

# Public Document Pack



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To: Cllr Aaron Shotton (Leader)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Derek Butler,  
Christine Jones, Kevin Jones and Billy Mullin

13 January 2016

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Cabinet which will be held at 9.30 am on Tuesday, 19th January, 2016 in the Clwyd Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA to consider the following items

## A G E N D A

### 1 APOLOGIES

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Purpose:** To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

### 3 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

**Purpose:** To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

### STRATEGIC REPORTS

### 4 PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT (Pages 15 - 30)

Report of Chief Executive - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To invite the Cabinet to make a response to the Welsh Government Consultation.

**5 COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 (Pages 31 - 158)**

Report of Chief Executive - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

- Purpose:**
- 1 To adopt the first stage – first phase of budget proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 for recommendation to Council
  - 2 To adopt the first stage – second phase proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 for referral to the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and secondly to Cabinet and then final consideration by Cabinet in February
  - 3 To endorse the strategy for the ongoing work to seek to close the remaining budget 'gap' and recommend a balanced annual budget to Cabinet in February

**6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (Pages 159 - 162)**

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

**Purpose:** The requirement to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/2017 by 31st January 2016.

**7 REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (Pages 163 - 168)**

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

**Purpose:** To seek approval on the need to carry out a Discretionary Rate Relief review.

**8 WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WLGA) MANIFESTO LOCALISM 2016-21 (Pages 169 - 172)**

Report of Chief Executive - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To invite the Cabinet to formally support the Manifesto 'Locally 2016-21' and the case it makes for the future of Local Government in Wales.

9 **SCHOOL ORGANISATION - YSGOL LLANFYNYDD** (Pages 173 - 370)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

**Purpose:** Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.

10 **SCHOOL ORGANISATION - YSGOL MAES EDWIN** (Pages 371 - 600)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

**Purpose:** Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.

11 **STRATEGIC HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROJECT (SHARP)** (Pages 601 - 630)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Housing

**Purpose:** To agree the next stages of the Council's Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP).

12 **MEDIUM TERM LIBRARIES PLAN: HOPE, MYNYDD ISA AND SALTNEY LIBRARIES** (Pages 631 - 658)

Report of Chief Officer (Organisational Change) - Cabinet Member for Education

**Purpose:** To assess and determine the feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer or to decide on alternative way forward.

**OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

13 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)** (Pages 659 - 688)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 7 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.

14 **PARKING PROVISION IN TALACRE** (Pages 689 - 694)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

**Purpose:** To seek approval for the introduction of a parking strategy for Talacre.

15 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 695 - 696)

Report of the Chief Executive enclosed.

**Purpose:** To provide details of actions taken under delegated powers.

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - COUNTY COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - FOR INFORMATION**

Yours faithfully



Peter Evans  
Democracy & Governance Manager

**CABINET**  
**15 DECEMBER 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held in the Clwyd Committee Room, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 15 December 2015

**PRESENT:**     **Councillor Aaron Shotton (Chair)**

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Chris Bithell, Derek Butler, Christine Jones and Kevin Jones

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Helen Brown and Billy Mullin

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise), Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Chief Officer (Organisational Change), Corporate Finance Manager and Committee Officer

**102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Attridge and Shotton both declared a personal interest in agenda item number 14 - Connah's Quay Swimming Pool Community Asset Transfer, as members of Connah's Quay Town Council.

**103. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

**104. PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT AND THE COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17**

Councillor Shotton introduced the report on the Provisional Local Government Settlement and explained that the headline figures, which had not been available at the time of preparing the report, had been shared at the last meeting of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He pointed out that a significant challenge remained for the Council despite the scaling down of cuts from Welsh Government (WG).

The Chief Executive delivered a presentation on the initial analysis of the Provisional Settlement and its implications for Flintshire, covering the following:

- Settlement Context
- Settlement Headlines
- Flintshire Position in the Settlement
- Known Impacts for Flintshire
- Ongoing Local Budget Work

- Ongoing National Budget Work
- Timescale for Phasing the Budget

A reduction of 1.5% in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) - slightly above the average reduction and an improved position against the forecast - put Flintshire in 12<sup>th</sup> place out of the 22 Authorities in Wales. However, under the current funding formula, Flintshire was ranked 19<sup>th</sup> as its funding per capita was below the Welsh average. If this was brought up in line with the Welsh average, Flintshire would benefit by an additional £17.455M per annum in the RSG.

Under the Intermediate Care Funds (ICF), the amounts ringfenced for mental health and older people would require discussion in the New Year on how these could be accessed. It was indicated that many specific grants would remain the same or decrease marginally, although details were subject to change. There was some protection given for the Supporting People Grant and an increase in the Pupil Deprivation Grant, however the Single Environment Grant was to be cut by 6.4% across Wales and the Families First grant reduced by at least 10%. The Council was currently working through the implications of these reductions.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that concerns would be raised with WG on the significant reduction to the new Single Environment Grant and its implications for the Council.

Following comments on the impact of cuts to the Families First grant on the provision of playschemes, Councillor Christine Jones spoke about the impact on contributions from town and community councils. Whilst she welcomed the additional funding for social care, she pointed out that this was not extra money as it was already part of the RSG allocation and should be used to benefit ongoing projects rather than new initiatives.

Councillor Shotton said that the Council would engage with the Welsh Local Government Association to make representations on the negative impact from the funding formula on per capita spend and referred to recognition by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) on the high performance and low funding of Flintshire. Whilst he said that the Council's strong representations on restricting cuts to the RSG had proved successful, more needed to be done on lobbying for a review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and greater flexibility on fees and charges.

In response to comments from Councillor Bithell on the importance of senior officers and Members' input to the Independent Commission on Local Government Funding in Wales, Councillor Shotton said that Flintshire was one of the more vocal councils in recognising the importance of the commission.

The Chief Executive hoped that the contributions being made by individuals through various routes would prove influential on the Commission and that the Medium Term Financial Strategy had been well received and demonstrated the need for a review of the funding formula. He spoke about the negative effect on rural counties in receipt of low per capita funding, based on the formula for population growth and deprivation.

Councillor Attridge praised the approach taken by Flintshire on lobbying for positive changes which he felt had achieved positive outcomes for all, through the joint efforts of Cabinet Members and the Chief Officer team.

Members were reminded by Councillor Shotton that this was a draft settlement only at this stage, with important aspects to be discussed before finalising early in March 2016. The final settlement was not expected to change significantly from the draft stage.

On the second recommendation in the report, the Chief Executive said that more clarity could be given on the precise timetable in the New Year. This was supported by Members.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the initial assessment of the Provisional Local Government settlement be received as the basis for a fuller report for Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees in January 2016 to inform (1) the annual budget setting process and (2) a revision of the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and
- (b) To set out a timetable in the New Year for recommendation of the budget in stages through January to March 2016 including the further development of 'fall back' options to reach a balanced budget.

**105. QUARTER 2 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

The Chief Executive provided information on the 2015/16 Improvement Plan which was a positive report, with the majority of activities being assessed as making good progress (72%) and likely to achieve the desired outcome (78%). In addition, 55% of the performance indicators met or exceeded target for the quarter. Risks were also being successfully managed with the majority being assessed as moderate (69%) or minor (20%). The new format of reporting had generally been well received and Overview & Scrutiny Committees had so far been satisfied with explanations given for their respective risk areas.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the following be agreed;
  - The level of progress and confidence in the achievement of high level activities which seek to deliver the impacts of the Improvement Plan;
  - The performance against improvement plan performance indicators, for the quarter and half year position; and
  - The current risk levels identified in the Improvement Plan
- (b) That Cabinet Members be assured by plans and actions to manage the delivery of the 2015/16 Improvement Priority impacts.

## **106. LOCAL LETTINGS POLICY**

The Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) presented an overview of the framework for the implementation of local lettings policies by setting out the approach and procedure that could be adopted by the Council, to respond and address local housing issues. The framework gave consideration to good practice and the relevant legal and legislative requirements and guidance by setting out clear aims and objectives, evidence required, consultation and approval process and the need to monitor and review the effectiveness and outcomes achieved from any policies implemented.

In welcoming the report, Councillor Shotton said that this gave the Council an opportunity to utilise this particular aspect of the Act as a socially responsible landlord. Councillor Attridge also spoke in support, clarifying that the intention was to approve the framework only at this stage.

Councillor Kevin Jones welcomed the timing of the proposal to coincide with the new Council build programmes and asked if there were plans to oppose any potential changes to restrict long-term tenancies in Wales, as proposed in England. The Chief Officer clarified that housing was a fully devolved function to Wales and that there were growing significant differences between housing policy in England and Wales. Therefore the proposed changes to long-term tenancies would not apply to Wales unless agreed by WG, which was considered unlikely. Councillor Jones asked that this information be conveyed to Council tenants to give assurance on the position.

When asked by Councillor Bithell if the local lettings policies would apply to new build Council homes, the Chief Officer said that this would be considered case by case when considering proposals for each new development.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the proposed framework for the implementation of local lettings policies be approved; and
- (b) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) and Senior Manager, Council Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to implement the framework for local lettings policies, in response to identified need and evidence.

## **107. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 6)**

The Corporate Finance Manager provided the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account and reported that no specific issues had been raised when reported to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The position was based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 6 and projected to the year-end. The projected year end position, as estimated at Month 6 was as follows:

### Council Fund

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.291m higher than budget



- Projected contingency reserve balance at 31 March 2016 of £4.245m

#### Housing Revenue Account

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.147m lower than budget
- Projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.384m

There were no significant budget changes between portfolios in Month 6. The overall overspend within Streetscene & Transportation had decreased from a projected £1.108m at Month 5 to £1.042m. The projected overspend was due in part to the delay in the implementation of a number of efficiencies as reported to the Programme Board. In addition fluctuations in recycle sales had led to an increased pressure on income projections which had resulted in a shortfall of £0.397m, full details of which were outlined in the appendix to the report.

The report provided details on the programme of efficiencies, inflation, unearmarked reserves and earmarked reserves.

The report also outlined details on a number of risk areas:

- Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)
- Recycling
- Car Parking
- Out of County Placements
- Former Euticals Site
- In Year Reductions in Specific Government Grants

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31 March 2016 be noted;
- (b) That the final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

#### **108. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 (MONTH 6)**

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that the Capital Programme had increased by £0.662m in the period, largely due to the impact of the following:

- Additional Welsh Government grant funding of £0.717m (Council Fund £0.572m, Housing Revenue Account £0.145m);
- Flintshire County Council match funding for Queensferry Roundabout scheme (£0.228m); and
- Kitchen Replacement contribution (£0.152m)

Offset by:

- Rollover into 2016/17 (£0.345m); and
  - Removal of Traveller Site grant (£0.150m)
- Resources available for future funding capital expenditure was c£2.629m.

As at Month 6, Early Identified Rollover (EIR) had been identified which reflected reviewed spending plans across all programme areas; those committed amounts had been identified to meet the cost of programme works in 2016/17.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be approved; and
- (b) That the rollover adjustments be approved.

**109. CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC CALMING AND OTHER HIGHWAY SAFETY FEATURES**

Councillor Attridge introduced the report which sought approval to review and formalise the current consultation process with local Members, Community Councils and members of the public relating to the implementation of traffic calming measures. Details of the current process for consulting on traffic orders and other safety related schemes were provided.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) highlighted the proposed new process for officers to engage initially with local Members on potential schemes including a preferred option. Once agreed, options would be shared with town and community councils for wider consultation.

Councillor Bithell asked if there had been any prior consultation with town and community councils on the necessary resources which would be required. Councillor Attridge said it was the intention to offer as much officer support as possible in recognition of the varying levels of resources available to town and community councils.

As further reassurance, the Chief Officer said that any resource issues raised would be addressed through detailed assistance on the process from officers. He went on to comment that the single consultee approach utilised the important role of town and community councils in engaging with their local communities. Once the scheme was agreed, the Council would be required to carry out the formal statutory consultation process.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed approach for consulting with local communities on future traffic calming schemes and be approved and the process currently followed for community consultation on other road safety arrangements be noted.

**110. TERMINATION OF TAITH JOINT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Attridge explained that since January 2014 the activities of the North Wales Regional Transport Consortia (RTC) had ended, however the Joint Committee had continued to meet in line with the constitution of the Committee. He sought endorsement from Members to support the Joint Committee's decision to end the arrangement and wind up the operations of the Committee.

As there was still a requirement to have a strong voice for transport in North Wales, the Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) proposed that a formal Transport Forum for the NWEAB be established to undertake that role. The Forum would meet two to four times annually, based on demand, to support the Connectivity and Infrastructure workstream and to ensure that an effective working relationship with the highways and transport teams in Authorities existed.

Councillor Derek Butler spoke in support of the work done by Taith and hoped that the new forum would give the Council a strong voice on the cross-boundary connectivity and infrastructure workstream in relation to the Mersey Dee Alliance and NWEAB.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance of the NWEAB being underpinned by the highways and transport expertise in place through the new arrangements.

Councillor Attridge thanked the Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) and his team for their contributions in reaching this stage.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the decision of the Taith Joint Committee to terminate the role of the Joint Committee with effect from 29 September 2015 be endorsed; and
- (b) That the recommendation that a transport advisory forum be established as a sub-group of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB), consisting of the Portfolio holder for each Authority, to provide support and advice to the Connectivity and Infrastructure work stream be endorsed.

**111. FUTURE OF HOPE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE (HRC) SITE**

Councillor Kevin Jones explained that the Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC) site had received approval to remain open at weekends only for the receipt of recycling materials until January 2016. This was subject to an expression of interest (EOI) from the community stating their intention to take on the operations of the site which was received in August 2015. The next stage was for the community's representative to submit an appropriate business case, with information provided by officers. Although an initial outline business case had been submitted, it was proposed that additional time be given for further development work prior to its consideration. It was therefore recommended that the planned closure date of the HRC site be delayed by a month. Significant discussions were continuing between the Waste Strategy team and representatives of the community on the proposed transfer of the facility.

Councillor Attridge supported the proposal for additional time if it enabled the matter to be drawn to a conclusion.

The Chief Executive said that the Council would honour its commitment for the community to take over the operation of the facility and that this was supported by the reported reduction in the Single Environment Grant.

Councillor Chris Bithell spoke about the need to be firm on timescales to achieve the necessary savings in year.

**RESOLVED:**

That an extension of the existing 'weekend only' and 'recycling only' arrangement at Hope until 31 January 2016 be approved to allow additional time for the business case to be approved and to allow the local community representative sufficient time to mobilise resources to operate the site from this date.

**112. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

An information item on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted. The actions were as set out below:-

Organisational Change – Leisure Services

- **Provision of High Ropes and Conversion to Gymnastics Facility**  
To approve the proposal to remove and sell the High Ropes (Sky Trail) equipment at Deeside Leisure Centre, using the proceeds to reinvest in the centre facilities. To approve the lease of the resulting available space to a private operator to develop a Gymnastics facility.

People and Resources – Finance (Revenues)

- **Business Rates Write Offs**  
Finance Procedure Rule (section 9.6) – Income and Expenditure, stipulate that any individual debt between the values of £5,000 and £25,000 shall be reported to the Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance Manager/Section 151 officer) for consideration to write off, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance. There are 5 business rate accounts where the overall debt for each company is greater than £5,000 and the write off of those debts is recommended. The total of these debts is £50,893.94.

People and Resources – Finance (Revenues)

- **Council Tax Write Offs**  
Finance Procedure Rule (section 9.6) – Income and Expenditure, stipulate that any individual debt between the values of £5,000 and £25,000 shall be reported to the Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance Manager/Section 151 officer) for consideration to write off, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance. There are 3 council tax accounts where the overall debt is greater than £5,000, the total being £23,607.00.

Streetscene and Transportation

- **The Flintshire County Council (Off-Street Parking Places Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay) (Civil Enforcement and Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 20--**  
To advise Members of unresolved objections received following the advertisement of the proposed introduction of Car Parking Charges in Connah's Quay, Queensferry and Shotton off street parks.

### Streetscene and Transportation

- **Unresolved objections to various roads following proposed introductions of speed limits as outlined below. As changes to the delegation report, Councillor Attridge highlighted the withdrawal of objections to 13 of the roads, with the following four to be re-advertised:**

A548 Mostyn Road, Gronant Village – 30 MPH.

B5101 Llanfynydd (At Riding School) – Speed Limit Review – 30 MPH.

B5123 Rhosesmor to Berth Ddu – 30 and 40 MPH.

A5026 Brynford Road, Brynford – 40 MPH.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the actions taken under delegated powers be noted.

### **113. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item by virtue of exempt information under paragraph 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **114. CONNAHS QUAY SWIMMING POOL COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) introduced a report to seek approval on the legal completion and attached conditions of the community asset transfer of Connah's Quay Swimming Pool. The report contained a brief summary of the case together with information from the organisation concerned. The conditions were required to be completed before the target transfer date, which may be subject to change.

Councillor Kevin Jones paid tribute to the positive engagement with Trade Unions and staff, and thanked the Chief Officer (Organisational Change) and his team for their input, along with that of Connah's Quay Town Council. He welcomed the significant progress made within the timeframe and referred to positive examples of community assets transfers around the country. He agreed that some flexibility was needed on the target transfer date to achieve the right outcomes and hoped that this project would help to generate interest in other potential transfers within the county.

Other Members took the opportunity to express their appreciation to all involved in the process. The Chief Executive spoke about the level of learning from this individual project which was vital to the success of future transfers.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To agree the Community Asset Transfer proposal from Cambrian Aquatics for the transfer of Connah's Quay Swimming Pool;

- (b) That this Community Asset Transfer be subject to a number of conditions which must be met prior to legal completion:
- Provision of an updated Strategic Business Plan;
  - That this Business Plan covers satisfactorily the areas identified at 1.09 of the report; and
  - Sign off the Business Plan by Chief Officer for Organisational Change in consultation with the two lead portfolio holders
- (c) That the Chief Officer (Governance) be given delegated authority to enter into the necessary legal agreements to complete the Community Asset Transfer including:
- Community Asset Transfer Lease with Cambrian Aquatics for 27 years based on a peppercorn rent;
  - Community Benefits Agreement with Cambrian Aquatics detailing: the requirements for the peppercorn lease; an initial revenue fund of £0.065m and the community benefits required for this funding; an initial capital grant allocation of £0.100m and the conditions for use of this grant linked to the condition survey;
  - Co-operative Agreement with Connah's Quay Town Council and Cambrian Acquatics detailing the principles, values and ways of working between the three main partners.

**115. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 11.00 am)

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**Chair**



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Provisional Local Government Settlement
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government published the Provisional Local Government Settlement for the 2016/17 financial year on 9 December. The detail and implications of the Settlement for Flintshire are summarised in this report. The Settlement is open to consultation until 20 January, and the Final Settlement will be published in early March. The outline of a Council response is set out in the report.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is invited to provide a response to the consultation based on the outline set out in the report.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>
1.01	The annual Local Government Settlement announced by Welsh Government sets out the financial resources local government will receive the following year, both across the sector and council by council.
1.02	The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 was announced on 9 December. The Settlement is open to consultation until 20 January. The Final Settlement will be announced in early March. It is not usual for the Final Settlement to change significantly from the Provisional.
1.03	A presentation was made to Cabinet (15 December) and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (18 December) on the Provisional Settlement and its impacts for Flintshire. The presentation materials are attached. The Settlement provides the context for the setting of the Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 which is the subject of a separate and more detailed report on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting.
1.04	The detail of the Settlement can be accessed by following the hyperlink within the background documents section.
1.05	<p>The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) made the following statement in receiving the news on the Provisional Settlement:-</p> <p><i>"The system used to fund local councils in Wales is based on a complex array of grant arrangements and while many Welsh councils will today cautiously welcome the Welsh Government's draft budget for its focus on preventative public services such as social care, we await further detail of how the budget can help to alleviate some of the mounting pressures on critical local services. A full and detailed settlement for local government in Wales will not be published until tomorrow and we now need to consider today's draft budget announcement in much finer detail.</i></p> <p><i>The WLGA has only recently published its Localism 2016-21 manifesto, which offers a 40 point plan for public services in Wales. Key to our call was the need to refocus resources on the local public services that make such an important contribution to alleviating the build-up of costly pressures elsewhere in the system such as in our NHS, and also the need for councils to be offered far greater financial flexibility in the future. It is heartening to hear these points acknowledged so strongly by Welsh Government within today's draft budget announcement.</i></p> <p><i>We have been clear that there is a need to rewrite the rulebook on how our councils are funded if we are to avoid a similar situation to that in England, where local public services have been cut to the bone and a number of councils face the very real possibility of being unable to meet even their most basic statutory duties. Today's announcement offers a glimmer of hope that a different reality can be written for vital local public services in Wales."</i></p>



1.06

An outline of a suggested response for Cabinet is set out below.

