surplus Places	Current Surplus Places	Developments	Additional Pupils	Likely Response
Buckley, Elfed High School	983	893	90	9.16%	(6) Chester Road, Penymynydd (9) Well Street, Buckley	32 28	Action 5: Increase capacity as part of the proposed C21 School Modernisation programme Band "B"
Connah's Quay High School	1200	1060	140	11.67%	(10) Highmere Drive, Connahs' Quay (13) Broad Oak Holding, Connah's Quay	26 6	Action 2: Monitor pupil numbers – Seek S106 contributions where appropriate to address pressure in pupil places, provision for science, business studies and general teaching spaces
Flint High School	797	850	-53	-6.65%	(7) Northop Road, Flint	30	Action 5: Review and increase school capacity as part of the proposed C21 School Modernisation Programme Band "B". Seek developer contributions where required.
Hawarden High School	1145	1133	12	1.05%	(1) North West Garden City (3) Holywell Road/Green Lane, Ewloe (4) Ash Lane, Hawarden	173 52 50	Action 6: Feasibility study completed for Hawarden High School. Options for expansion identified to provide accommodation to address shortfalls in science, design and technology, art, music, dining, general teaching and toilet accommodation. Seek developer contributions where required.
Hope, Castell Alun High School	1240	1335	-95	-7.66%	(12) Wrexham Road, Hope (2) Warren Hall, Broughton	14 52	Action 5: Capital investment scheme is already in design development with a proposed site start date of Summer 2020. Further expansion at this school is not approved. Alternative schools in the area under pressure. Seek S106 contributions towards new school in Bretton.

School	Current Capacity	Current Number on Roll (NoR)	Current Surplus Places	Current Surplus Places	Developments	Additional Pupils	Likely Response
Mold, Alun High School	1768	1618	150	8.48%	(5) Land between Denbigh Road and Gwernaffield Road, Mold (8) Maes Gwern, Mold	43 28	Action 5: Review school capacity and develop a scheme as part of the proposed C21 School Modernisation Programme Band “B”
Mynydd Isa, Argoed High School	580	519	61	10.52%	(11) Cae Isa, A5119, New Brighton	18	Action 5: Review and increase school capacity as part of the C21 School Modernisation Programme Band “B” capital investment project.

Secondary Sector - General recommendations

- In areas where there are popular schools and or Strategic/Candidate housing development sites and schools cannot meet the demand for places, develop schemes to address shortfalls in provision, and seek S106 develop contributions towards these projects where appropriate.
- Review capacities of schools included in the current investment programme namely Hawarden High school, Elfed High School, Flint High school, Argoed High School and secondary provision in the Saltney/Broughton area.
- Conduct feasibility studies