### **The Settlement for 2016/17**

- Welcome the recognition by Welsh Government of the case made by local government and by Flintshire for some funding protection, as reflected in the lower Revenue Support Grant reductions (of a -1.4% average reduction for local government and a -1.5% reduction for Flintshire)
- Press Welsh Government for a lower reduction in the new Single Environment Grant than the proposed reduction (of -6.7% and £0.210M for Flintshire) due to its likely impact on key local public services
- Express concern over the risk of any further above average reductions which may yet be intended for unpublished specific grants
- An end to further in-year specific grant reductions as has been the experience during 2015/16, as such short-term reductions and their impacts on services are impossible to plan for
- The newly announced joint health-social care additional funding to be made equally accessible for current and emerging service demands with the minimum of bureaucracy

### **Future Settlements**

- Restate the critical importance of the removal of social care and other charging caps
- Restate the unsustainability of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the principle that national welfare schemes should be funded nationally in their entirety
- Aggregate External Finance (AEF) reduction from 2017/18 onwards to be maintained at this limited level or a reduced level for local government to be sustainable
- The medium term reform of local government funding to be a commitment of the new Welsh Government from May 2016. The work of the Independent Commission for Local Government Finance in Wales, which is due to report by March, should be instrumental in proposing such reforms

### **Immediate National Budget Work for 2016/17**

- Work through the Welsh Local Government Association, Welsh Government and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to secure access to a proportion of the new funds announced for the NHS and Social Care to help alleviate the cost pressures in Social Care in 2016/17
- Flintshire to formally apply for an exemption from social care charging caps to introduce a cost recovery plan within 2016/17

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The implications of the Settlement for the Council are significant. The Settlement for 2016/17 is an improved position on the previously forecasted position. Refer to the separate report on the Council Fund Revenue Budget, on the agenda for this meeting, for more information and analysis.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The Council is being consulted by Welsh Government as the proposer of the Provisional Settlement. The consultation is an open public consultation.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	There are significant risks to the Council caused by the annual reductions in national funding for public services as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Presentation on the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 made to the Cabinet (15 December) and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (18 December).

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Provisional Settlement  <a href="http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgsettlement1617/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgsettlement1617/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Parts 1 and 2  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx</a></p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Executive Summary  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Colin Everett  Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702101</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p><b>Budget:</b> a statement giving the Council’s policy and service commitments and choices and how they will be funded for a financial year. It includes both revenue and capital.</p> <p><b>Local Government Finance Settlement:</b> This sets out what the Welsh Government is to allocate to each local authority in Wales. It is issued in two stages. This year, the Provisional (or draft) Settlement was announced for consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> December, with the final Local Government Finance Settlement being due to be announced in March 2016.</p> <p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):</b> a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p> <p><b>Council Fund:</b> the majority of the Council’s revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).</p> <p><b>Annual Settlement:</b> the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation.</p> <p><b>The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):</b> the representative body of principal council, fire and rescue authorities and the national parks in Wales.</p> <p><b>Single Environment Grant:</b> a new consolidated specific grant which brings together a number of existing specific grants, such as the Sustainable Waste Management Grant, which are provided by Welsh Government to local authorities to co-fund specific services such as recycling.</p>

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# Local Government Provisional Settlement 2016/17

Implications for Flintshire  
Cabinet Briefing  
December 2015





# Settlement Context

- » Welsh macro-budget\* announced on 8 December in the context of a 4.5% reduction over 4 years based on the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review
- » Local Government Provisional Settlement\* announced on 9 December
- » Settlement open for consultation until 20 January
- » Announcement of new or extended ring-fenced budgets for Health and Health and Social Care

\* full background papers available on Welsh Government website



# Settlement Headlines

- » A one year settlement only
- » Average reduction to Aggregate External Finance (AEF) for local government of -1.4% (North Wales range of -1.2 to -2.2%)
- » Some base protection for Schools and Social Services
- » List of many specific grants published
- » Protection for Supporting People and increase in Pupil Deprivation Grant
- » Above average reductions in Single Environment Grant and Families First
- » Capital Funding set at 2015/16 level



# Flintshire Position in the Settlement

- » Ranked 12<sup>th</sup> of 22 in being at a -1.5% AEF reduction (0.1% above the average reduction of -1.4%)
- » Ranked 19<sup>th</sup> of 22 per capita on AEF at £1,196 per capita. The Welsh average is £1,309 per capita with the highest, Blaenau Gwent, being £1,576 per capita. Flintshire is £113 below the per capita average. If Flintshire received the average the Council's AEF would be £17.455M per annum higher





# Known Impacts for Flintshire 1

- » Reduction of -1.5% in AEF; an improved position of £3.770M against the forecast when combining the recovery of RSG (£3.370M) and an increase in the Council Tax base (£0.400M)
- » Many specific grants at same level or a marginal reduction from 2015/16
- » -6.4% in the new Single Environment Grant which includes the former Sustainable Waste Management Grant (£0.201M)
- » -11.7% reduction on Families First Grant (£0.203M)



# Known Impacts for Flintshire 2

- » Supporting People Grant protected (*analysis of level of protection and distribution across Wales ongoing*)
- » Former Outcome Agreement Grant ended and incorporated into the Settlement at full value (£1.479M)
- » Impacts of other movements into the Settlement under review
- » Increase in Pupil Deprivation Grant from £1,050 to £1,150 per eligible pupil (£0.250M)
- » Capital reduction of £0.143M (-2.08%)



# Ongoing Local Budget Work

- » Reassessing the 2016/17 budget 'gap' for 2016/17 based on the Settlement benefits and risks, and a recalculation of emerging financial pressures
- » Report to Cabinet and then CROSC in January on the revised budget position with 'fall back' options to move towards balancing the budget
- » Re-profile the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) noting that this is a one year Settlement only



# Ongoing National Budget Work

- » Work through the Welsh Local Government Association to secure access to a proportion of the new funds for NHS and Social Care to help alleviate the cost pressures in Social Care in 2016/17
- » Apply for an exemption on social care charging caps to introduce a cost recovery plan within 2016/17
- » Press the Welsh Government to honour its commitment to review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and to place it on a financially sustainable footing from 2017/18
- » Make a formal response to the Settlement consultation



# Timescale for Phasing the Budget

- » Complete the current Overview and Scrutiny round of meetings on the first two parts of the proposed budget
- » Cabinet reappraisal report in January with further options to close the remaining budget 'gap'
- » Further Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee rounds leading to a final Council decision on the total budget, and Council Tax level, by 10<sup>th</sup> March
- » Council dates provisionally in the diary for 26 January, 16 February and 10 March

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Authors</b>	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Council Fund Revenue Budget for the 2016/17 financial year for adoption by Cabinet and recommendation to Council.

Work on the budget is not yet complete. This is due to a combination of (1) the scale of the savings and efficiencies to be found given the challenge this unprecedented savings target poses and (2) the uncertainty over the national budget position and its impacts on the Council. Therefore, the budget is being presented to Cabinet in two stages over January and February prior to presentation, in a full and final form, to Council on 16 February 2016.

This first stage report presents the majority of the budget. The first phase the proposals contained within the first stage report (see Part B) have been examined and reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout December 2015. The proposals are listed in the appendices, and individual fact sheets on each proposal will also be made available within January for reference. The second phase of proposals in this report are newly presented (see Part B).

The Provisional Local Government Settlement was announced by the Welsh Government on 9 December 2015. Whilst there is some uncertainty over a number of specific grants which fund individual services the announcement has sufficient detail for the scale of the funding 'gap' to be recalculated and for our budget proposals to be sized accordingly.

The on-going work to move to closing the budget, to be presented in final form in February, is summarised within this report. These further proposals will be examined by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees later in January 2016 prior to being formally presented to Cabinet for adoption.

The report at the end of part C presents a remaining budget gap of £1.598M having taken into account all budget proposals, both those pre-reported in December 2015, and those newly presented within this report. This gap rises to around £3.447M when taking into account new and emergent pressures which are listed and are under ongoing review. Should Cabinet approve the recommendations set out below then the ongoing work on the budget will be restricted to the activity described in Parts C and D of the report.

The report is set out in the following parts for the reader to navigate through the chronology of the budget and a complex set of budget proposals and considerations:-

Part A: Initial Forecasting of the Budget 'Gap' for 2015/16-2017/18 (1.01-1.03)

Part B: The Local Government Settlement, A Revised Forecast and the Budget Strategy for 2016/17 (1.04-1.20)

Part C: Plans for Closing the Budget (1.21-1.25)

Part D: Further Work to be Completed to Close the Budget (1.26-1.31)

Part E: Calculation of the Total Revenue Budget And Budget Requirement (1.32-1.36)

A list of tables within the report is set out below as a guide:-

Table 1: Service Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Targets 2016/17

Table 2: Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposal Targets 2016/17

Table 3: Impacts of the Settlement (as announced on 9 December)

Table 4: First Stage – Second Phase Proposals to Balance the Budget

Table 5: Summary of Proposals to Close the Budget Gap

Table 6: New and Emergent Pressures

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To adopt the first stage – first phase of budget proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 for recommendation to Council.
2. To adopt the first stage – second phase proposals for the Council Fund Revenue budget 2016/17 for referral to the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and secondly to Cabinet and then final consideration by Cabinet in February
3. To endorse the strategy for the ongoing work to seek to close the remaining budget 'gap' and recommend a balanced annual budget to Cabinet in February.



## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>Presenting the First Stage of the Council Fund Revenue Budget</b>
	<b>Part A: Initial Forecasting of the Budget 'gap' for 2015/16-2017/18</b>
1.01	In mid to late 2015 the Council published the new version of its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in two parts: Part 1: <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i> and Part 2: <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> . (attached as Appendices 1 and 2)
1.02	As set out in <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i> , a cumulative real reduction in resources available to the Council of £52.8M was forecast for the three year period 2015/16 to 2017/18. As explained within the MTFS this gap is a consequence of the combined impacts of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reductions in the Revenue Support Grant from Welsh Government;</li> <li>• reductions in specific grants from Welsh Government;</li> <li>• no provision within the Local Government Settlement for pay and price inflation;</li> <li>• limited or no provision within the Local Government Settlement for nationally recognised demand-led or policy-led cost pressures in services; and</li> <li>• local service and corporate financing cost pressures.</li> </ul>
1.03	At the time of publishing the MTFS the predicted funding gap for Flintshire for 2016/17 was £20.8M. The biggest determinant of the actual size of this gap is the level of reduction in the Revenue Support Grant to be allocated to Flintshire by Welsh Government as part of the Local Government Settlement.
	<b>Part B: The Local Government Settlement, a Revised Forecast and the Budget Strategy for 2016/17</b>
1.04	The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 was announced by Welsh Government on 9 December 2015. As reported to both Cabinet and the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December the impacts of the Settlement, which was an improved Settlement on the forecast position, would reduce the predicted gap for 2016/17 by £3.770M to £17.030M.
1.05	The initial proposals for the first stage of the draft budget reported to Cabinet in December 2015, and examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout the month, presented corporate efficiencies of £5.0M, and service portfolio efficiencies of £7.755M, (Revised figure) together totalling £12.755M. Prior to the announcement of the Provisional Settlement the remaining gap stood at £8.045M. The remaining gap had been reduced by £3.770M, to £4.275M, as a result of the Settlement.
1.06	A separate report is included within the agenda for this Cabinet meeting which proposes a response to the Settlement. A presentational summary of the Settlement and its impacts on Flintshire is included at Appendix 3.

<b>Budget Strategy: Stage One – First Phase</b>															
1.07	The Council's Budget Strategy, as set out in <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> , builds on the work done within 2015/16 to achieve sizeable organisational change to reduce costs with the aim of protecting local public services. Following the implementation of a new corporate operating model in 2014, and the introduction of new style business plans for the services within each of the new Chief Officer portfolios, the organisation has been reformed at some pace with all service portfolios working to a target of 30% reductions in net costs over three years (with the exception of schools and social services).														
1.08	This three year strategy has been underpinned by the principles of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• planning for the long-term as a whole organisation;</li> <li>• making decisions for local public services which are sustainable;</li> <li>• being ambitious and positive about change to better the organisation;</li> <li>• having a clear philosophy underpinned by social value; and</li> <li>• managing the transition from the current to the future with care.</li> </ul>														
1.09	The twin objectives of this major and sustained programme of change and cost reduction continue to be (1) maximising the financial efficiency of the organisation and better aligning our resources to priorities and (2) modernising the organisation to be lean, productive, efficient, resilient and high performing.														
1.10	For the 2016/17 budget the strategy set out in <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> proposed a three part set of solutions under the headings of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service Reform</li> <li>2. Corporate Finance Stewardship</li> <li>3. Working with Welsh Government</li> </ol>														
1.11	A set of service reform net cost budget reductions drawn from the portfolio business plans with a set of corporate financing cost reductions were drawn together in mid-2015 and then developed throughout the second half of the calendar year as the first contribution to the annual budget for 2016/17. These combined proposals were shared with service management teams, Group Leaders and Chairs and Vice-Chairs then all members of the Council informally, prior to formal presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for examination and review, throughout December 2015.														
1.12	These proposals are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below. <p><b>Table 1: Service Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Targets 2016/17</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Portfolio</b></th> <th><b>£M</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Planning and Environment</i></td> <td>0.413</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Streetscene and Transportation</i></td> <td>2.158</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Social Care</i></td> <td>0.838</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Education and Youth</i></td> <td>0.710</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Community and Enterprise</i></td> <td>1.509</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>People and Resources</i></td> <td>0.250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>£M</b>	<i>Planning and Environment</i>	0.413	<i>Streetscene and Transportation</i>	2.158	<i>Social Care</i>	0.838	<i>Education and Youth</i>	0.710	<i>Community and Enterprise</i>	1.509	<i>People and Resources</i>	0.250
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<i>Governance</i>	0.535
<i>Organisational Change</i>	1.272
<i>Chief Executive's</i>	0.070
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.755</b>

*Footnote 1: the detail of individual proposals is set out in Appendix 9*

*Footnote 2: the above figures are based on the finalised costed proposals. The total figure of £7.755M is a reduction of £0.471M on the figures reported previously.*

**Table 2: Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposal Targets 2016/17**

<b>Subject and Proposal</b>	<b>£M</b>
<i>Inflation Management: part absorption of inflation risk</i>	1.0
<i>Corporate Overheads: selective reduction in provisions</i>	1.0
<i>Schools Funding Formula: controlled schools investment</i>	2.5
<i>Local Income: new and increased charging</i>	0.5

*Footnote: the above figures are based on the finalised costed proposals*

1.13 The outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny examination round of meetings are summarised in the presentation slides given to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the close of this series of meetings (see Appendix 4). All members were invited to this final meeting. Few of the budget proposals were highlighted by the Committees for either clarification or further consideration. Those proposals which were highlighted were re-explained to the satisfaction of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at this closing meeting. Therefore, all proposals remain for recommendation and adoption noting that some carry risks of either complexity or time delay in their deliverability.

### **National Campaigning**

1.14 For the third part of the strategy Flintshire has engaged in intensive activity in making the case for local government prior to the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Settlement by Welsh Government. This was done through collective campaigning through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), and separately as an individual council exposed to the risks of major reductions in its national funding. The campaigning was based on the coherent arguments made in *Meeting the Financial Challenge*. This campaigning work has proven to be effective with the Welsh Government announcing a better than expected financial settlement for local government. However, several principal issues on which local government and Flintshire campaigned remain unresolved (see the accompanying report on the Provisional Local Government Settlement).

### **Community Engagement**

1.15 For the 2015/16 budget the Council ran a public engagement exercise called *The Big Budget Conversation*. This exercise was largely internet and media based. For 2016/17 the Council built on the learning from this exercise and ran a new community engagement exercise under the heading of *This is Your Moment*. Whilst drawing on internet resources, and making use of the media, the exercise was broadened with seven public meetings being held across the County as the main method of explanation and engagement. A summary report of the community engagement exercise is attached at

	Appendix 5.												
1.16	The Council also drew in local stakeholders in its national campaigning work. A number of local stakeholders from the public, business and voluntary sectors, and from the schools community and Trade Union community, took an active part in making the case for local government and for Flintshire.												
	<b>Budget Strategy: Stage Two – Second Phase</b>												
1.17	As summarised in 1.03 the initial forecast budget ‘gap’ was £20.8M. If the first phase combined corporate budget proposals and service business plans budget proposals were approved, this gap, prior to taking into account the impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement, would be reduced to £8.045M based on the figures reported previously.												
1.18	To achieve a balanced budget for recommendation to Council two actions remain. Firstly, to take into full account the impacts of the Provisional Settlement on the assumption that although in draft form and open to consultation, the Final Settlement, to be announced in March 2016, will not worsen the position for Flintshire. Secondly, to identify and examine further options to close the remaining gap.												
1.19	As Table 3 illustrates the Provisional Settlement has had a positive effect in restoring income of £3.770M.  <b>Table 3: Impacts of the Settlement (as announced on 9 December 2015)</b>												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Calculation and Risk Mitigation</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Revenue Support Grant</i></td> <td>Reinstate Revenue Support Grant as the difference between a forecast 3.5% loss and the actual 1.5% loss in the Provisional Local Government Settlement.  <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: none</i></td> <td>3.370</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Council Tax Base</i></td> <td>Increase base provision due to the 2015 forecast of qualifying property numbers in the County and due to the outcome of the on-going Single Person Discount Review.  <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: low as based on accurate projections.</i></td> <td>0.400</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;"><b>Sub-Total: £3.770M</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation	£M	<i>Revenue Support Grant</i>	Reinstate Revenue Support Grant as the difference between a forecast 3.5% loss and the actual 1.5% loss in the Provisional Local Government Settlement.  <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: none</i>	3.370	<i>Council Tax Base</i>	Increase base provision due to the 2015 forecast of qualifying property numbers in the County and due to the outcome of the on-going Single Person Discount Review.  <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: low as based on accurate projections.</i>	0.400	<b>Sub-Total: £3.770M</b>		
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<b>Sub-Total: £3.770M</b>													
1.20	The remaining gap (£8.045M) has been reduced by £3.770M, to £4.275M, as a result of the Settlement, before taking into account new and emergent pressures and any revisions to the detailed calculations for the budget proposals reported in December. The original forecast for pressures dates back to mid-2015. The reassessment of pressures, detailed at 1.24 below, will need to be taken into account in resizing the budget gap and in reaching a balanced budget. Additional pressures of a value of £1.849M have been												

	identified and are listed in table 6. Their cost, and the likelihood of the pressures materialising in year, are under review.																		
	<b>Part C: Plans for Closing the Budget</b>																		
1.21	A commitment has been made by Cabinet, the Chief Executive and the Chief Officers to aim to close the remaining gap through corporate financing solutions, as far as possible, and to avoid introducing new and late service cost reduction options which would be of concern to elected members and the public.																		
1.22	Table 4 sets out the second phase of proposals to close the remaining gap.  <b>Table 4: First Stage – Second Phase Proposals to Balance the Budget</b>  <b>A: Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Calculation and Risk Mitigation</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Welsh Independent Living Grant (formerly Independent Living Fund)</i></td> <td>Late confirmation that the Grant has not been included in the core Settlement and will continue to be funded for a further year as a specific grant. The value of the potential loss of grant to Flintshire is £0.450M and was identified as a national pressure in the MTFS. The net value of this positive confirmation, following deduction of administration costs, is £0.412M.  <i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> none for 2016/17 noting that the grant is not guaranteed for future years</td> <td>0.412</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;"><b>Sub-Total: £0.412M</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>B: Adjustment of Local Pressures</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Calculation and Risk Mitigation</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Recalculation of Schools Based Cost Pressures (Education and Youth)</i></td> <td>Recalculation of schools based cost pressures following a detailed reassessment of pressures including pay and pensions based on current employment figures.  <i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest figures and funding is pass-ported to schools through a modernised and transparent schools funding formula.</td> <td>0.350</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Reassessment of cost pressure for care support for transition from childhood to adulthood (Social Care)</i></td> <td>The cost pressure for meeting the costs of complex care packages for individuals in the care of the Authority and transitioning from childhood to adulthood, has been reassessed based on (1) the latest information on the individual assessments of need and (2) success in negotiations with Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board over their funding contributions as a care</td> <td>0.451</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation	£M	<i>Welsh Independent Living Grant (formerly Independent Living Fund)</i>	Late confirmation that the Grant has not been included in the core Settlement and will continue to be funded for a further year as a specific grant. The value of the potential loss of grant to Flintshire is £0.450M and was identified as a national pressure in the MTFS. The net value of this positive confirmation, following deduction of administration costs, is £0.412M.  <i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> none for 2016/17 noting that the grant is not guaranteed for future years	0.412	<b>Sub-Total: £0.412M</b>			Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation	£M	<i>Recalculation of Schools Based Cost Pressures (Education and Youth)</i>	Recalculation of schools based cost pressures following a detailed reassessment of pressures including pay and pensions based on current employment figures.  <i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest figures and funding is pass-ported to schools through a modernised and transparent schools funding formula.	0.350	<i>Reassessment of cost pressure for care support for transition from childhood to adulthood (Social Care)</i>	The cost pressure for meeting the costs of complex care packages for individuals in the care of the Authority and transitioning from childhood to adulthood, has been reassessed based on (1) the latest information on the individual assessments of need and (2) success in negotiations with Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board over their funding contributions as a care	0.451
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	<p>partner (a £0.300M gain). The calculated case cost pressures are identified as a local pressure in the MTFS. The total value of the pressure was forecast to be £0.923M for 2016/17. The pressure can now be reduced to £0.472M.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none  <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest case by case projections and funding agreements between the Council and Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board.</p>	
<i>Employer Pension Contributions</i>	<p>The obligations upon the Council as an employer to fund the Clwyd Pension Fund are under continuous review. No more so than in a period of organisational change where (1) the workforce is being reduced in number through a combination of organisational re-design and employees choosing to leave through voluntary redundancy or retirement and (2) the impacts of change such as the Single Status Agreement are being worked through. Employer pension contributions are identified as a workforce pressure in the MTFS. The total value of the combined pensions pressures was forecast to be £5.655M for 2016/17. The pressure can now be reduced by £0.460M based on the latest review.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none  <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest workforce number projections.</p>	0.460
<b>Sub-Total: £1.261M</b>		
<b>C: Corporate Financing Risk Management</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Calculation and Risk Mitigation</b>	<b>£M</b>
<i>Inflation Provision for 2015/16</i>	<p>The centrally held provision for meeting inflation costs has not been called upon in full, within 2015/16, as the Council has been able to either mitigate or absorb the costs within its base budgets allocated to services. There is also an underspend remaining for Non Standard Inflation (NSI) provided as part of a carry-forward from 2014/15. This is no longer required in the base. The provision can therefore be revised by £0.350 for a recalculation for 2016/17.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none  <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on actual trends in inflation in costs as opposed to forecasts.</p>	0.350
<i>Price and Non Standard Inflation (NSI)</i>	<p>The Council holds a central provision for Non Standard Inflation (NSI) to cover fluctuations in energy, fuel and food (mainly</p>	0.654

	<p><i>Provision for 2016/17</i></p>	<p>schools catering) market prices. Full provision was made in the inflation forecasted figure within the MTFS to meet NSI cost pressures. Market intelligence suggests zero inflation or deflation in the fuel market, and reasonable levels of predictability for energy and food prices which may have peaked. Based on current inflation trends, and the organisational 'appetite' for absorbing inflation pressures in part, the provision can be removed.</p> <p>The Council has in the past met the forecast costs of specific service inflationary pressures in full. These costed pressures are also included in the forecast for Inflation Pressures included in the MTFS. Based on a similar assessment to that summarised above for NSI, the provision can be reduced by 50%.</p> <p>The combined value of these reductions in provision for inflation is £0.654M.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> low as based on a calculated risk assessment between the Chief Officer Team and the Finance Team  <i>Workability Risk:</i> medium as full provision for predicted inflation is no longer provided.</p>																												
		<b>Sub-Total: £1.004M</b>																												
		<b>Total: £2.677M</b>																												
1.23	<p>The combined total of the initial proposals to close the remaining budget gap, as set out in Table 4 above, is £2.677M. Therefore, the remaining gap, before taking into account new and emergent pressures, is £1.598M, as shown in Table 5.</p> <p><b>Table 5: Summary of Proposals to Close the Budget Gap</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>Calculation</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MTFS</td> <td>Original Forecast Gap</td> <td>- 20.800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 1</td> <td>Service Business Plans Proposals</td> <td>+7.755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 2</td> <td>Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposals</td> <td>+5.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 3</td> <td>Impacts of the Settlement</td> <td>+3.770</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4A</td> <td>Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement</td> <td>+0.412</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4B</td> <td>Adjustment of Local Pressures</td> <td>+1.261</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4C</td> <td>Corporate Financing Risk Management</td> <td>+1.004</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><b>Remaining Gap Based on the Original Forecast:</b></td> <td><b>-£1.598M</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Source	Calculation	£M	MTFS	Original Forecast Gap	- 20.800	Table 1	Service Business Plans Proposals	+7.755	Table 2	Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposals	+5.000	Table 3	Impacts of the Settlement	+3.770	Table 4A	Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement	+0.412	Table 4B	Adjustment of Local Pressures	+1.261	Table 4C	Corporate Financing Risk Management	+1.004	<b>Remaining Gap Based on the Original Forecast:</b>		<b>-£1.598M</b>
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<b>New and Emergent Pressures</b>																														

1.24

The new and emergent pressures which have been identified over the winter months since the MTFs forecast, and which are currently under examination, are set out below. The cost calculation for each pressure, and the likelihood of each pressure materialising in-year and if so their impacts, are being assessed in detail. A full report will be made to Cabinet in February 2016 on the outcome of this work and the need for budget provision to be set aside to protect the Council from in-year pressures.

**Table 6: New and Emergent Pressures**

<b>Income Pressures</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>£M</b>
<i>Recycling Income</i>	Fall in income from the sale of recyclates (plastic, metals etc) due to an oversupply in the global recycling market.	0.419
<i>Sustainable Recycling Grant</i>	Reduction in the level of grant funding allocated to local authorities by Welsh Government for 2016/17 within the new Single Environment Grant in 2016/17.	0.276
<i>Animal Health &amp; DEFRA Grant</i>	Shortfall due to ending of a partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council.	0.044
<i>Leisure Income</i>	Lower than projected income levels achieved for the customer use of Deeside Ice Rink, Deeside Leisure Centre.	0.070
<i>Housing Benefit Subsidy</i>	Loss of subsidy claimable from Government for Housing Benefit paid out to claimants (this claim is still under review and the position may improve).	0.193
<b>Unachieved Efficiencies Carried Forward from 2015/16</b>		
<i>Workforce Efficiency Proposal</i>	Unable to achieve proposed annual leave 'buy back' and extended use of pool car schemes due to the workability of the schemes (the reduction of car use costs may be re-included in the 2016/17 draft budget).	0.200
<i>Review Model/Costs contract for Catering</i>	Efficiency deferred due to ongoing work to move to an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for the catering service (final business case to be presented in February	0.050



		2016).	
	<i>Regional Approach to Advocacy</i>	The regional tendering exercise did not deliver the level of projected financial savings in full.	0.048
	<i>Funding to Voluntary Sector (Social Care)</i>	Adjustment to the forecast efficiency following review of the portfolio of funded provider organisations.	0.138
	<i>Remittance Advice to Landlords</i>	Adjustment to original efficiency based on the workability of the scheme,	0.041
	<b>New Pressures</b>		
	<i>Procurement</i>	Increased cost of the Joint Procurement Service with Denbighshire County Council based on service needs to achieve procurement income targets and apportionment of costs with the partner council.	0.028
	<i>Matrix (Sub-regional contract for procuring agency workers)</i>	Reduction in costs savings per agency worker employed achieved through a more competitive procurement framework due to the lower levels of agency workers being taken on by the Council as an employer.	0.050
	<i>Animal Feed Control</i>	Pressure due to the funding transferring out of the Provisional Settlement for 2015/16.	0.022
	<b>Sub total</b>		<b>1.579</b>
	<b>Transitional Funding Adjustment 2015/16 Budget</b>		
	Funding from Reserves	As part of the 2015/16 budget strategy a temporary amount of £0.270m was utilised to balance the budget. This technical adjustment reverses the impact on the base budget for 2016/17.	0.270
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1.849</b>
1.25	Taking into account the new and emergent pressures the remaining budget gap therefore increases to £3.447M. However, the pressures included at this stage will be subject to review and challenge as part of the finalisation of the budget and any changes included in the final report in February 2016.		
	<b>D: Further Work to be Completed to Close the Budget</b>		

1.26	Work is ongoing to identify further budget reduction options in the areas of workforce costs, and the use of reserves and balances. The new and emergent pressures are also being reviewed in detail. The outcomes of this work will similarly be reported to Cabinet in February 2016.
	<b>Council Tax Income</b>
1.27	The MTFS forecast was based on a working assumption that Council Tax would be increased in 2016/17 by 3%. As set out in the MTFS, explained in presentations in meetings within the Council, and tested with the public in the community engagement meetings, the Council can set an annual taxation rise up to a 5% maximum. The final taxation figure will need to be considered by Cabinet and then Council in February 2016.
1.28	Given the remaining budget gap, as set out in Table 5, and the outstanding work on the examination of new and emergent pressures, the level at which Council Tax will need to be set will require serious consideration. For planning purposes a rise of 5% will need to be built in to assumptions. The difference in value between a 3% Council Tax rise, and a 5% Council Tax rise, having deducted a provision to meet the additional benefits contributions to those eligible under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), would be £1.131M. A number of Welsh Councils are under a similar budget pressure and are considering a maximum annual Council Tax rise at 5%.
1.29	In setting its budget on 16 February the Council will need to decide the level of Council Tax increase it is going to make for 2016/17. The Council will meet again on 1 March to pass the formal resolution for levying the Council Tax once it has received the notification of the precepts from the town and community councils. Intelligence on the Final Local Government Settlement should become available in between the two meetings. Keeping the option open to set an annual rise of 5% will be important should the Council's financial position be worsened by any change to the Final Settlement which would have the effect of creating an additional financial pressure to be reconciled in setting the budget.
1.30	A full risk assessment of the final budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2016. Risks that will require detailed consideration include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the impacts of specific grant reductions;</li> <li>• mitigating inflationary impacts;</li> <li>• achieving income targets;</li> <li>• achievement of efficiencies on time and to financial target;</li> <li>• the capacity of the organisation to manage large scale and complex change programmes;</li> <li>• new and emergent pressures;</li> <li>• use and reliance on reserves and balances; and</li> <li>• the availability of limited remaining reserves to meet unforeseen pressures in-year.</li> </ul>
1.31	The Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive will advise Cabinet and Council in February 2016 with their risk assessments in their formal statutory

	advisory roles.																																						
	<b>Part E: Calculation of the Total Revenue Budget And Budget Requirement</b>																																						
	<b>Proposed Budget</b>																																						
1.32	<p>At this point in the budget planning there is a remaining budget gap on the recurring base budget of 3.447MM as detailed in the table below:</p> <p>Sections 1.33- 1.46 below set out further details and assumptions made:-</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b><u>Funding</u></b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>£M</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR</td> <td style="text-align: right;">184.743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Tax</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66.275</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SSA/Budget Requirement</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>251.018</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specific Grants (Estimated)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Funding</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>285.177</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b><u>Expenditure</u></b></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Base Budget Rolled Forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">287.605</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Yr Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8.845</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Yr Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.730)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inflation (Appendix 7)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pressures &amp; Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(7.755)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(2.510)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Specific Grants 2015/16</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(35.147)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Expenditure</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>288.624</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Shortfall</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>3.447</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b><u>Funding</u></b>	<b>£M</b>	Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR	184.743	Council Tax	66.275	<b>SSA/Budget Requirement</b>	<b>251.018</b>	Specific Grants (Estimated)	34.159	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>285.177</b>	 		<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		Base Budget Rolled Forward	287.605	Prior Yr Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)	8.845	Prior Yr Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)	(0.730)	Inflation (Appendix 7)	2.193	Pressures & Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)	1.964	Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)	(7.755)	Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)	(2.510)	Less Specific Grants 2015/16	(35.147)	Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)	34.159	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>288.624</b>	<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>3.447</b>
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1.33	Total resources of £285.177M include funding from Revenue Support Grant (RSG), National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR), Council Tax and Specific Grants. The provisional settlement confirmed that the former unhypothecated Outcome Agreement Grant would cease in 2016/17, although there is no financial impact on the overall budget as it has transferred into the Settlement at the same value (£1.479m).
1.34	Currently, the amount to be raised from Council Tax is assumed as an increase in the Band D Council Rate of 3.0% (excluding Police and Town/Community Council precepts) and a 99% collection rate. This equates to an increase of £30.76 on 2015/16 and a Band D rate of £1,056.03. At 3%, this assumption is at the lower end based on the Council's local taxation policy set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and, as such, will need to be one of the factors to be reviewed in closing the remaining budget gap (see part D)
1.35	A 3.0% increase in the Band D Rate results in a Budget Requirement of £251.018m.
1.36	As the Council's proposed increase in the Band D rate differs from that assumed by Welsh Government when calculating Flintshire's Standard Spending Assessment (SSA), the budget requirement is £2.713M below its calculated SSA of £253.731m as notified in the Provisional Settlement. The specific grants figure of £34.159M is provisional, with the Welsh Government yet to advise of the 2016/17 level for a number of grants. However, in line with the Council's MTFs, expenditure levels need to be managed within the final figures announced by the Welsh Government. Appendix 11 details the information received from Welsh Government to date.
	<b>Expenditure</b>
1.37	<i>Previous Year Growth / Items Dropping Out</i> Each year indicative amounts for previous year's pressures and investments and efficiencies are included in the budget for the following two years. In the current budget the net effects of the changes agreed in 2014/15 and 2015/16 equate to a net increase of £8.845m for recurring items and a reduction of £0.730m in relation to one-off items of expenditure as detailed in Appendix 6. These amounts have been reviewed as part of the 2016/17 budget and where appropriate an adjustment made to reflect the current position.
1.38	<i>Pay and Price Inflation</i> Inflation of £2.193m is shown in detail in Appendix 7
1.39	The proposals at this stage assume a 1% increase on pay from April 2016, although the outcome of national negotiations has yet to be agreed.
1.40	Price inflation of £0.573m has been included in the draft proposals for some targeted service areas following a detailed assessment.
1.41	Based on market intelligence and recent spend history there is no above

	standard inflation allocation required for 2016/17.
1.42	Income inflation amounting to £0.185M has been assumed on the yield from existing fees and charges.
1.43	The inflation figures referred to above exclude inflation on specific grant income and related expenditure as the specific grant figures are indicative only at this stage. Adjustments will be applied when the figures are confirmed by the Welsh Government but this will be cost neutral to the Council.
1.44	There were no transfers in to the Settlement in relation to former Specific Grants.
1.45	Appendix 8 sets out the recurring pressures and investment of £1.964M included in the 2016/17 budget over and above the impact of previous year decisions and includes the new and emergent pressures that will be subject to further review.
1.46	Information on the efficiency proposals are detailed in Appendix 9 with an amount of £7.755M arising from the portfolio Business Plans and £2.510M arising from the Corporate Financing options.
	<b>Schools Budget</b>
1.47	Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, local authorities are required to notify Welsh Government of the proposed budget for schools for the forthcoming year by 14th February each year. The First Minister has indicated his commitment to protect schools funding in 2015/16 by 1% above the change in the overall Welsh Government budget. For 2016/17 this equates to 1.85%. It should be noted that the protection expectation is relative to Welsh Government's funding from the UK Treasury and not the level of Individual Council settlements from Welsh Government.
1.48	The current budget proposals meet the First Minister's expectation of protecting schools, although the Council will continue to review investment in schools, particularly for inflationary pressures. The Council is also committed to increasing the amount of the school budget delegated to schools progressively. This is within the strategic framework which embraces the school modernisation programme, numbers of children in school (demographic change) and investment through the 21st Century Schools Programme.
1.49	The Welsh Government has indicated that in line with ongoing plans to streamline the education grants regime the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) will transfer into RSG in 2016/17, the formula basis of distribution of this grant through RSG has yet to be announced. Welsh Government have indicated that it is likely that the funding for EIG will be reduced but the amount of this reduction is not known at this time.
1.50	Based on recent intelligence on Post 16 funding levels we are anticipating a flat line budget in 2016/17. However, it should be noted that as post 16 provision in certain schools will cease in September 2016 when the new post 16 hub opens at Coleg Cambria the total funding Flintshire receives will

	be reduced.
1.51	Welsh Government have announced an increase of £100 per pupil eligible for Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG). Based on the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals this equates to an increase in funding of £0.275M in 2016/17. The total increase in funding for schools in Flintshire for PDG in 2016/17 arising from the per pupil increase and due to the overall increase in pupils eligible for Free School Meals is £0.477M (18%).
	<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>
1.52	The Council has an obligation to assess the potential equalities impact of its budget proposals to ensure that there is no discrimination or disadvantage to either service users or employees. The Council has included consideration of any equalities impacts within its risk assessment process for the budget proposals. Reference to the risk assessments is made in the factsheets which provide detail behind each budget proposal.
	<b>EARMARKED AND UNEARMARKED RESERVES</b>
	<b>Base Level of Unearmarked Reserves</b>
1.53	The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy confirms the Council's commitment to maintaining a base level of reserves of 2% of turnover. The current base level of reserves is £5.769m as reported in the monthly budget monitoring reports. Despite the fact that funding has reduced in 2016/17 over 2015/16 it is proposed that un-earmarked reserves are maintained at the same level for 2016/17 which will provide an additional safeguard in the current uncertain financial climate.
	<b>Contingency Reserve</b>
1.54	When the 2015/16 budget was set the Contingency Reserve was estimated to be £3.955M at 31 March 2015. As a result of the net underspend reported in the final outturn for 2014/15 the actual amount in the Contingency Reserve at the year-end was £4.746mm.
1.55	The 2015/16 Month 7 Budget Monitoring report which is also on this agenda, shows an estimated balance of £4.923mm in the contingency reserve as at 31 March 2016, although there are two specific recommendations in the report which if approved will reduce the amount to £4.023M.
1.56	Whilst the base level of reserves is a known sum which is set aside, the level of contingency reserve is based on the current estimate and is subject to change at the end of the financial year.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The resource implications of the budget position are significant. These are explained within this report, previous reports, and the MTFS.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Consultations have been undertaken internally with elected members, senior officers and their service teams, and Trade Unions. Consultations have been undertaken externally via the publication and distribution of the MTFs, and with the public as set out in the report and in the appendices.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The national reductions in funding for local government pose the greatest risk to the governance, performance and sustainability of the Council since the previous reorganisation in the mid-1990s. This risk is being mitigated through a twofold approach. Firstly, the Council continuing to streamline and innovate. Secondly, by working with Welsh Government to seek some support and relief from budget reductions based on a reasoned case. This twofold approach is set out in the Part 2 of the MTFs <i>Meeting the Challenge</i> .
4.02	The risks posed to the plans to change and innovate within specific services are managed through assessing the risks and impacts of change as part of framing options and making decisions. Effective programme management arrangements are in place to oversee the implementation of the Chief Officer portfolio business plans and to manage these risks in close detail, with reports being made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking and, later, performance reporting and evaluation.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p><b>Set One: General Background</b></p> <p>Appendix 1: Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2018 Part 2: <i>Meeting the Challenge</i></p> <p>Appendix 2: Published Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2018 Part 1: <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i></p> <p>Appendix 3: Summary of the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 as presented to Cabinet in December 2015</p> <p>Appendix 4: The presentation materials for the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met at the close of the examination round of the first stage budget proposals in late December</p> <p>Appendix 5: Report of the Community Engagement Activity November-December 2015</p>
5.02	<p><b>Set Two: Detailed Budget Financial Appendices</b></p> <p>Appendix 6: Prior Year Budget Decisions</p> <p>Appendix 7: Inflation</p> <p>Appendix 8: Pressures and Investments</p> <p>Appendix 9: Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Spreadsheets (in support of Table 1 of the report)</p> <p>Appendix 10: Efficiencies Corporate Financing</p> <p>Appendix 11: Specific Grants</p>

6.00	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The agendas, minutes and presentation materials from previous Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings from mid-2015 onwards (all available on <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk">www.flintshire.gov.uk</a>)</li> <li>2. The separate report on the Provisional Local Government Settlement also on the Cabinet agenda for 19.01.16 (available on <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk">www.flintshire.gov.uk</a>)</li> <li>3. The Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 <a href="http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgsettlement1617/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lgsettlement1617/?lang=en</a></li> </ol>

7.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):</b> a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p> <p><b>Council Fund:</b> the majority of the Council’s revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).</p> <p><b>Annual Settlement:</b> the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (see below) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation.</p> <p><b>Aggregate External Finance (AEF):</b> the total amount of support the Welsh Government provides to councils each year. The total is made up of Revenue Support Grant (see below), a share of the national ‘pool’ of National Non-Domestic Rates (see below) and a number specific grant where funds are provided for councils to spend on specified services to achieve pre-set outcomes for example in education or waste collection.</p> <p><b>Local Government Funding Formula:</b> the system through which the annual funding needs of each council is assessed at a national level, and from which each council’s annual AEF (see above) is derived. The formula is very complex. In summary, using information such as statistics on local population change and deprivation, the formula sets a guide for each council’s funding needs called the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA).</p> <p><b>Revenue Support Grant:</b> the annual amount of money the Council receives from Welsh Government to fund what it does alongside the Council Tax and other income the Council raises locally. Councils can decide how to use this grant across services although their freedom to allocate according to local</p>



choice can be limited by guidelines set by Government.

**National Non-Domestic Rates:** the business equivalent of the Council Tax where companies pay a property based tax for local services. Each council as the local collection authority collects the tax from companies, pays it into a national 'pool', and then receives a share back as part of its Annual Settlement (see above).

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# Medium Term Financial Strategy

Part 2 - September 2015

Meeting the Financial Challenge



2015 - 2018

# Introduction

The second part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out how the Council plans to meet the challenge of the financial forecast set out in the first part of the strategy.

In the first part of the MTFS we illustrated a forecast for the resources the Council will have available for the three year period 2015/16-2017/18. This forecast is based on the latest and most reliable available intelligence.

This second part of the MTFS builds on the work of recent years for the Council to be a modern, cost-efficient and high performing organisation providing resilient local public services which can be sustained in future years in the face of considerable funding pressures.

## List of Tables

### *Chapter 1*

**Table 1** - Forecast for 2015/16-2017/18

### *Chapter 2*

**Table 2** - Council Annual Efficiency Targets 2008/09-2015/16

### *Chapter 4a*

**Table 3** - Business Plan Efficiency Targets 2015/16-2017/18

### *Chapter 4b*

**Table 4** - Corporate Finance Efficiency Proposals 2015/16

### *Chapter 4c*

**Table 5** - Funding Pressures for National Support and Relief

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# 1. Sizing the Challenge

Councils are highly dependent on annual grant funding from Government to resource the local services we provide to local communities. As set out in Part 1 of the Strategy *Forecasting the Challenge* our resources are being reduced, year on year, through big reductions in these grants. The Council also has to meet cost pressures such as inflation and the demands of local people for services, with less money at our disposal. We forecast a 'gap' of £52.8m in the resources of the Council over the three year period 2015/16-2017/18. A forecast is simply a type of prediction. Whilst based on the latest and most reliable available intelligence a forecast cannot be guaranteed to work out as assumed, and the actual funding position for the Council could become better or worse over time.

Part 1 of the Strategy *Forecasting the Challenge* forecasts a cumulative and real impact reduction in resources available to the Council of £52.8m over the three year period. As Part 1 says "our resources are being reduced year on year, through big reductions in the grants we depend on from Government. We also then have to meet cost pressures, such as inflation, with less money at our disposal. Inflation, rises in demand for critical services, and the cost of legal obligations placed upon us, such as pensions reform, all place a strain on our reducing budget".

In the 'annual settlement' where Government decides how much funding to set aside for local government, provision was once made for inflation and other pressures with councils being funded to meet them. This is no longer the case with councils now facing a double pressure of an actual reduction in their annual grant on the

one side, and no financial protection for the extra things they have to fund on the other.

This is why the annual targets for budget reductions, or funding 'gaps' to be bridged, come out so high.

For Flintshire the annual 'gaps' as set out in Table 1 are £18.3m for 2015/16, £20.8m for 2016/17 and £13.7m for 2017/18.

A cumulative funding gap of over £50m against a net budget of around £250m is challenge enough for any council. The challenge is made both more complicated and more daunting by two factors - the unpredictability of specific levels of funding for local government, and the number of years for which the public sector will have to endure repeat and compounding reductions in Government grant.

The unpredictability comes from the absence of a medium term Government plan which sets out, with a reasonable level of certainty, the resources which will be allocated for local government and, in turn, to each individual council. In *A Shared Commitment: Local Government and the Spending Review* published in June 2015 the Local Government Association (LGA) calls for adequate and fair funding for the public services. The LGA and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have long been pressing for medium term financial settlements which would allow councils to plan ahead. Likewise, the Independent



Table 1 - Summary of forecasting position 2015 - 2018

Expenditure	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	Total £m
National Pressures	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.6
Local Pressures	6.2	2.5	1.2	9.9
Inflation	4.1	4.1	4.3	12.5
Workforce Pressures	2.5	9.4	3.7	15.6
<b>Income</b>				
Reduction in Revenue Support Grant (3.5%)	6.6	6.5	6.3	19.4
Council Tax Increase (3%)	(2.0)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(6.2)
<b>Projected Gap</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>52.8</b>

Commission on Local Government Finance in Financing English Devolution has called for the new UK Government to ‘commit to full and clear multi-year settlements to enable effective long-term planning for local authorities and other public sector services’. In the absence of Government taking a lead with resilient longer-term planning how can councils be expected to ‘plan ahead and make better-informed decisions’ in strategic planning as suggested by the Wales Audit Office in its publication *Meeting the Financial Challenges Facing Local Government in Wales?*

The daunting challenge comes from the fiscal plans of the UK Government to rebalance national debt as a key feature of its economic policy. The repeated annual reductions in national public spending can be expected to continue for the remainder of the decade based on Government policy and the evaluation of its impacts by reputable commentators such as the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Local Government in England has not had the protection of relative shielding from public spending cuts as have some other public services, such as the NHS, a development which is now being mirrored in Wales with local government being given less priority.

As explored in Chapter 4 local government in Wales has a higher dependence on Government grant than its peer group in England. This exposes councils in Wales to a greater level of threat of resource reduction in the absence of parallel

freedoms and flexibilities such as the retention of additional National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) or ‘business rates’ income through successful strategies for promoting local business growth.

The accuracy of the forecast set out for Flintshire will be determined by a number of factors. Government decisions on funding, trends in inflation, national employment policy and pay trends, and pressures on services through demographic change and Government policy, will all come into the mix.

The forecast set out in Part 1 of the MTFs will be regularly reviewed and updated for Council plans to be reviewed and re-set.



## 2. Flintshire: An Efficient and Innovative Council

All public sector organisations should be expected to be efficient, channelling as much of their resources as possible into services to local communities, and keeping their overhead and administrative costs to a minimum. Equally, all organisations should be innovative in finding new solutions to protect and develop their services with fewer and fewer resources. Flintshire prides itself on being an efficient and innovative council. Whilst there is always more that can be done, we have done much already. As each year of finding efficiencies to bridge the budget gap passes by the scope to find new efficiencies narrows. It is important that we demonstrate to our communities, Government, our regulators and ourselves, what we have done and what we plan to do to indeed be efficient and innovative.

Councils are, by law, required to set a balanced budget for each financial year and cannot 'carry' ongoing and unfunded deficits. Flintshire has a successful track record of prudent financial planning whilst meeting its legal obligations, and of having its annual accounts passed by its external auditors, year on year, without qualification.

For many years councils have had to find annual efficiencies and savings to balance up their budgets. In recent years the scale of the annual efficiency and savings targets required have risen to levels which have taken councils into uncharted territory.

Flintshire has achieved close to £60m of efficiencies and savings in the mainstream or 'Council Fund' expenditure over the past eight financial years from 2008/09 to now. In earlier years these budget

changes were often made to reinvest money from one service in another to support the priorities the Council saw as important. In more recent years budget changes have been made to fund the annual budget 'gap' caused by the national reductions in local government finance described in Chapter 1. The fact that the last two financial years of 2014/15 and 2015/16 account for nearly £25m or 42% of this total figure, shows how the funding position for Flintshire is deteriorating.

It is helpful to avoid using jargon in presenting this picture of Flintshire's recent history. When public organisations use the term efficiency they actually mean a number of budgeting changes which, taken together, fall under this generic term. In our case the term combines the following:-

- Reducing the overall costs of individual services through reviewing the way they are organised and making them more efficient as business operations
- Smarter procurement or 'buying' and 'contracting'
- Reducing basic costs in the way the organisation works for example its processing systems
- Reducing senior management and administration costs
- Reducing the size and cost of the workforce
- Raising more income through fees and charges for services





Table 2 - Council Annual Efficiency Targets 2008/09 - 2015/16

Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Budget</b>	226.419	233.335	240.408	239.896	241.203	258.825	253.718	249.979
<b>Target £</b>	5.654	3.803	6.151	8.920	4.716	5.331	11.950	12.874
<b>Target %</b>	2.50	1.63	2.56	3.72	1.95	2.06	4.70	5.15

Throughout the document we use the term efficiencies and savings to mean all of these things brought together under one easy to use heading.

If a tax payer were to say 'prove to me that the Council is efficient' then a good answer would involve showing the volume and quality of a service against the amount of money spent on it. To take the answer further the respondent would show how well the council was performing in this 'value for money' assessment against comparable councils providing the same types of services. Therefore, it is important to show how well Flintshire is performing, not just how cost efficient it might be to live up to the 'tag' of being an 'efficient and innovative council'.

Comparators of our performance in our peer group of local councils are used in Chapter 3 where we explore how well funded the council actually is.

In this Chapter we demonstrate how cost efficient the council is against the benchmark of having to achieve increasingly large targets of efficiencies and savings to bridge the annual funding 'gap' through being innovative.

In recent years the Council has been highly innovative. The following are some big examples of this:-

- Reducing senior management posts and their support by nearly 50%
- Reducing 'middle' management by between 25-30%
- Reducing administration and clerical positions by over 40%
- All services being on track to achieve 30% cost reduction targets (except education and social care)
- Large scale voluntary redundancy programmes for non-teaching employees.

- Reduction in non-school based employees of 6% over the past 12 months alone
- Sharing buildings by co-locating with partners including North Wales Police, Job Centre Plus and Coleg Cambria
- Reducing office accommodation by 16% through smarter ways of working
- Procuring or bulk buying with other councils to get a better deal e.g. computer hardware
- Integrating services with other councils in the region to share costs e.g. education
- Trading with other councils in services to share costs e.g. Occupational Health
- Stopping trading in services where the market performs better, for example trade waste
- Inviting local communities to take on treasured local buildings and facilities through 'community asset transfer'
- Moving a number of services away from direct Council provision and into new 'alternative delivery models' and reducing their level of public 'subsidy' as a result

Recent ground breaking work shows how the Council is being innovative to do things differently. These include setting up a new wholly Council owned Trading Company "New Homes" to help provide homes for local people; the SHARP programme (Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme) to build new Council and affordable housing; switching social services for adults with mental health issues and learning disabilities to a new social enterprise, called "Double Click", to protect them for the future.

The opportunities for such innovations are diminishing; the opportunities to save money are diminishing with them.

### 3. Flintshire: A Low Funded Council

Councils in Wales are funded by Welsh Government through a mechanism called the Local Government Funding Formula. Within this formula a calculation or benchmark of what each council needs called the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) is included. The SSA is based on factors including demography, population change and deprivation. Whilst being a theoretical calculation the SSA is significant in determining how much of the share of public funds set aside for local government in Wales comes to Flintshire. For Flintshire some 65% of our annual funding comes from Welsh Government through the formula. The Local Government Funding formula is complex and theoretical. Whilst it can be argued that the formula distributes the available funds fairly across twenty-two local authorities according to need, the formula was not designed for a situation where the total amount of funding being pass-ported through it was in sharp decline.



The formula works on theoretical indices of need; it does not take into account the cost base of services as provided in each county in real life. Counties like Flintshire will have needs which are not sufficiently recognised in a technical formula which makes no provision for flexibility and exceptions.

Flintshire, for example, is a semi-rural county with a number of equally sized county towns where communities need localised services. The Council therefore has to manage a network of dispersed services for example schools, leisure centres, libraries and household recycling centres. The point will come when the amount counties receive through the formula is simply insufficient to maintain services in a way which is similar to current configurations. This means that local services will face major upheaval as the current pattern cannot be maintained. The cost of running a secondary school efficiently from one council to the next, or that of a principal leisure centre is

similar regardless of factors such as rurality and deprivation. The amount of Government grant we are now receiving is no longer sufficient to maintain local services to the levels to which local communities are accustomed. So for councils with low funding it becomes a question of how many schools or leisure centres a council can afford to keep open and run, and not one of how efficient they can be one by one.

Flintshire has come 19th out of the 22 councils for the amount of Government funding it receives through the formula per head of population in each of the last two years. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) noted in its most recent Annual Improvement Report that in 2014/15 gross expenditure in Flintshire was £2,064 per head, lower than in 2011/12, whilst the average across Wales had risen from £2,250 to £2,312 per head for the same period. WAO calculated that our gross expenditure had fallen by some 7% over the past three years against a Welsh average of 3%. This analysis demonstrates that Flintshire is a low funded council through the formula. With such low funding the scope for making savings and efficiencies, whilst trying to maintain services in ways which support and serve local communities, is very constrained.

To explore and demonstrate whether Flintshire is indeed a low funded council we engaged The

Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to provide advice. CIPFA tested the presumption that Flintshire is 'a low funded council in Wales with less flexibility and capability to find sufficient efficiencies under the current funding system and formula'. The work was conducted using existing data sets and information and with no new empirical research. The work looked at spend and performance in education and social services as the two main areas of council spending, and also in highways as a third area as one of the priorities of the Council and one of keen public interest.

The report of CIPFA concludes that 'based on the research that we have carried out using nationally published data sets we can form a number of tentative conclusions'. We can conclude that:-

- Flintshire is a low spending authority on both Social Care and Education;
- Flintshire achieves a relatively high level of performance on both of these services despite the low level of expenditure;
- Flintshire spends at an above average level on highways;
- Flintshire achieves the highest level of performance in Wales on the performance measure of roads in poor condition.

The report goes on to recognise that Flintshire has a comparatively lower percentage of elderly people amongst the local population as a demographic, and a lower percentage of children in 'care'. It also recognises that the County has comparatively lower levels of deprivation under the Wales Index

of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). The report also notes that the County has a large volume of daily road traffic compared to other Welsh counties.

The CIPFA analysis demonstrates that Flintshire is a low funded and a high performing council in its two principal service areas, and is both a higher spender and a higher performer than the average in highways.

CIPFA then go on to note that from the Council's own statistics on demand 'there appears to be:-

- a declining birth rate that could lead to a lower demand for school places, although this could also have an adverse effect on unit costs and the funding formula;
- an increasing demand for services for the elderly;
- a deteriorating condition of the highways and footpaths network due to lower spending under the County's preventative approach to maintenance.'

It should be added to the above that Flintshire has experienced unprecedented rises in levels of demand for Children's Services in the past two years and has had to make extra investment in this highly sensitive area of social services to cope.

In confirming that Flintshire has 'a low Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) due to the demand statistics in the calculation formula and a low level of Aggregate External Finance (AEF)' the independent analysis highlights that Flintshire receives lower funding under the current system. Why does this matter? If education and social care account for two thirds of the Council's expenditure, and we already spend relatively lowly on them - on spend per pupil in schools and on spend per head of the adult population for social care - then there is inevitably limited scope to be more cost efficient. Given that Flintshire performs highly in both service areas then any significant reduction in spend will directly impact on performance to the detriment to pupils and students, and local people in need of care support. Whilst there may appear to be scope for a reduction in spend on highways maintenance, any such reduction will impact on the quality of local roads people use. Flintshire roads may be the best maintained in Wales but the condition of our roads is declining.



The CIPFA report concludes as follows. 'Overall, we may conclude that, although the County has a low level of funding and expenditure, it is able to achieve a generally high level of performance. The low level of funding appears to be due to a low level of demand for services which is reflected in the SSA calculation. Where demand for a service is high, in the case of Transport, the County is a higher spender and is able to achieve the highest level of performance. This may lead to the conclusion that with additional funding and a higher level of expenditure the County could increase its current level of performance in other services. However, the spending on highways looks set to fall under the County's preventative approach to maintenance.

Notwithstanding this conclusion we have been made aware of a number of local factors that impact on the County's ability to deliver services and which have little or no impact on the funding formula. Although we have not attempted to verify or quantify the impact as part of this review the key points to consider include:-

- the County has a large business base impacting, for example, on infrastructure investment and

planning and public protection services and this is not included in the funding formula;

- the formula makes no recognition of historic and current patterns of local provision according to community need and county conurbations;
- the County's geographical positioning with England, in the context of its highway infrastructure and *Gateway to Wales* position leads to high volumes of traffic both in and out of the County.

The CIPFA report closes with the final critical point that 'the County's Medium Term Financial Strategy does not at this stage show a balanced position and the fact that it is making a national case for funding relief could be interpreted as suggesting that the County has reached the stage where it is no longer viable'.

This stark conclusion to the analysis does point to the risk of the Council being financially unsustainable as a unit under the current funding formula on which we rely for close to three quarters of our funding. This underpins the rationale for our three part strategy.

## How We Perform

**In 2014/15 Flintshire achieved better than the Welsh average in 62% of the national performance indicators councils use and was in the top three performers in 20% of these indicators**

### Our highlights:

- the highest number of young people engaged in education, employment or training for the last 3 years
- educational attainment - GCSE level for first language English or Welsh - ranked as top for the last 3 years
- consistently high school attendance - 1st or 2nd position over the past 3 years
- care plans for Social Services clients been produced on time; the top performer for 2 years
- the best condition of roads for the last 3 years

The National Public Survey shows that the Council is ranked 2nd in Wales for providing good quality services according to the views of residents.

## 4. Flintshire: Our Funding Strategy

**The Council funding strategy has three parts - service reform, corporate financial stewardship and working with Welsh Government. The first two parts are based on local reform and choice. The third is based on choice and decision-making by and within Welsh Government. The three parts are inter-dependent. For the strategy to succeed, progress will need to be made in each of the three parts.**

As has been demonstrated in Chapter 2 Flintshire is an efficient and innovative council. As has been demonstrated in Chapter 3 Flintshire is a low funded council. Taken together these chapters show that as a council with a relatively low resource base we have few opportunities left for bridging the funding 'gap' through local innovation, without resorting to further and deeper service reforms, cuts and even closures of a scale unprecedented in North East Wales.

The three part strategy is based on the reality that councils and other public bodies are part of a wider system of public sector funding. Whilst councils should be expected and be challenged to be efficient and innovative, and make local choices to reduce their costs to contribute to making best use of public funding as part of the UK 'austerity programme', they cannot act alone and governments need to share in the responsibility.

In a funding system where councils in Wales depend on Government grant for up to 75% of their annual revenue funding for mainstream council services, with a sizeable proportion of it ring-fenced for specific services through the specific grants system, their capacity to act flexibly with their resources is constrained. In Part 1 of the MTFS we explain how national changes introduced by government, whether at a UK or Wales level, for example social policies or new legislation, can bring in new financial pressures on councils as the providers of services direct to the public. If governments desire social or legal change then they have a duty to carefully consider the resourcing consequences; otherwise, the budgets for existing local services will inevitably be placed under increasing strain.

Under part one of the funding strategy the Council takes responsibility for continuing to reform and modernise local services through its three year service 'portfolio' business plans. All services and corporate support services, with the exception of education and social care, have 30% cost reduction targets to achieve. Under part two the Council takes responsibility for the prudent use of corporate finances for example absorbing the costs of inflation, raising income, and managing workforce costs. Under part three we set out realistic expectations of Welsh Government as our principal funder.



## 4a. Funding Strategy Part 1: Service Reform

Council services are organised into portfolios or groups. Year on year each chief officer, who leads a portfolio, is asked to find efficiencies and savings to help balance the total Council budget. These savings are found through bigger actions such as making changes to how services are organised and delivered to local communities, through to smaller actions such as cutting out unnecessary expenditure and wastage. More recently this work has broadened into more challenging work such as reducing service provision, charging for services, and reducing the size of the workforce. All services, other than Education and Social Services, have been given a target of reducing their costs by at least 30% over this three year period. The total savings target services are working to is £28.2m over the three year period.

### Council Service Portfolios

The Council has grouped its services into eight portfolios for the purpose of organisation and management. In doing this the organisation went through a major upheaval in 2015 to introduce a new operating model - or way of working - with a streamlined and closer working team of chief officers. Each chief officer is responsible for one of the portfolios. A major task for each of the new chief officers has been to develop a three year business plan for their group of services for the period 2015/16-2017/18.

### Portfolio Business Planning

The new business plans for each service portfolio take the Council to levels of challenge and planning which are unprecedented. Services have always worked to business plans. The motivation for this new approach was twofold: to make significant reductions in operating costs in response to the financial challenge of major reductions in

Government grant income to the Council, and to modernise and improve the organisation to new levels of ambition and excellence.

The new business plans fundamentally review:-

- the purpose, priorities and the performance of the service group
- the costs of the services both in themselves and compared to other councils
- income levels and the potential for income growth
- the management and administrative structures and costs of the services
- the service model and whether an alternative model would be a better option for the future
- the future sizing and allocation of budgets based on the above

The business plans have to balance the achievement of Council priorities, for example those set out in the Improvement Plan, and the duties to meet statutory, contractual and other obligations, in addition to presenting options for saving money. The plans do take the Council into examination of whether some services are core business or even needed at all, whether we should do things differently, whether we are achieving value for money in providing quality at reasonable cost, and how customers should be expected to contribute through paying fees and charges.



Table 3 - Business Plan Efficiency Targets 2015/16 - 2017/18

Portfolio	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
Planning and Environment	0.941	0.422	0.255
Streetscene and Transportation	2.570	2.590	3.405
Social Care	2.068	0.788	1.984
Education and Youth	1.459	0.382	1.520
Community and Enterprise	1.565	1.209	0.787
People and Resources	0.385	0.385	0.730
Governance	0.248	0.315	0.725
Organisational Change	1.306	1.272	0.902
<b>Business Plan Efficiency Totals</b>	<b>10.541</b>	<b>7.363</b>	<b>10.308</b>

### Setting Budget Targets

All service portfolios have been set a ‘working’ target of achieving a 30% efficiency in their total budget allocation over the three year period to 2017/18 as a contribution to the Council’s total funding ‘gap’. There are two exceptions – Education and Social Care.

Referring back to Chapter 2 and the Council’s track record in achieving some £46.5m efficiencies and savings in the seven years leading up to the introduction of the new style business plans, it needs to be recognised that some services have already achieved significant savings in past years. Where this has been the case, the scope for achieving further efficiencies for this next three year period will inevitably be less.

The 30% is set defined as a ‘working’ target as a guide to stimulate challenging thinking and review. For some services achieving a full 30% might not be possible, for others it may be possible to exceed the target. The setting of working targets for each portfolio does not prevent the Council from setting priorities across the portfolios according to its overall aims. In other words the Council may choose to lower or raise the target for a given portfolio according to how its wishes to prioritise certain important services above others. This is why the chief officers work as a collective

to advise councillors, as the decision-makers, under our corporate operating model.

Education and Social Care are expected to achieve efficiencies and savings too but not to the same extent. Both are highly regulated services, which are demand-led, and where much of the expenditure is essential to meet our statutory obligations.

Over 80% of the budgets for the Education and Youth portfolio are delegated to schools. Whilst schools are expected to contribute a 30% efficiency target is unrealistic. The amount to be invested in schools as a group through the Schools Funding Formula is explored in Chapter 4b. The core part of the ‘local education authority’ where specialist management and support services for schools are held back within the Council, and where other services such as the Youth Service sit, have also been set a 30% efficiency target.

The large majority of the Social Care budget is spent on providing or buying care and support services for vulnerable people based on the assessment of their needs. The costs of providing residential care for the elderly, and other vulnerable groups, accounts for over a third of its budget alone. The demands on social care are growing year on year, through an ageing and changing society with more complex

recognised needs, a trend which further limits the potential to make budget reductions.

Education and Social Care account for just under two thirds of the Council's net budget - so the limitations on being able to save money in these two big service areas in turn limits the capacity of the whole Council to make savings to bridge the projected budget 'gap'.

For 2015-16 the combined total of the efficiencies and savings from the business plans is £10.541m. This total is built into the annual budget. Whilst the Council has a good track record in achieving planned efficiency targets within the financial year for which they have been set, there will inevitably be a 'failure rate' as circumstances change or plans cannot be realised. In 2014/15 the Council was successful in achieving 87% of the efficiencies it had set out at the beginning of the financial year. Detail on the levels of confidence in achieving the pre-set efficiencies is reported monthly in our in-year budget monitoring reports. Where efficiencies are not achieved, as planned, other solutions must be found to balance up the annual budget by the close of the financial year.

The planned business plan efficiency and saving targets set for 2015/16, the outline proposals under consideration for 2016/17, and the long-list options for 2017/18 are summarised, by portfolio, in Table 3. These plans are far reaching and challenging.

The Council has long been a positive collaborator, working with other councils and partners in the region to work together to share costs and people in the provision of services such as social services, education, waste and corporate services. The Council has identified new opportunities to save more money by working with neighbouring councils which would protect our investment in front-line services. These opportunities can only be seized upon by joint agreement. With the debate on a possible reorganisation of local government running, there is uncertainty and anxiety amongst councils. This is contributing to limiting the regional ambition for more collaboration, and the Council is unable to progress some of its own ideas for extended collaboration.

## Managing the Business Plans and their impacts

The action required to first develop and test out budget options ready for recommendation, and then to follow through and implement them once agreed, is complex and time-consuming. To do this the Council has set up a number of 'programme boards' which bring together senior officers and Cabinet members.

Budget options are tested out for acceptability and operability. In other words are we prepared to take them and would the public be prepared to work with us? Are they feasible and capable of being implemented successfully? Each option is 'risk-assessed' against these two tests. We also separate out those options which are internal to the organisation and should have low or no impact on the public and the people who use the service, such as reductions in management positions and changes to operating systems, from those which would have an impact, such as changing the location of a service or its opening hours, closing a facility or introducing or changing a charge for a service. In these latter types of cases we have to work out what prior notice is needed, whether there should be a specific consultation before making a decision, and whether we need to run an impact assessment or a specific Equality Impact Assessment because one or more recognised groups in society may be affected disproportionately. In the case of some services there are specified statutory notice and consultation procedures which must be followed. The Council is also mindful that it will need to gauge the cumulative impacts of service changes within and across communities as change plans become more challenging and the status quo is no longer.

## Protecting Local Services

All of this work goes on in an effort to protect services from deep cuts and big closures. If the Council is exposed to budget cuts of a scale which it cannot manage through its existing plans and strategies, many services will no longer be able to be protected. These will include schools budgets, day care services, residential care homes, roads maintenance, local bus services, and leisure centres.



## 4b. Funding Strategy Part 2: Corporate Financial Stewardship

The Council takes a whole-organisation approach to setting its annual and long-term budgets and in deciding how to make budget changes to meet changing circumstances. Over and above how we set priorities which determine where we deploy our resources, and how we support service portfolios in changing what they do through their individual business plans as set out in Chapter 4a, there are some big questions of financial decision-making and stewardship which can only be dealt with at a corporate or whole-council level as they impact across the board. These questions include how far we give service portfolios additional funds to meet the costs of annual inflation, how we support centrally any additional employment costs which we are obliged to meet such as annual pay awards, and what we expect of services to recover their costs from service users in charging for what they do.

### Managing Inflation

In Part 1 of the MTFS we set out how inflation impacts on the Council and how we forecast what rates of inflation we could expect. Councils are exposed to three types of inflation: pay, price and non-standard price inflation. Despite a national trend of inflation being at its lowest level for some years, councils are still exposed to pay inflation of around 1% per annum and some price inflation, particularly non-standard inflation for food, energy and fuel whose price trends are unpredictable and volatile. We also face some unavoidable cost inflation increases, for example in benefit payments and the costs of purchasing care home places, which have their own annual cost-based increases which go unaffected by national inflation trends.



Our financial forecast makes assumptions about inflation rates and trends to allow prudent forward budget planning. In deciding how much to set aside in our budgets to cushion the organisation from inflation we make a risk assessment. In recent years we have set some corporate funding aside to meet inflation in part, and have expected services to absorb a proportion of inflation in their on-going budget management by being cost-efficient.

Due to national trends currently working in our favour we plan, based on our risk assessment, to allow £1m less than we would ordinarily have done in 2015/16 to meet inflationary uplifts in our costs. In this way we are absorbing £1m of our budget 'gap' into our budget planning as a form of operational risk.

### Reducing Corporate Overhead Costs

There are a number of corporate costs and income sources which sit at the heart of the organisation where provision has to be set aside to meet variations in budget provision from one year to the next. One example, covered in the above section

on inflation would be nationally agreed 'cost of living' annual pay awards for employees.

Based on recent patterns of the employer contributions needed to meet our obligations to the Clwyd Pension Fund, of which the Council is a member - set against the forecasted annual contributions required of Flintshire following the last three yearly Actuarial Review - we can prudently estimate to have to provide £0.9m less than the £1.747m contribution first expected for 2015/16 and into 2016/17. This reduction is largely due to the managed reductions in the Council's workforce on which the total amount due is calculated. The partial offset of this pressure is due to deliberate action by the Council to reduce the size of the workforce.

Following the completion of the Single Person Discount Review for those receiving a discount of Council Tax through living alone as an adult, there is an expected increase in income in the Council Tax Collection Fund of over £100k. This increase in income, to help reduce the budget 'gap', is due to deliberate action by the Council to maximise its Council Tax collection as a high performing collections authority.

## Schools Funding Formula

Education is the Council's biggest set of services at £83m, with the large majority of those funds being delegated to our 80+ secondary and primary schools.

This delegated funded is passed out to schools according to our Schools Funding Formula. This formula, which was reviewed and then updated from 2015, takes into account factors such as pupil numbers, specific pupil needs and school buildings size and condition in setting out how

much funding each individual school will receive each year.

The Council has given schools relative protection from funding cuts in recent years partly because this has been Welsh Government policy, and more so because remaining a high performing local education authority is a top priority of the Council.

The additional cost pressures coming through for the schools community for 2016/17 total £3.490m which would mean a 4% increase on 2015/16 funding. There are a number of options and choices for handling this challenge. Schools will have to make their contribution to the budget 'gap' and cannot be exempt, noting that any decision other than to fund the pressures in full will come with risks. The Council is planning to meet 1% of the pressures only for 2016/17, an option which would contribute around £2.5m to bridging the total funding 'gap'.

## Local Taxation

The Council has had a policy of containing annual rises in Council Tax in recent years. This has been based on the view that Council Tax levels should be as affordable as possible with the organisation finding efficiencies internally first before asking the public to pay more to help with the funding 'gap'.

Between 2008/09 and 2015/16 the average annual Council Tax rise has been 3.2% with the highest being 3.75% in 2015/16 and the lowest 2.9% in 2013/14. Other councils have had different policies.

Council Tax makes up only 22% of the Council's total income. As our Government grant funding reduces more pressure is placed on councils to find more local income including through taxation. Council Tax in Wales is generally lower than in England. Whilst councils in England have had a special Government subsidy to keep Council Taxes rises low, Welsh councils have not.

The Government grant councils in Wales receive is distributed according to the Local Government Formula as explained in Chapter 3. Within this formula a calculation or benchmark of what each council needs called the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) is included. The SSA is based on factors including demography, population



Table 4 - Corporate Finance Efficiency Proposals 2015/16

Subject	Proposal	Efficiency/Growth £m
Inflation Management	Part absorption of inflation risk	1.0
Corporate Overheads	Selective reduction in provisions	1.0
Schools Funding Formula	Controlled schools investment	2.5
Local Taxation	Enhanced Council Tax increases	0-1.8
Local Income	increases in charging	0.5
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5-6.8</b>

change and deprivation. Whilst being a theoretical calculation the SSA is significant in determining how much of the share of public funds set aside for local government in Wales comes to Flintshire.

The SSA for Flintshire for 2015/16 was set at £251.806m. The Council's planned net Council Fund expenditure for this year is £249.979m, leaving a gap of £1.827m. The only way the Council can bridge that gap to reach its notional spending level, given that no additional Government grant will be made available, would be to increase Council Tax. Collecting additional Council Tax of £1.827M would mean an additional Council Tax rise of around 3.5%. The Council has already assumed a Council Tax rise of 3% in its budget planning for 2016/17 based on its annual average rise in recent years. The Council would have the option of reaching the current SSA over a two year period by setting Council Tax rises of 4.75% or, given the extreme financial situation, applying a single year increase of 6.5%. The Welsh Government has a guiding policy of councils staying within 5% annual Council Tax rises although this has not been tested.

## Local Income

Flintshire as a County Council has limited scope for raising income as a non-metropolitan council with a modest portfolio of land and assets generating commercial income.

The Council makes charges for some services within the bounds of legality and Government

policy, and within the limits of affordability and acceptability to customers and communities.

The service portfolio business plans, set out in Chapter 5, already include compound income sources built up from previous years and, in some cases, new income generation initiatives for example in planning fees. As part of a more challenging corporate strategy for cost recovery through fees and charges the Council will be seeking to raise a further £0.5m of income in 2016/17 onwards by reviewing current fee levels.

The total reduction in corporate costs which could be achieved for 2016/17 based on the above proposals is at a minimum of £5m as summarised in Table 4.

## 4c. Funding Strategy Part 3:

### Working with Welsh Government

**Councils are heavily reliant on Government for grant to fund what they do. For Flintshire some 65% of our annual funding comes through the Revenue Support Grant awarded annually by Welsh Government. Whilst councils are independent statutory public bodies with their own elected councillors, free mind, and right to choose their priorities based on local need and local opinion, they are also a form of ‘agent’ of government in implementing its social policy and legislation as directed. Local government and national governments are part of the same system of national governance of the public services. Governments must therefore share in the responsibility to fund the ‘agents of delivery’ of their social, economic and environmental policies and legislative reforms properly and fairly. In Chapters 4a and 4b we have set out the Council’s contribution to managing with less in a tough fiscal environment. In this Chapter we set out our expectations of Welsh Government as the custodian of public finances in a devolved Wales.**

In this Chapter we explore five areas where there is a legitimate case for Welsh Government to come to the support of the Council to fund cost pressures which have either been passed on to the Council through national decisions or meet its own critical social policy priorities.

Under each of the areas we set out the principle which underpins the case, the detail of the case, and the risks to the Council and local services if Welsh Government did not meet our case and provide support and relief.

#### **Extension of the Welfare State**

The principle here is that councils should not be subsidising the welfare state through local resources. Instead, the State should be fully funding its own universal benefits policies. The Council currently pays out benefits to local Council Tax payers who have an exemption from paying Council Tax in full. This is done under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).

The problem is the funding the Council receives from Welsh Government to make these payments is ‘frozen’, and we are not recompensed for the

annual uplift in demand-led benefits costs we have to meet. By 2016/17 the Council will have to make up a gap of £625k in the CTRS scheme as a consequence. The risks are that the scheme becomes unsustainable; Council Tax has to be raised to cross-subsidise benefits to recipients; the Council may have to withdraw from the national Welsh scheme.

#### **Public Sector Employment**

The principle at stake here is that public sector should employ people with fair reward and rights. Local government as a large employer, with many low earning workers, should be properly funded to meet wage and pension costs and be given parity of esteem with the NHS, civil service and others in national funding for workforce costs. Welsh Government is committed to supporting uplifts in annual base pay for public sector workers (with enhanced uplifts in lower pay scales) to give proper reward and to avoid workers being in a position of pay poverty. This commitment should be recognised in national budgeting priorities, or it cannot be afforded. It is not a sustainable position to expect councils to meet annual inflationary workforce costs at a time of reducing resources.

Diverting existing funds away from maintaining 'front-line' services to meet employment costs will be difficult to justify to the public. Local government should be given parity with the NHS and the civil service where provision is made for funding workforce costs and, in addition, achievement of the Living Wage at the lower end of pay scales.

In 2016/17 the Council will have to absorb wage inflation of £1.690m from the nationally negotiated cost of living pay award. The risks are Councils will have to increasingly review terms and conditions of employment on the one hand to pay for annual cost of living pay awards on the other which is a contradictory position for employers and trade unions; relatively low pay in the local government sector will be perpetuated; councils will have to face difficult choices between maintaining pay and terms of conditions of employment, and public service provision; councils may opt out of national negotiating machinery; impacts on employer-trade unions relationships and workforce morale; possible industrial action, whether local or national.

## Health and Social Care as a Single System Needing Full Funding

Insufficient investment is made in the primary and community care sectors where quality of life and preventing dependency on secondary and acute care is achieved. Social care is part of a connected system of care and should have parity of esteem with investment choices in the use of the national budget. There is ample research and operational evidence that the social care sector is facing a funding crisis. At a time when the UK and Welsh Governments are increasing investment in the National Health Service (NHS) equal priority should be given to the social care sector.

Two specific examples of chronic funding pressures on the Council where national relief is sought follow.

### Demand-led pressures on specialist social care services:

transition from childhood to adulthood for high dependency clients. The costs of high-cost placements for small cohorts of clients, in this

case 14, can have a disproportionate effect on the total social care budget. We are facing a budget pressure of £923k just for these cases, a figure equal to 1/60th of the total social care budget. Special provision should be made in recognition of the need to protect specialist services for the most vulnerable. Parity should be given to the primary care needs of clients falling under the responsibility of social services alongside those falling under the responsibility of health boards in national funding. The risks of not acting are the diversion of resources away from other social care services to meet the cost of such high dependency cases and their entitlement; aggregated funding impacts will make the current social care system, with growing demand, unsustainable.

### Inflationary pressures on care placements and high cost specialist placements:

given rising demand for services and reducing budgets the pressure on service supply will be intense. Raised care standards and entitlements are two of the factors which cause market inflation as investment needs to be made here to meet social policy aspiration. We face a budget pressure of keeping up with market costs of £948k. Parity should again be given to the primary care needs of clients falling under the responsibility of social services alongside those falling under the responsibility of health boards in national funding. The risks here are that faced with increasing demand the supply of service becomes an unsustainable model; the adequacy of care might be compromised with a lower volume/quality of care being provided; councils may be at risk of commissioning sub-standard care; cost pressures will compress the terms and conditions of employment of the sector.

### Educational Entitlement and Attainment

We believe that if school age education is to continue to be treated as a national social policy priority it should have parity of esteem with investment choices in the use of the national budget. The Council faces a bill for additional costs for Teacher Pensions of £1.364m, due to national reforms in employer pensions over which it has had no say.

The national agreement to increase the employer contributions to pension funds for the teaching workforce could fall on either the local council, as the local education authority, the local governing bodies of the employing schools, or a combination depending on local choice. 'Pass-porting' of the cost to local school governing bodies would place a new strain on schools delegated budgets and would be likely to reduce the ability of schools to employ their current cohort of teachers which, in turn, would affect teacher-pupil ratios and ultimately school standards and pupil attainment.

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is unfunded unlike the core local government pension scheme. Parity should be given to the treatment of the Teachers' Pension Scheme alongside the other unfunded schemes such as the NHS and civil service i.e. the responsibility for making good pension fund deficit positions should be borne by Government and not intermediate employers such as councils. Schools may be placed in an untenable financial position with new cost burdens of employment.

The big risk is that the council will have to reduce investment in services including education to meet additional costs of employment in the teaching sector.

## Financial Freedom to Recover Costs to Make Services Sustainable

An important principle of local democracy is that councils should have the freedom to set local policy to recover costs through charging to help make services - within bounds of reasonableness on the affordability of charges with added protection for those most vulnerable to poverty.

There are several service areas where the Council is constrained in recovering costs from clients, who can afford to pay, by Welsh Government policy.

**Domiciliary Home Care:** recharging for Home Care provision used to be discretionary until the introduction of the First Steps policy in 2010 and has not been reviewed since, with charging limited to £60 per week from 2015. Income recovery falls well below the costs of

provision and the Council is losing out on income of £0.945m which could help sustain social services under huge pressure.

The charging cap makes no recognition of ability and willingness to pay. The previous charging system with higher charges linked to cost of provision was generally accepted and was a workable one. There are increasing demands from those able to pay who have switched from private provision to public provision to benefit from the heavy subsidy. Given an ageing population with increasing demands this model of service is unsustainable. As part of a fair and equitable local charging policy there is no justification for continuing with this policy.

The risks of perpetuating this system are faced with increasing demand the supply of service becomes an unsustainable model; an income generating opportunity is lost; the adequacy of care might be compromised with a lower volume/quality of care being provided e.g. short visits with limited social contact for the client; councils may be at risk of commissioning sub-standard care; cost pressures will compress the terms and conditions of employment of the sector e.g. travel time reimbursement, salary levels; the non-justification for a heavily subsidised service for those available to pay becomes ethically challenged by others under the Council's income strategy.

**Minor Home Adaptations:** Charging for adaptations less than £3k in value which fall outside of the mean-tested charging system would allow partial cost recovery to subsidise the service. As part of a fair and equitable local charging policy there is no justification for charging exemptions for this service. The Council could recover income of £100k per year to subsidise the service if it could charge. The risks in the future are that the service is not adequately funded to meet demand; funds have to be diverted away from other services to subsidise adaptations; the non-justification for a free service for those available to pay becomes ethically challenged by others under the Council's income strategy.

**Blue Badge Scheme:** A modest charge for Blue Badge issue is justifiable and would be comparable to England (£10 per issue)

and Scotland (£20 per issue). As part of a fair and equitable local charging policy there is no justification for charging exemptions for this service. The Council could raise income of £33.5k to subsidise services.

Support and relief from Welsh Government in these policy areas would make a major positive

impact on the Council's budget planning as set out in Table 5 below. The costs shown for Employer, Social Care Funding and Education are examples of the pressures for which support is needed. This is not an exhaustive list and other cost pressures could be included.

Table 5 - Funding Pressures for National Support and Relief

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Funding £m</b>
Welfare State	Full cost funding of the Council Tax Benefits Scheme	0.625
Employer	Funding of nationally agreed pay awards	1.690
Social Care Funding	Funding Health and Social Care as a single system with parity	1.871
Education	Funding nationally agreed employment costs for schools to protect spending delegated to schools	1.364
Freedom to Charge	Removing the charging caps for a number of services such as domiciliary care and returning to a system of fuller cost recovery from clients (with protection for those least able to pay)	1.078
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6.628</b>

## 5. Conclusions and Way Forward

Flintshire is in uncharted territory in having to manage budget cuts of this scale. So is Welsh Government. If councils are to see a way through these challenging times - with local services on which communities depend staying in tact - then close working is needed between councils and government for common purpose.

Flintshire is shown to be a low funded council. It is also shown to be a solid performer in the standards to which it provides local services, with excellence in key services such as education and social care.

Flintshire is being recognised nationally as a council which is being innovative in finding new solutions to make its services both cost efficient and resilient, and sustainable for the future.

A fundamental point is that the scale and the pace of the escalating annual budget cuts does not allow time for innovation. Our local programme for working with communities to transfer community assets to community ownership, and our local programme to create Alternative Delivery Models (ADMs) for selected services, whilst being well advanced, both need time and space to come to fruition. So do our business plans for the ongoing modernisation of services. If our plans are not given time, and are rushed into change, then key services will be put at serious risk.

Like all counties Flintshire is shaped by its history and its make-up of communities. We have set out the challenges of managing Flintshire as a dispersed county which has a number of proud and independent principal county towns. The Council tries to support and protect each county town by ensuring that their communities have local services and amenities which can be readily accessed. We will no longer be able to maintain our networks of local services without some relief from the relentless budget cuts.

The list of services which will be exposed to major cuts if our strategy does not enjoy universal support is a long one:-

- a significant reduction in the budgets given to local schools
- withdrawal of social services such as day care
- closure or sale of residential care homes
- closure of the welfare rights service
- cuts in support for the local voluntary sector
- a major cut in maintenance expenditure for roads
- cuts in winter maintenance road gritting service to the bare minimum
- closure of leisure centres
- closure of community buildings
- cuts in countryside and coastal management services
- less frequent household waste collection services
- closure of local household recycling centres
- withdrawal of all bus subsidies which support the less commercial local bus routes
- withdrawal of our grant to Theatr Clwyd
- reduced transport provision for learners to and from schools and colleges
- closure of the business support service and no future support for tourism
- closure of the ecology and biodiversity functions
- reduced maintenance standards for our rights of way network
- reduced support for the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- withdrawal of our financial support for Greenfield Valley

Councils in Wales are heavily dependent on government grant to fund what they do. More so in Wales than in England. This is why, within our three part strategy, we call for greater freedoms for the Council to be able to be entrepreneurial. If Wales is to be exposed to 'English style cuts' then councils in Wales need to be given English style powers and freedoms to be able to adapt.



The Council is playing its part and has identified around two thirds of the funding target needed for 2016/17. As a mature and responsible Council we will work with Welsh Government to find joint solutions. Local government needs to be given support with social care and health being jointly funded as a top priority.

This Strategy inevitably concentrates on 2016/17 as the next budget year we need to plan for. Equally, we have an eye on 2017/18 and subsequent budget years in planning ahead in a responsible and sustainable way.

Flintshire is at a 'tipping point'. A reorganisation of local government, still some years off, is not in itself a solution to the financial challenge. Neither is more talk of making efficiencies in 'back office' costs. The decisions to be made by the Council, by the UK Government and by Welsh Government in the coming months will define the future for local public services.

We call on local communities to stand up for their local services by working with us whether this is:-

- in being understanding and being patient with the changes we plan to make
- coming forward and working with us on transferring services to community models or
- in speaking up so that those who have decision-making power in their hands hear their voice.

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# Medium Term Financial Strategy

Part 1 - September 2015  
Forecasting the Challenge



2015 - 2018

# Introduction

This Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is comprised of two parts. The first part the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) forecasts the resources the Council is likely to have over the next three years. In Part 2 of the MTFS *Meeting the Financial Challenge* the Council sets out plans and solutions for managing with reducing resources over this three year period.

Our resources are being reduced, year on year, through big reductions in the grants we depend on from Government. We then also have to meet cost pressures, such as inflation, with less money at our disposal. Inflation, rises in demand for critical services, such as social care, and the cost of legal obligations placed on us, such as pensions reform, all place a strain on our reducing budget.

A summary of the forecasting position for 2015/16 - 2017/18 is set out below.

Table 1 - Summary of forecasting position 2015 - 2018

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2015/16 £m</b>	<b>2016/17 £m</b>	<b>2017/18 £m</b>	<b>Total £m</b>
National Pressures	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.6
Local Pressures	6.2	2.5	1.2	9.9
Inflation	4.1	4.1	4.3	12.5
Workforce Pressures	2.5	9.4	3.7	15.6
<hr/>				
<b>Income</b>				
Reduction in Revenue Support Grant (3.5%)	6.6	6.5	6.3	19.4
Council Tax Increase (3%)	(2.0)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(6.2)
<b>Projected Gap</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>52.8</b>

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# 1. National Pressures

These are financial pressures which are driven nationally and are beyond the control of the Council. They may come about from policy directions or new legislation from either UK Government or Welsh Government, where powers are increasingly devolved. These pressures are expected to be met by councils without extra funds being set aside by Government.

## Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) was introduced in 2013/14 by Welsh Government to provide financial assistance to help some residents pay their Council Tax. CTRS replaced the previous Council Tax benefit system. Welsh Government funding for the scheme does not increase year on year and therefore the annual increase in Council Tax 'benefits' payments we pay out is a pressure on the Council's budget. Over the medium term, this will cost the Council an estimated £0.952m.

## Discretionary Housing Payments

Changes to the Government's Welfare Reform Programme have had a financial impact on some households. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) offer temporary support to people in difficulty. Over the last three years the Council has 'topped up' the DHP funds provided by Welsh Government to help the most vulnerable. In 2014/15 this cost the Council £0.053m. In 2015/16 there will be a reduction of £0.067m in the amount of funding the Council receives for DHP. The Council will be under pressure to make up any difference.



## Impacts of Legislation and Case Law

New legislation such as the Social Services Bill, and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Case Law (DoLS), can affect the way services are to be provided and people's rights. Councils have to manage the financial impact of changes in the law as part of their budget often without any additional support from Government. Within the 2015/16 budget a pressure of £0.290m has had to be met for DoLS.

## Independent Living Fund

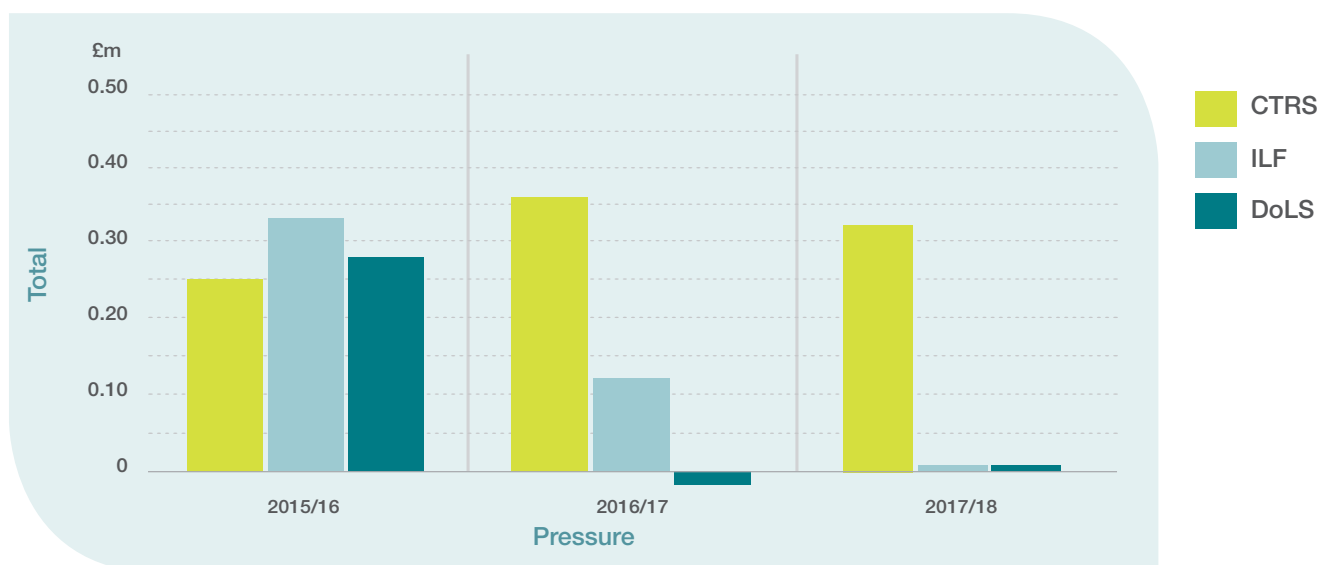
The Independent Living Fund (ILF) provides financial support to disabled people with significant care needs to help them live independently at home or in the community. The UK Government announced that the fund will close from June 2015 with the responsibility for financial support to be transferred to local authorities. The cost pressure for Flintshire County Council is estimated to be £0.338m in 2015/16 with an additional pressure of £0.112m in 2016/17. Welsh Government have recently said that there may be some financial support to help Councils with the transition. At this stage we do not know what help we will receive, if any.

## Reductions in Specific Grants

The Council relies on numerous specific grants which the Welsh Government allocate to directly fund services such as Education and Waste Management.

In recent financial years there have been some big reductions in these grants. The Council sometimes has to make up the difference for services to continue.

Table 2 - Specific Non Workforce National Pressures



Late notification of specific grant allocations by Welsh Government make financial planning challenging.

The risks to services from reductions in specific grants include:

- **Sustainable Waste Management Grant** - previous reductions in this grant had created a cumulative cost pressure of £0.308m by 2014/15. A further reduction in the grant for 2015/16 has been confirmed at £0.100m giving a total reduction to date of £0.408m.
- **Supporting People Grant** - there has been a sustained reduction in this grant since 2009/10 of £1.6m.
- **Education Improvement Grant** - Big changes to the education grant system from April 2015 have resulted in 11 grants being amalgamated into a single grant called Education Improvement Grant. The effect of these changes in 2015/16 is a reduction of 9.85% or £0.509m. From 2016/17 Welsh Government are planning to introduce a funding formula for this grant. The impacts of this next phase of change are unknown.
- **Post 16 Education Grant** - This grant was reduced in 2015/16 by 2.5% or £0.149m. Intelligence from Welsh Government suggests a further 5% cut in 2016/17.

The total impact of just the grant reductions shown above comes to £2.7m. Future grant reductions are unconfirmed at this stage and subject to change.

### Workforce Costs

There are significant new workforce costs from national changes to Local Government and Teacher Pensions Schemes. These are covered in Section 4 - Workforce.

The total impact of known national pressures is £1.6m

# 2. Local Pressures

Local pressures come about from demands for services and other local circumstances. They are not funded by Government grant with the cost falling on the Council.

## Current Local Pressures

### Social Services:

#### Transition to Adulthood

Each year a number of clients are expected to have ongoing social care needs as they transfer from children's services and become adults. The cost of care packages for each client is based on a careful assessment of their future care needs. In 2015/16 and 2016/17 the number of young clients transferring to Adult Social Care will be 16 and 14 respectively. This has led to a budget pressure of £1.239m in 2015/16, £0.923m in 2016/17 and £0.640m in 2017/18. We have a duty to meet their needs.

#### Extra Care

There will be annual revenue costs from the running of the new Extra Care Scheme in Flint which will become operational in 2017.

#### School Modernisation

This pressure is an estimate of the service 'exit' costs of teaching and other employees leaving our service as we change school provision and open the new Post 16 hub at Coleg Cambria, Deeside.

#### Landfill Tax

An increase in the rate per tonne we pay to take waste to landfill is an additional pressure. There is a statutory requirement to dispose of our waste. The Council is diverting as much waste as possible from landfill through increasing recycling and other forms of disposal.

#### Making Workforce Efficiencies

As part of the budget for 2015/16, a pressure was included to cover our changing savings targets for reducing the workforce set as part of the 2014/15 budget. Future workforce efficiencies are now being built into our business planning process. There are also cost pressures through releasing employees through redundancy and early retirement.

#### Prudential Borrowing

The Council has built up borrowing over the years to fund capital schemes. A review of our Central Loans and Investment Account will reprofile our borrowing. This ongoing review may create efficiencies or pressures. The Council is planning to increase its borrowing to pay for new capital schemes such as improving school buildings.

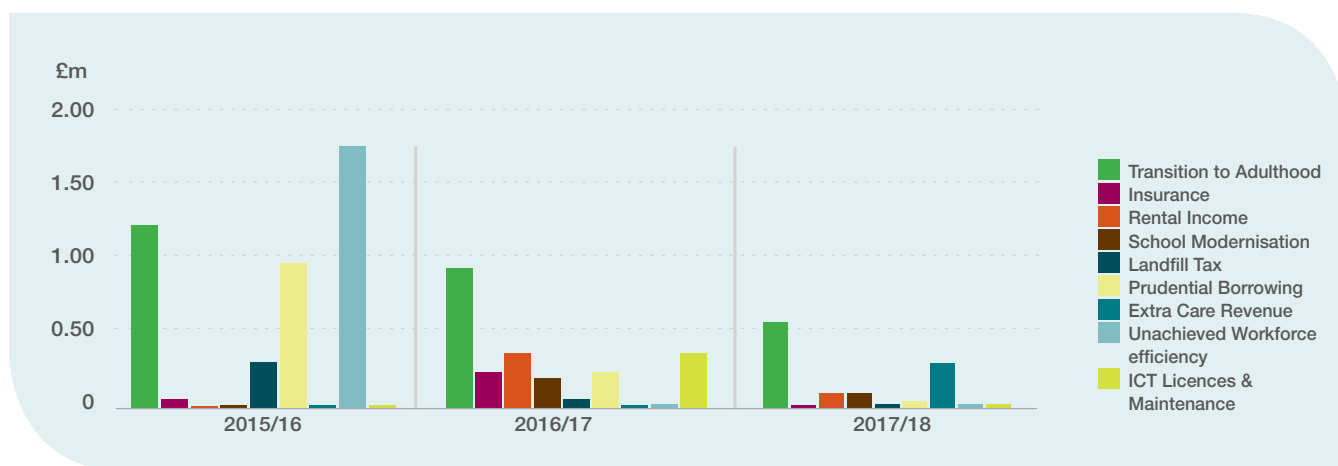
#### Internal Insurance Fund

The Council provides insurance cover for the risks it faces through a combination of purchased external insurance and self-insurance through our internal insurance fund. The adequacy of the internal fund has been assessed by our insurance brokers. There is a need to increase the funds to meet our risks.





Table 3 - Specific Non Workforce Local Pressures



September 2015

### Information Technology

There is a new recurring pressure from our Microsoft Enterprise Licence agreement at an annual cost of £0.350m per annum from 2016/17. A further emerging pressure for software maintenance is for the iTrent (Human Resources) system from 2016/17.

### Workforce Costs

There are significant new workforce costs from the introduction of the Local Single Status Agreement and the actuarial review of the Clwyd Pension Fund. These are covered in Section 4 - Workforce.

### Emerging Local Pressures

#### Municipal Mutual Insurance

Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) was the main insurer of the public sector prior to it closing its insurance business in 1992. A scheme is in place for any liabilities still outstanding from historic insurance with MMI. Any increase in claims arising from that period could impact on the levy to be paid by the Council.

### Contaminated Land Strategy

The Council has a responsibility to ensure there is no public risk from former landfill sites. There is a need for the Council to assess if there is any need for remedial work on these sites.

### Waste Management

The Council is exposed to risks including fluctuations in recycling income from sales of waste recyclates in the open market.

### Economy

The Council is exposed to the risk of decreases in the income it relies on from fees and charges in services such as leisure and planning. These fluctuations can depend on the health of the economy.

The total impact of major local pressures is £9.9m

# 3. Inflation

Inflation is the rate at which the prices for goods and services are expected to rise. The inflation costs a council has to meet are not the same as those that households face. Even at times of low Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation councils can have big inflationary pressures. Flintshire County Council builds inflation into its annual budgets based on the latest market intelligence. Overall, income budgets include a 3% increase to meet inflation. This is based on recent trends in inflation. Within the annual funding 'settlement' the Council receives from Welsh Government no provision is made for inflation. This means that the Council has to find a way of meeting the costs of annual inflation from within its reducing resources.

## Types of Inflation

### Pay

Provision for nationally agreed pay awards is based on the latest information from our national negotiating bodies. Over the last three years pay inflation has been assumed at 1%, and included in the budget at this level until confirmation of each annual agreements has been received.

### Prices

The current forecast for price inflation includes a 2% increase over all expenditure budgets, apart from what we call Non Standard Inflation. Budgets which are not exposed to normal price inflation, such as Benefits, are excluded.

Over the last three years, service managers have had to absorb price inflation within their budgets, without any increase. Extra provision has only been made where there is an exceptional case. In 2015/16 this extra provision totalled £0.421m for exceptions such as increases in care fees where we commission residential care home places.

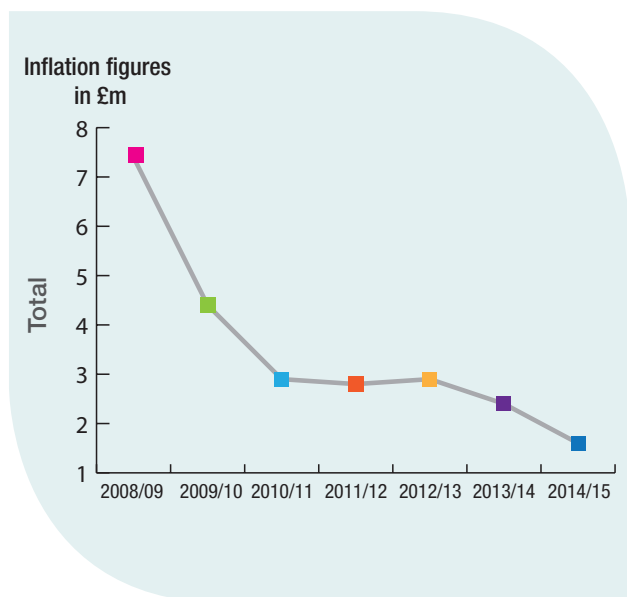
### Non Standard Inflation

Non Standard Inflation provision is set aside to support services which are exposed to higher than normal annual inflationary pressures in buying fuel, energy and food supplies.

In recent years these rates of inflation have been volatile, for example, in the energy sector due to rising oil prices. More provision for inflation has been made in these areas in the last two financial

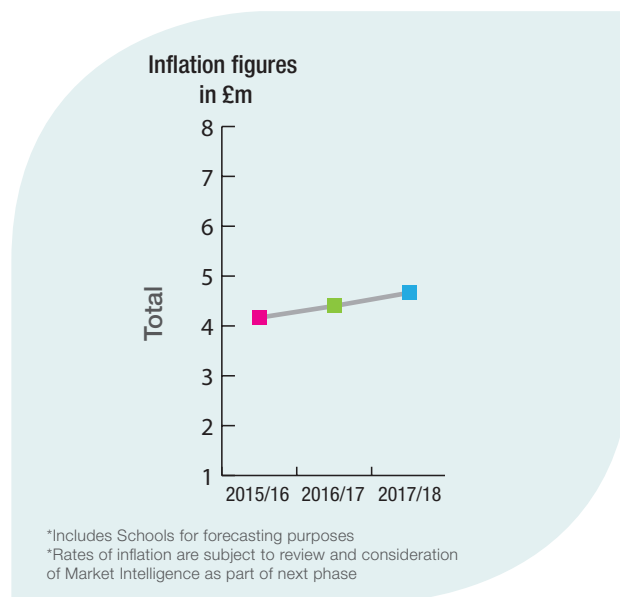


Table 4 - Historical Budgeted Inflation



Trend of inflation built into annual budgets.

Table 5 - Forecast within MTFS



Rates of inflation change over time and are under constant review by the Council.

years, (energy at 8%, fuel at 11.2% and food at 5.8%).

As part of the 2015/16 budget strategy the need to set aside any provision for Non Standard Inflation was reviewed. Specific market intelligence on energy (from Crown Commercial Services, UES Energy) shows that overall prices for gas and electricity were predicted to stay stable in 2015/16.

Market intelligence within the food markets (from Tuco Ltd, Procurement Partner) shows that some food groups may be subject to an increase of between 0.5% and 3%. Inflation on food was considered to be the area of greatest risk in 2015/16. Therefore an allocation of £0.064m was held within the budget.

The inflation risks and costs of energy, fuel and food are subject to many economic and other factors beyond our control. Market intelligence

will be used with quarterly updates to help make this as accurate a forecast as possible.

### Inflation on Income

In recent years income budgets have included a 3% increase to reflect the need to raise prices in line with costs. See Section 5 - Income.

The total amount of inflation forecast is £12.5m

# 4. Workforce

By far the biggest cost of managing a Council of our size is the cost of employing our workforce. Flintshire both employs people to provide services direct to communities and to customers, and commissions or contracts out other services. Where we commission or contract the Council is not the employer. We also employ people to provide essential internal support services such as Finance and Human Resources.

The costs of employing our workforce are rising due to a combination of national and local pressures including annual pay rises, pensions reform, and the Single Status Agreement.

Flintshire employs around 7,140 people in 8,206 roles. The total annual ‘wage bill’ in 2014/15 was in the region of £178m. The ‘wage bill’ is made up of salaries, employer pension contributions, employer national insurance contributions, and allowances and expenses.

The costs of employing people are rising. The costs pressures can be grouped as:-

- ‘cost of living’ pay rises
- low pay protection costs
- local pay settlements
- pensions

## ‘Costs of Living’ Pay Rises

Workers expect to receive an annual pay rise for their earnings to keep pace with inflation. These are commonly known as ‘cost of living’ pay awards and are negotiated nationally between representatives of the local government employers and the trade unions.

Following a period of imposed pay ‘freezes’, annual pay awards are again being granted by agreement. Annual pay awards are running at between 1-2% for most local government workers.

The cumulative impact of national pay awards for 2015/16-2017/18 is shown in Table 6.

Table 6 - Pay Awards Impact

2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	Total £m
1.804	1.690	1.707	5.201

## Low Pay Protection Costs

Workers are protected from being low paid through the setting of a national minimum wage. The lowest levels of pay in local government are above the national minimum wage. The minimum wage is £6.50 per hour rising to £6.70 per hour on 1 October 2015. Flintshire’s lowest hourly pay rate is currently £7.189 per hour. Whilst there are no immediate pay pressures here for the Council as it meets its legal obligations, this might change over time.

There is pressure from Trade Unions, some political parties and lobby groups for employers to adopt the Living Wage. The Living Wage is argued to be a more realistic amount for people to live on and is set at a higher rate than the Minimum Wage at £6.50 per hour. Whilst Flintshire has gone some way to preventing low pay and has implemented a pay structure where the lowest pay grade ‘tops out’ near to the Living Wage, we have not as an employer set it as a minimum. If we were to do so this would present a new cost pressure. Just under 1,300 employees (including relief workers) are currently paid beneath the Living Wage.



## Local Pay Settlements

Local authorities have obligations to ensure that they pay all employees fairly with equality of treatment for women and men. These obligations come from important national agreements and the equal pay legislation. Reviewing local pay arrangements to ensure that there is equality of treatment is a complex and time-consuming exercise. Like many other local authorities Flintshire has now reached a Single Status Agreement to achieve this. Under our Agreement we have introduced a new pay and grading model. Single Status Agreements have in every single case around the country added cost to the ‘wage bill’. Whilst some employees will gain on pay, some will stay the same, and some will lose on pay, a significant majority will have to gain or stay the same to successfully achieve agreement through negotiations between employer and trade unions and then through a workforce ballot. Therefore, there will be a total increase in pay costs across the board under these types of Agreements.

Some years ago the Welsh Government made extra provision in the base financial settlement for local government to support the costs of introducing Single Status Agreements in the knowledge that they would inflate workforce costs. Whilst providing this support was a visionary step towards ending unequal pay between women and men, the provision set aside was not enough to meet the inflationary impact in full. Councils have to make up the shortfall themselves.

Flintshire’s Single Status Agreement was introduced in 2014. The inflationary impacts for the first two years have been ‘buffered’ or cancelled out through the use of financial reserves. The Agreement will impact on the budget from June 2016. The annual cost of the wage bill will rise for several years as some employees who have entered a new pay grade work their way up through the annual pay increments until they reach the top of their grade. At this point the wage bill will ‘peak’.

The impacts of the Single Status Agreement are shown in table 7 below. The impacts shown are net of the annual

Table 7 - Single Status Impact

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
£m	£m	£m	£m
0.000	3.774	1.726	5.500



provision with the national financial settlement of £4.3m. The forecasted impacts reported to Council in October 2013, when adopting the Single Status Agreement, were greater; they have been significantly reduced through the ongoing programme of reducing the scale of the workforce through voluntary redundancies and retirements.

## Local Government Pension Scheme

Local government employees (other than teachers, police and firefighters) are entitled to be members of the local government pension scheme. The pension scheme is a funded one where both employers and employees contribute to the costs of building their ‘pension pot’ for their eventual retirement. The monies are invested into the Clwyd Pension Fund for capital gain and income to pay pension liabilities both now and into the future.

Public service pension schemes are being reformed to help financial sustainability. For the local government pension scheme the new CARE (Career Average) scheme replaced the final salary scheme from 1st April 2014. At a national level the Government have reviewed how the pension provision is shared more fairly between employees and scheme employers, if costs continue to increase. This may result in a change to employee contributions or scheme benefits in the future.

The employer contribution for the Council is set by the Fund Actuary every three years. The last actuarial valuation date was 31 March 2013 which provided both future service cost contributions and deficit payments for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. The future Flintshire rate

is a percentage of pensionable pay and will vary. At the last actuarial valuation the employer contribution rate was set as 12.2% (2014/15), 13.2% (2015/16) and 13.9% (2016/17),

At the last Actuarial Valuation the Council had a pension deficit of £197m. The Council has a deficit recovery plan of 19 years and the agreed payments are £9.185m (2014/15), £9.490m (2015/16) and £9.985m (2016/17).

The pension contributions to be made to the Clwyd Pension Fund by Flintshire as an employer were in the region of £10.2m.

For the third and final year of this MTFs it is more difficult to estimate pension costs. Despite strong asset returns on investments of +16% in 2014/15, the funding level of the Fund has fallen by 5%. The Council's deficit has therefore increased. This is due to lower than estimated long term interest rates. The Actuary of the Clwyd Pension Fund will undertake a funding review this year which may assist all employers in the Fund with their future financial plans, ahead of the next Actuarial Valuation.

**Pensions Performance:** the most recent actuarial review in 2013/14 reset employer contributions for the period 2014/15 - 2016/17. The inflationary impacts are shown in table 8 below.

**Pensions Reform:** a number of recent pensions reforms are causing inflationary pressure. Under a change called the Single Pension Scheme local government pension schemes will no longer qualify

for a rebate for national insurance contributions made towards the additional State Pension known as the Second Pension. This change will increase National Insurance employer contributions by 3.4% from April 2016. The inflationary impacts are shown in table 8 below. Employee national insurance contributions will also increase.

Under a change called Automatic Enrolment, access to pension provision in a qualifying pension scheme had to be made available to all new employees from 1 October 2012. For all existing employees who had previously deferred entry or opted out of the Clwyd Pension Fund, a transitional period to October 2017 applies. At this time, any remaining employees would be automatically enrolled into the Clwyd Pension Fund. This will be at a cost to the Council. It is not expected that all employees with deferred Fund entry will choose to stay in the Pension Fund at 2017, but a proportion will. The predicted inflationary impacts are also shown in table 8 below.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a central government controlled Public Service Pension Scheme that, unlike the LGPS, is unfunded. The contributions are set by Central Government. Under pensions reform the employer contributions for teachers' pensions are to be increased from 2016. The inflationary impacts are also shown in table 8 below.

Table 8 - Cost of Pensions to the Council as the Employer

Pressure	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	Total £m
Actuarial Review	1.747	1.504	1.300	4.551
Single Pension Scheme	0	2.787	0	2.787
Auto Enrolment	0	0	0.625	0.625
Teachers' Pension Increase	0	1.364	0	1.364
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.747</b>	<b>5.655</b>	<b>1.925</b>	<b>9.327</b>

The total amount of workforce pressures is £15.6m (excluding inflation)

# 5. Income

The Council is funded from two main sources - the Revenue Support Grant and Council Tax. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) awarded by Welsh Government makes up 65% of the total income of the Council with Council Tax contributing 22%. The remainder is made up from specific government grants and income from fees and charges. RSG is reducing year on year. UK Government fiscal plans show a continuation of reductions in the medium term. Setting Council Tax is a continual challenge in the current financial situation. Other income generating opportunities can be constrained by Welsh Government controls and economic factors. It can be difficult to balance increased charges to recover costs, with affordability and collectability from clients and customers.

## Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

The Council received a reduction in its RSG of 3.4% in 2015/16 equal to £6.6m. Welsh Government has not given any firm indication of the level of RSG funding for future years. Continuing reductions are expected and we are assuming reductions in RSG of 3.5% per year for the next two years in this strategy.

Over the medium term of this forecast this could mean a total £19.4m reduction in RSG funding.

Section 1 - National Pressures highlights the significant reductions in specific grants which are added to the reduction in RSG in arriving at a complete forecast for this three year period.

## Council Tax and Business Rates

The Council collects the Council Tax from local residents and the 'Business Rates' from local businesses.

The level of Council Tax is set annually and is paid by local residents to help finance the Council's overall budget (£60m in 2015/16).

The Council collects the local 'business rates' on behalf of Welsh Government. This is then paid into a national pool and redistributed to councils as part of the annual financial settlement. The Council expects to collect in the region of £63m in 2015/16. Of the collected amount the Council only retains £51m with the rest going into the national funding system.

As part of the budget for 2015/16 the Council agreed to set the increase on Council Tax at 3.75%. This is at a higher level than the 3% set in previous budget years. This extra rise was needed due to the challenging financial position faced by the Council as set out in this strategy.

The level of Council Tax for future years will be a democratic decision of the Council. For the purposes of this plan an annual increase of 3% has been built in for 2016/17 and for 2017/18. This would provide an additional £2.1m of income per year. In setting the Council Tax the Council has to balance the financial needs of the organisation to maintain its services with the affordability of Council Tax for local residents.



## Fees and Charges

In 2014/15 the Council generated £25m from fees and charges. The Council is developing a more wide ranging Income Strategy to help increase overall income to cope with the financial challenges it is facing. This work builds on earlier work to develop a single and consistent fees and charges policy with transparency in the setting of its fees and charges.

Existing fees and charges are, wherever possible, increased annually by 3% to meet the costs of inflation. However there are restrictions on the levels of income councils can charge for some services e.g. homecare services.

The budget strategy for 2015/16 was based on fundamental three year business plan reviews across all Council service portfolios. Within these plans were proposals for increasing income including:-

- maximisation of external funding
- increase in joint funding from Health
- Public Protection fee increases to reflect cost
- review of car parking charges
- increased charging for some services

These reviews led to an increase in budgeted income across portfolios of £2.3m in 2015/16.

For 2016/17 and 2017/18, the Council will need to develop its income policy and identify new opportunities for income to help bridge the gap from the reduction in national funding.

## Income Dependency

The Council is dependent on being able to generate income to fund some of its core services. For example, Leisure Services relies on £6m from income, mainly from its customers, whilst Facilities Services (Cleaning and Catering) relies on £3m from external income. In Catering the strategy for fees and charges needs to consider the impact of charging to avoid turning customers away.

## Constraints on Charging Policy

In recent years, Welsh Government have introduced measures such as the First Steps Improvement Package which introduced a then cap of £50 per week on the amount that Local Authorities could charge for Domiciliary Care. This led to a loss of income to Flintshire County Council of £0.426m in 2011/12 and has limited the Council's ability to increase income for future years.

Reviews of these national constraints are needed to give councils the freedom to recover more income to subsidise some of the services it provides.

**The impact of reductions in Revenue Support Grant is £19.4m offset by increase in Council Tax income of £6.2m**



# 6. Total Impacts

The total impact of known national pressures is £1.6m

The total impact of major local pressures is £9.9m

The total amount of inflation forecast is £12.5m

The total amount of workforce pressures is £15.6m (excluding inflation)

The impact of reductions in Revenue Support Grant is £19.4m offset by increase in Council Tax income of £6.2m

**Total impact is £ 52.8m**





## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 15 December 2015
<b>Report Subject</b>	Provisional Local Government Settlement and the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Finance Cabinet Member
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has adopted a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Strategy sets out the first two parts of a developing Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees are considering the first two parts or 'building blocks' of this proposed budget throughout December in a series of special meetings. The first 'block' is made up of service changes and efficiencies drawn from the business plans of each Chief Officer. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is being presented with the proposals for its respective portfolio for review and challenge. Whilst a complete set of proposals has been set out in a detailed document for each Committee, most attention is being given to the proposals considered to have greater risk. Members are already sighted on the proposals from a series of internal workshops.

The second 'block' of the developing budget is based on Corporate Financing proposals. These proposals will be considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which, with its wider corporate budget overview and monitoring role, will meet at the end of this series of meetings. The Committee will meet twice. Firstly, to review the budget proposals for corporate services and the corporate financing options for the whole Council and, secondly, to review the whole budget scrutiny process and advise on further information requested of the Cabinet.

As part of its Strategy the Council has made a case for some support and relief from Welsh Government to enable it to produce a supportable and balanced budget for 2016/17. This case has been presented locally through a series of

public statements, media coverage, internet exposure and community engagement meetings. Behind the scenes the Council has been engaged in an intensive campaign to build support for its case at a national level, both as part of the collective effort of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and separately.

The Draft Welsh Budget was announced by Welsh Government on 8 December. The more detailed Provisional Local Government Settlement was to be announced on 9 December (and after this report was written for publication).

The Council will need to consider what other options are possible in order to be able to balance the budget for 2016/17, once the detail of the Provisional Settlement is known and its impacts fully understood. This will be done throughout January and February. A second series of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been set in the diary for mid to late January.

The Council will have to set its final annual budget by 10 March.

A presentation will be made at this Cabinet meeting with an initial analysis of the Provisional Local Government Settlement and its implications for Flintshire.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To receive an initial assessment of the Provisional Local Government Settlement as the basis for a fuller report for Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees in January 2016 to inform (1) the annual budget setting process and (2) a revision of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
2	To set out a timetable for recommendation of the budget in stages through January to March 2016 including the further development of 'fall back' options to reach a balanced budget.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BUDGET SETTING FOR 2016/17</b>
1.01	The Council has adopted a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Strategy has been published in two documents over the course of the summer. The first document <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i> sets out the predicted budget needs and resources of the Council. The second, <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> , sets out a response with possible solutions. The Strategy sets out the first two parts of a developing annual Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17. The Strategy has been the subject of a series of member workshops, and briefings with Group Leaders and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Strategy has been shared with local and regional partner organisations and has been central to the recent public engagement exercise and national campaigning.

1.02	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committees are considering the first two parts or 'building blocks' of the annual budget throughout December in a series of special meetings. The first part or 'block' of the budget proposals is made up of service changes and efficiencies drawn from the business plans of each Chief Officer. These business plans are being developed for a three year period with 2016/17 being the second year. The detailed budget proposals adopted for 2015/16 were also drawn from the business plans. Options from within the business plans for 2017/18 will be the subject of scrutiny early in the 2016/17 financial year and well in advance of the formal annual budget setting process for that year. The business plan proposals for each service portfolio are listed on the website within the agenda set for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in December.</p>
1.03	<p>Throughout December each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is being presented with the proposals for its respective portfolio for review and challenge. A complete set of proposals has been set out in a detailed document for each Committee and most attention is being given to the higher risk proposals. Members are already sighted on the proposals from the earlier internal workshops.</p>
1.04	<p>The second part or 'block' of the developing budget is based on Corporate Financing proposals. These proposals will be considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which, with its wider corporate budget overview and monitoring role, will also meet at the end of this series of meetings. The Committee will meet twice. Firstly, to review the budget proposals for corporate services and the corporate financing options and, secondly, to review the whole budget scrutiny process and advise on further information requested of the Cabinet. The corporate financing proposals are detailed in the MTFS and have also been part of the member workshops and briefings. Members will be well acquainted with the corporate financing issues to 'size-up' and manage, such as inflation management, from previous annual budget setting exercises.</p>
1.05	<p>As part of its Strategy the Council has made a case for some support and relief from Welsh Government to enable it to produce a supportable and balanced budget for 2016/17. This case has been presented locally through a series of public statements, media coverage, internet exposure and community engagement meetings. Behind the scenes the Council has been engaged in an intensive campaign to build support for its case at a national level, both as part of the collective effort of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and separately. The WLGA has recently published its <i>Manifesto</i>. The <i>Manifesto</i> makes the case for local government funding, and supporting national policies, both to influence Welsh Government in setting its Welsh budget for 2016/17, and to influence the commitments to be made by the political parties for local government and local public services in the run up to the 2016 elections for the National Assembly for Wales.</p>
1.06	<p>The Draft Welsh Budget was announced by Welsh Government on 8 December. Details of the announcement are available on the Welsh Government website and will have been covered in the media. The more detailed Provisional Local Government Settlement was to be announced on 9 December (after this report was written for publication). Detailed</p>

	analysis of the Provisional Settlement will be required before the Council can plan with any certainty a final budget for 2016/17. The Council will need to consider what other options are possible in order to be able to balance the budget for 2016/17, once the detail of the Provisional Settlement is known and its impacts fully understood. This will be done throughout January and February. Following an initial report to Cabinet in mid-January a second series of Overview and Scrutiny Committees will follow in mid to late January.
1.07	A presentation will be made at the Cabinet meeting with an initial analysis of the Provisional Local Government Settlement and its implications for Flintshire.
1.08	The Council will have to set its budget by 10 March. The budget setting process for 2016/17 is particularly complex given the lateness of the expected Final Local Government Settlement from Welsh Government and the scale of the annual budget reductions the Council has to manage. The Provisional Settlement is an indication of the intentions of Welsh Government for its budget, and one from which councils can plan their own budgets. However, Welsh Government has already explained that due to the need to consult on the Settlement, and due to the need to have a full understanding of the recently published Comprehensive Spending Review and its implications for Wales, the Final Settlement cannot be published until March. Council meetings are set in the diary for 26 January and 16 February, with a third and final meeting, at which the Council Tax will need to be set, being scheduled for 10 March.
1.09	In the interim the WLGA will continue intensive discussions with Welsh Government over funding relief over and above that provided with the Provisional Settlement, such as parity of funding for social care within the additional resources being made available for the National Health Service in Wales. Flintshire has already notified Welsh Government of its request for an exemption from certain income capping policies such as homecare services.
1.10	'Fall back' options to balance the budget are being developed in the five areas of services, education funding, workforce, corporate financing, and income and local taxation. These options will inform the further work for the New Year outlined above.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	This report summarises the consultation process.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Community and Enterprise.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Corporate Resources</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Education and Youth</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Organisational Change</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Planning and Environment and Streetscene and Transportation</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Social Services</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Parts 1 and 2  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx</a></p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Executive Summary  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf</a></p> <p>Flintshire County Council 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 Report  <a href="http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&amp;MId=3551&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=undefined">http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&amp;MId=3551&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=undefined</a></p> <p>Cabinet 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Report  <a href="http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&amp;MId=3537&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=undefined">http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&amp;MId=3537&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=undefined</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Colin Everett  Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702101</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it

includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.

**Local Government Finance Settlement:** This sets out what the Welsh Government is to allocate to each local authority in Wales. It is issued in two stages. This year, the Provisional Settlement is expected on 9<sup>th</sup> December with the final Local Government Finance Settlement being announced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

**Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):** a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.

**Council Fund:** the majority of the Council's revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

**Annual Settlement:** the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (see below) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation.



## Business Planning 2016/17

### Summary of Business Planning Proposals and Options

Category	1	2	3	Total
Portfolio	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m
Community & Enterprise	1.509	0.000	0.000	1.509
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1.509</u></b>	<b><u>0.000</u></b>	<b><u>0.000</u></b>	<b><u>1.509</u></b>

#### Category

1. Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly
2. Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costing/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes e.g. markets
3. High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.

These Business Plan proposals for 2016/17 build on the work shared with Group Leaders and Chairs of Scrutiny committees and more recently with all Members at the Member workshops.

The tables on the following pages have headings which are familiar.

A new heading refers to the 'Mandatory' duty to provide particular services. It should be noted that all services/functions provided by the Council are provided under many statutory duties. Within these statutory duties a 'mandatory' service or function **'must'** be provided.

All 'mandatory' services/functions have been RAG assessed to determine if any 'duty' would be compromised should the business plan proposal be adopted. These are all noted with an 'M' plus an explanation as to the RAG assessment. All 'non-mandatory' services/functions are noted as NM.

**Business Planning Efficiencies for  
Community and Enterprise Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>							
1	Close the personal answering service for main switchboard telephone calls	Structural Review	0.065	NM		1	Full year effect of 15/16 saving
4	Review of Fees and Charges for Registration Service	Income Generation	0.010	NM		1	Increased fees for weddings
5	Telephone Contact Centre savings	Structural Review	0.100	NM		2	Range of options under consideration to deliver savings - part year effect
7	Customer Services Team Restructure	Service Efficiency	0.014	NM		1	Reduction in team costs
8	Review of Flintshire Connects budgets	Service Efficiency	0.040	NM		1	Reduction in office costs
<b>Total Customer Services</b>			<b>0.229</b>				
<b>HOUSING REGENERATION</b>							
1	Energy Efficiency Framework	Income Generation	0.050	NM		2	Charge partners for use of council's framework
2	Housing Regen and Strategy further Capitalisation	Service Efficiency	0.030	NM		1	Capitalisation of staff costs
3	SHARP Framework	Income Generation	0.020	NM		1	Charge partners for use of council's framework
<b>Total Housing Strategy</b>			<b>0.100</b>				
<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES</b>							
1	Welfare Rights Team Review	Structural Review	0.048	NM		2	Consider model of service delivery to safeguard provision of welfare rights service and deliver savings
3	Community Support Services - Management Restructure	Structural Review	0.012	NM		1	Full year effect of reduction of 1 Manager post
4	Community Centres	Income Generation	0.048	NM		1	Charge Housing Revenue Account for usage
5	Community Based Accommodation Support Service	Structural Review	0.062	NM		1	Reduction of 3 posts over 2 years through voluntary redundancy and vacancy management. Service supplemented by volunteers providing good neighbour service
6	Increased use of leased properties to reduce B&B expenditure	service efficiency	0.060	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to support people who are homeless		1	Maximising Housing Benefit income through property leasing. Reduce B&B expenditure
7	Response Service for Older People	service efficiency	0.020	NM		2	Alternative model for out of hours response service
10	Bed & Breakfast Charging	Income Generation	0.005	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to support people who are homeless		1	Year 2 of charging to partially offset service cost
11	Supporting People restructure	Structural Review	0.015	NM		1	Reduce staff costs to reflect grant reductions
12	Galw Gofal Contract Fees	Service Efficiency	0.030	NM		1	Reduction in fee paid to Galw Gofal
14	Review of Financial Assessments	Structural Review	-	-		2	Joined up financial assessment service to deliver improved customer experience. 1 post saved
<b>Total Community Support Services</b>			<b>0.300</b>				
<b>REVENUES AND BENEFITS</b>							
1	e billing / administration / budget costs	Service Efficiency	0.039	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to administer or collect local taxes		2	Saving in admin costs as more people receive e bills together with proposals to reduce revenue budget in specific budget lines
3	Staff restructure to match staff costs to Department of Works and Pensions grant for benefits	Structural Review	0.100	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to administer Housing Benefit		1	Reduction in posts could pose a financial risk through potential subsidy loss. There is also a further financial risk due to an ever decreasing subsidy administration grant from DWP
4	In-house bailiff service	Income Generation	0.060	NM		1	Income target already agreed by Cabinet - summer '14. Second year of trading should produce additional surplus as stated, especially with potential joint working with other local authorities
11	200% charge on long term empty properties	Income Generation	-	-		2	Utilisation of new powers for empty and second homes
12	Cessation of NNDR charitable reliefs	Service Efficiency	-	-		2	Reduction in scale of support provided with enhanced hardship fund
13	Fraud expenditure budget reduction	Service Efficiency	0.045	NM		1	Service outsourced. Budget saving identified
14	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Service Efficiency	0.329	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to provide people with support for a Council Tax reduction		2	Match budget to recent spend. Liable to in year risk
<b>Total Revenues and Benefits</b>			<b>0.573</b>				
<b>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b>							
2	Supplies and Services reduction	Service Efficiency	0.003	NM		1	Admin cost saving
3	Business Development Restructure	Structural Review	0.020	NM		1	Service restructure
<b>Total Business Development</b>			<b>0.023</b>				
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>							
1	Reduction in Training Admin	Structural Review	0.010	NM		1	Service restructure
<b>Total Support Services</b>			<b>0.010</b>				
<b>REGENERATION (PLACES)</b>							
1	Reduction in scale of service	Structural Review	0.045	NM		2	Service restructure
4	Reduce community environmental projects	Voluntary Sector	0.009	NM		1	Reduced budget for third sector commissioning of environmental projects
5	Earned Income recharge of management costs to Regeneration Projects	Service Efficiency	0.012	NM		1	Capitalise or recharge staff costs to project income
<b>Total Regeneration (Places)</b>			<b>0.066</b>				
<b>SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE</b>							
1	Reduction in scale of service	Structural Review	0.055	NM		1	Full year effect of management restructure
3	20% Recharge of Wardens Service to HRA	Service Efficiency	0.153	NM		2	Charging for Housing Management Service carried out by support staff
<b>Total Senior Management Restructure</b>			<b>0.208</b>				
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE</b>			<b>1.509</b>				

<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>1.509</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.725
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.784
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/building	0.000

1.509

Summary of Business Planning Proposals

Category	1	2	3	Total
Portfolio	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m
Corporate Services	0.235	0.320	0.300	0.855
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0.235</u></b>	<b><u>0.320</u></b>	<b><u>0.300</u></b>	<b><u>0.855</u></b>

**Category**

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**Business Planning Efficiencies for Corporate Services**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>PEOPLE &amp; RESOURCES - FINANCE</b>							
1	Implementation of Collaborative Planning Software to finance to improve and automate our processes thus enabling workforce efficiencies	Service Efficiency		M		2	The introduction of this new software will enable budget monitoring to be undertaken more efficiently, with the minimum of manual intervention which will lead to workforce efficiencies and reductions.
2	Phased roll out of new finance model.	Structural Review		M			The implementation of a new Finance Model and a review of structure and business processes to achieve efficiencies and to operate as a modern Finance function.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.135</b>				
<b>PEOPLE &amp; RESOURCES - HUMAN RESOURCES &amp; ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN</b>							
1	Effective people management skills to increase levels of Managers' self sufficiency	Service Efficiency		NM		2	Demand management exercise to upskill managers to become increasingly self sufficient in managing their people /teams.
2	Redefine clear roles and responsibilities for Human Resources (HR) / managers	Service Efficiency		NM			Complements the exercise above in that the roles and responsibilities of HR and managers need to be redefined for the future and will reduce reliance on HR resources.
3	Review of Human Resources & Organisational Design operating model and job roles	Structural Review		NM			To review the operating model and structure for Human Resources & Organisational Design to better meet the organisation's future requirements.
4	Further roll-out (50%) of Flexible & Agile Working arrangements (phase 1)	Service Efficiency		NM			Promotion and implementation of flexible and agile to reduce accommodation space.
5	Implementation of iTrent Self Service to Schools	Service Efficiency		NM		2	Reduction of reliance on corporate and Schools administrative processes thereby creating efficiencies in workforce.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.115</b>				
<b>GOVERNANCE - LEGAL</b>							
1	Increase income	Income Generation	0.015	M		1	To increase the fees recharged to developers etc entering legal agreements with the council in line with other councils in Wales (the income earned as a % of the service budget is approximately half that of other councils).
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.015</b>				
<b>GOVERNANCE - ICT</b>							
1	Reduction in management, staff and non pay costs	Structural Review	0.300	NM		3	In order to mitigate the high risk of collaboration with Wrexham, the service will need to restructure and significantly review levels and types of service available.
2 (new)	Education ICT	Service Efficiency	0.220	NM		1	Remodelling of service to create efficiencies.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.520</b>				
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S</b>							
1 (new)	Voluntary Sector Grants review	Service Efficiency	0.070	NM		2	Revised core funding agreements with voluntary sector partners to reflect new models of delivery and revised funding arrangements.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.070</b>				

**TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES** 0.855

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>	
Total value of Business Plan proposals	2.483

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.235
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.320
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.300

0.855

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## Business Plannir

### Summary of Business Planning Proposals

Category	1	2	3	Total
Portfolio	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m
Education & Youth	0.493	0.061	0.187	0.741
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0.493</u></b>	<b><u>0.061</u></b>	<b><u>0.187</u></b>	<b><u>0.741</u></b>

#### Category

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**Business Planning Efficiencies for Education and Youth Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
1	School Modernisation	Structural Review	0.187	M Reduction in over-capacity in school's network will be achieved through this programme		3	Estimate savings released from the schools budget due to school reorganisation. These are subject to Cabinet and ministerial approval.
2	Primary & Early Years Education - Maximising Deployment of Early Entitlement Foundation Phase Grant (including new model for provision of 10% teacher time in funded early years settings).	Service Efficiency	0.017	NM		1	Maximising Deployment of Early Entitlement Foundation Phase Grant (including new model for provision of 10% teacher time in funded early years settings).
3	Further remodelling of Music Service to move to "full cost recovery"	Service Efficiency	0.061	NM		2	Further remodelling of Music Service to move to "full cost recovery" through cost reduction and increased income generation. The Music Service is currently reviewing whether an Alternative Delivery Model would offer a sustainable alternative. Increased tuition fees and/or introduction of a charge for transport will provoke a negative response from music service users.
4	Reduction in administrative IT support.	Structural Review	0.040	NM		1	Further reduction and restructure of Education & Youth 'back office functions'.
5	Additional Learning Needs	Service Efficiency	0.020	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus		1	Residual savings following withdrawal of the additional learning needs service in 2014/15.
6	English as an additional language/Gypsy Traveller Support - Current vacancy removal of post and remodelling of service delivery.	Service Efficiency	0.045	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance		1	Reduction of service with greater emphasis on training schools to deliver appropriate level of support to children with additional language needs. With continuing levels of migration this may place pressure on specific schools.
7	Speech & Language Service - Reduction in Service provision	Service Efficiency	0.007	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus		1	Reduction in service provision.
9	Educational Psychology Service - Current vacancy removal of post	Service Efficiency	0.070	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus		1	Reduction in service provision may place pressure on psychology team and result in waiting lists.
10	Inclusion Welfare Service - current vacancies - reduction in full time equivalent posts to 8.5 officers.	Service Efficiency	0.040	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance		1	Reduction in service provision may impact of the level of service that can be provided to schools.
11	Looked After Children Support	Service Efficiency	0.030	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance		1	Reduction in staffing with functions associated with role being picked up by another team.
14	Youth Services - Youth Justice Service Staffing Reduction	Structural Review	0.025	M Service remodelling does not compromise ongoing mandatory compliance		1	Reduced staffing levels.
15	Youth Services - reduction in caretaking	Structural Review	0.035	NM		1	Transfer of responsibilities from Youth to Facilities Services. Reduction in service.
16	Youth Service Planned Management Reductions & Vacancy Management	Structural Review	0.037	M Service remodelling does not compromise ongoing mandatory compliance		1	Reduced staffing levels in line with Youth Service Strategy.
18	SMIT reduction in staffing.	Structural Review	0.047	NM		1	Service restructure - continued reduction in 'back- office functions'.
19	Education & Youth Portfolio Service Review Reduction in Management Structure	Structural Review	0.080	NM		1	Service restructure - reducing the number of senior managers.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.741</b>				

<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>0.741</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.493
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.061
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.187

0.741

## Business Plan

2016/17

### Summary of Business Planning Proposals

Category	1	2	3	Total
Portfolio	2016/17	2016/17	2016/17	2016/17
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Organisational Change	0.728	0.544	0.000	1.272
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0.728</u></b>	<b><u>0.544</u></b>	<b><u>0.000</u></b>	<b><u>1.272</u></b>

#### Category

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**Business Planning Efficiencies for Organisational Change Portfolio**

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE 1							
No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
14	Deeside Library Relocations	Service Reduction	0.030	Statutory duty for a comprehensive and efficient library service; proposals do not compromise this requirement.		1	Re-locate Mancot, Hawarden and Queensferry Libraries to Deeside Leisure Centre.
15	Community Asset Transfers	Service Reduction	0.544			2	Community Asset Transfer of: i) Connahs Quay Pool, ii) Holywell Leisure Centres iii) potentially rural libraries iv) building transfer of Holywell and Broughton libraries.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.574</b>				
<b>Ciwyd Theatr Cymru</b>							
1	Proposal to reduce shows and increase productivity	Service Reduction/ Service Efficiency/ Income Generation	0.150	NM		1	Reduction in shows from 8 to 6, combined with a reduction in staffing costs, and increases in income from productions and related activities.
<b>Total Organisational Change 1</b>			<b>0.724</b>				
ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE 2							
1	<b>Catering</b> Work process changes and office efficiency	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM		1	Review of the office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery.
2	Staff structural change	Structural Review	0.019	NM		1	Review of the catering service resources delivered to High Schools, Primary Schools, Residential Homes and Day Care Centres and the way the current service is delivered.
3	Stock management and control	Service Efficiency	0.077	NM		1	Stock control management system has now been purchased and its use is being embedded within the service to deliver increased efficiencies.
4	Increase meal numbers (income)	Service Efficiency	0.080	NM		1	Current performance and take up in schools is currently 39% with a recent study indicating that 43% should be a target that is achievable. This requires improved marketing and promotion of the catering service to increase take up.
5	Debt recovery (income)	Service Efficiency	0.010	NM		1	Manage more effectively the levels of debt relating to school meals and take appropriate action to tackle debt levels. This deliverable is now linked to a new debt process.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.191</b>				
7	Increased Growth	Income Generation	0.003	NM		1	Grow cleaning service into other areas such as leisure services, schools, care facilities.
8	Different model of delivery (mobile)	Income Generation	0.004	NM		1	Deliver a peripatetic cleaning service to areas of the County and in addition increase external market contracts.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.007</b>				
9	<b>Security/Caretaking</b> Staff reductions	Service Reduction	0.056	NM		1	Review undertaken for County Hall and close down at County Hall in place augmented by improved CCTV coverage around the campus.
10	Lock Down and Shift Pattern modifications	Service Efficiency	0.020	NM		1	Review position at Flint and modify service. Continue to review Mold service.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.076</b>				
11	<b>CCTV</b> Staff reductions	Service Reduction	0.040	NM		1	Rationalise service following a review to create efficiencies.
12	Income increase	Income Generation	0.010	NM		1	A number of strands relating to recovery of fee income from system users based upon a more responsive and peripatetic provision, and reductions in system maintenance costs.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.050</b>				
13	<b>Other</b> Campus Management	Structural Review	0.030	NM		1	Rationalise service following a service review to create efficiencies.
14	Maintenance	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM		1	Review budgets and reduce the level of maintenance to the main campus facility.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.035</b>				
16	Valuations & Estates Lease renewals	Income Generation	0.023	NM		1	Increases in rental income on new leases, renewal of leases, agricultural rents and grazing licences.
18	Office management	Service Efficiency	0.002	NM		1	Undertake a LEAN review of the office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery of the service.
19	Estate management cost recovery (dilapidations etc)	Income Generation	0.005	NM		1	Increased and more effective recovery from tenants of dilapidation costs following tenant vacation of our property assets.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.030</b>				
20	<b>Property Maintenance &amp; Design</b> Reduce maintenance budget	Structural Review	0.150	NM		1	Review of the council's existing corporate maintenance budgets in conjunction with a reducing property estate, through rationalisation. The Councils performance in relation to its maintenance delivery is already upper quartile.
22	Office running costs	Service Efficiency	0.004	NM		1	Undertake a review of the office running costs, reducing accommodation space and service cost.
23	Office management	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM		1	Undertake a review of office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.159</b>				
<b>Total Organisational Change 2</b>			<b>0.548</b>				

**TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE** 1.272

<b>ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE</b>	
Total value of Business Plan proposals	1.272

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.728
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1.272



**Business Plans  
2016/17**

**Summary of Business Planning Proposals**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>2016/17 £m</b>	<b>2016/17 £m</b>	<b>2016/17 £m</b>	<b>2016/17 £m</b>
Planning & Environment	0.262	0.151	0.000	0.413
Streetscene & Transportation	0.485	1.240	0.775	2.500
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0.747</u></b>	<b><u>1.391</u></b>	<b><u>0.775</u></b>	<b><u>2.913</u></b>

**Category**

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**Business Planning Efficiencies for Planning and Environment Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation	
1	Staffing - management restructure	Structural Review	0.105	M The mandatory duties to provide a planning service and regulatory services such as animal and pest control are not compromised by these efficiencies		1	Reduction of Team Leader posts within the Trading Standards and Building Control functions. These savings would ideally be delivered through collaboration although further options are being explored to deliver this saving. In 17/18 this relates to a reduction in Service Managers.	
2	Staffing - service review	Structural Review	0.127			1	Over two years, the Service Review will result in a reduction of 4 posts below team leader level. Releasing vacancies and fulfilling early voluntary retirement requests in addition to bringing forward Alternative Delivery Model work within the drainage and energy areas will assist in achieving the savings proposal.	
4 & 5	Self financing for Public Protection Services - Animal & Pest Control - Licencing Charging	Income Generation	0.050			2	Incremental fee increases over the three year period will ensure that the animal and pest control function can at least operate on a self-financing basis. Proposed fees reflect favourably against neighbouring authorities and the private sector.	
8	Increase in planning fees (15% WG increase) and applications	Income Generation	0.101			2	Planning (Wales) Bill introduced a 15% increase from 01/10/15 on all planning application fees.	
9	Increase in number of planning applications	Income Generation			2	Estimated increase in the volume of planning applications as the economy continues to recover.		
10	Additional elements of charging for Planning Work	Income Generation			2	Planning (Wales) Bill proposes to increase the types of activities for which a planning fee can be charged as described within the proposal. Estimate of saving is based on an analysis of volume of work currently undertaken in these areas.		
11	Pre planning advice	Structural Review / Service Efficiency			2	Planning (Wales) Bill will introduce the provision of mandatory pre-application services, clarify what the Local Planning Authority has to provide and set standard service charges across Wales.		
12	Reduce cost of newspaper advertising	Structural Review / Service Efficiency	0.010			1	Continue to review the requirement to place public notices within local newspapers for all of the Planning and Environment portfolio. Secondary legislation related to Planning (Wales) Bill suggests that this may become less onerous.	
13	Savings from Development Management process improvements	Service Efficiency	0.020			1	Continue to undertake a full LEAN review of the Development Management process drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery of the service.	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.413</b>					
<b>CUMULATIVE</b>								

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	
Total value of Business Plan proposals	0.413

CATEGORISATION KEY	Count Number	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	4	0.262
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	5	0.151
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0	0.000
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.413</b>

**Business Plan Efficiencies for Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>CHANGES TO STAFFING AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE EXISTING MODEL</b>							
4	Introduce an integrated transport unit	Structural Review	0.200	NM	Operating systems still to be confirmed	2	County wide transport service includes - Public, Social care and Schools transport
5	Shared Specialist Plant with neighbouring authority	Collaboration	0.050	NM	No discussions taking place to facilitate	2	The opportunity exists to share specialist plant, e.g. streetlighting equipment, traffic management equipment with another Council.
6	Staffing Structure following Organisation Design review	Structural Review	0.150	NM	New team delivering a huge change programme and day to day operations	1	The recent Organisation Design review has brought together a number of services under the new Portfolio and the staff will be reviewed in order to reduce numbers and provide more generic roles operating to the new business plan.
8	Introduce non-generic streetscene roles (3 year plan)	Structural Review	0.115	NM	Concerns from Trade Unions re the introduction of a two tier workforce	2	The Council introduced a generic Streetscene operative role in 2012. The new role requires the staff to work across the sections of Streetscene services in return for an increased salary. Whilst there are clear benefits in this arrangement, having operated this for a period of two years, it has become clear that a generic workforce across the overall service is unnecessary. The intention therefore is to replace any service leavers or new starters with non-generic (service specific) roles on lower salaries.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.515</b>				
<b>REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN WASTE</b>							
1	Develop energy production at landfill	Income Generation	0.100	NM	1. Subject to Planning 2. Funding to be confirmed 3. Works need to be completed by April 2016 4 Changes to Feed Tariff payments announced by Chancellor may impact on scheme viability	3	The landfill sites at Brookhill and Standard currently produce energy through gas turbines. The gas supply is reducing resulting in capacity in the connection to the mains grid. With investment, it is intended to increase the level of energy produced by introducing photo voltaic panels to both landfill sites. The potential to extend the energy source to Alltami depot opens the opportunity for utilising the energy to power the fleet (1.7M INVESTMENT REQUIRED)
2	Rationalise Household Recycling Centres provision and provide the service through a performance based contract which would include bulky collections.	Service Reduction	0.425	NM	Subject to achieving necessary recycling levels and further review of site numbers	3	The Council currently operates 7 Household Recycling Centre sites. The sites are operated utilising in-house labour. The proposal is: (1) to reduce the number of sites in the County to three, suggested locations to be decided based on optimising resident access to the sites (2) contract the management of the sites based on an incentivised contract which will improve the recycling levels at the sites. The opportunity to tender the work to a Social Enterprise will be considered.
3	Removing the waste containers delivery service	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	2	Residents requiring new waste containers such as recycling boxes, bags, food caddies etc. currently call the Contact Centre and bags are delivered to their address. The proposal will be for residents to collect any new containers they require from: 1. Household Recycling Centre sites 2. Flintshire Connect Centres 3. Housing Offices Deliveries to assisted collection properties would continue and delivery of wheelie bins will also remain unchanged.
5	Introduce a charge for second garden waste bin	Income Generation	0.025	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	1	The Council currently provides a free collection of garden waste and whilst the new policy limits the number of bins provided to two, there are many properties within the County with significantly more than this number. The proposal is to provide a single bin collection free of charge for a second and subsequent bin.
6	Introduce 7 day working and no Christmas collection catch up	Service Efficiency	0.050	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	2	Currently we collect waste over a six day period and the proposal is to extend that to seven days. The saving will be generated by the reduced number of vehicles within Waste.
7	Diagnostic proposals waste	Service Review	0.050	NM	Improving productivity - TU opposition to proposals	1	Following the template of the Fleet Review we have engaged with a diagnostic partner to carry out a review of all operations within the waste service and make recommendation to improve efficiencies. Implementation of these changes will be on a no win/no fee basis.
8	Suspend garden waste collections November to February	Service Reduction	0.025	NM	Public opposition to the proposals Reduced Recycling levels	3	During this period there is a limited amount of garden waste material made. The proposal is to cease all garden waste material collections whilst maintaining the black bin collections.
12	Remove the existing policy of returning for missed bin waste collections	Service Reduction	0.075	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	3	The Council will not in future return to collect any containers not collected in the original visit to that area.
14	Review of Bulky Waste Collection	Service Reduction	0.025	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	2	Charging all residents / Contracting the service to Social Enterprise
15	Construction of a waste handling and biomass production facility at Greenfield	Service Reduction	0.100	NM	1. Subject to planning 2. Funding still outstanding	2	Waste handling facility will reduce fleet mileage and fuel costs. Biomass facility will feed Council boilers, invest to save proposal (£1m)
10	Car Parking Charges	Income Generation	0.200	NM	Full year effect of charges - Public opposition to the proposals	2	Revise the Councils Car Parking Strategy introducing parking charges to all town centre car parks in Flintshire
<b>Totals</b>			<b>1.125</b>				

REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORTATION							
2	Replace Demand Responsive Transport with non-subsidised service	Service Reduction	0.250	NM	Full year effect of 2015/16 proposal	2	Deeside Shuttle - Demand for the service has grown to the extent that a regular and potentially non-subsidised defined route can replace the existing arrangements. The savings would be generated by a reduction in back office staff costs. Full year effect
5	Charge maintenance of Bus Shelters to Community & Town Councils	Income Generation	0.025	NM	Part of CAT's	1	Discussions will commence with Town & Community Councils in respect of taking maintenance responsibility for shelters.
6	Review subsidised bus routes	Service Reduction	0.100	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	3	Remove current subsidised bus services and work with Town & Community Councils and the local community to deliver local community based travel arrangements
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.375</b>				
<b>OTHER</b>							
1	Remove the subsidy for the Community Rail Officer	Service Reduction	0.010	NM	Regional partners concerns	1	FCC currently provides £10k towards the funding of the post
4	Externalise the Stores Managed Service	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	Business case still to be developed	2	Align stores delivery to external provision or utilise Housing tender
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.060</b>				

REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN STREETSCENE							
1	Externalise grass cutting service	Service Efficiency	0.075	NM	Contractor standards below in house and needs managing	1	The majority of area grass cutting is carried out by the in-house service with agency assistance to support existing staff. The operation requires a large amount of specialised plant and equipment which is not owned by the Council and hired at great expense. The intention is to incrementally tender the full function over a three year period - market testing against internal provision at each stage.
2	7 day operations across all service areas	Structural Review	0.025	NM	Trade Unions opposition to proposals	1	Following the Streetscene Review in 2012, Streetscene now operates a six day working week. The intention is to extend operations to Sunday which will require all staff to work some weekends during the year. The savings would be driven by reduction of vehicle plant and fleet.
3	Extend night working	Structural Review	0.025	NM	Pay enhancement needs reviewing	1	Streetscene introduced an evening shift in 2012. A small number of people work through the night (365 days a year) dealing with emergencies and small amounts of planned works. The proposal will see this level of work increase with operations such as gully emptying, town centre sweeping etc. carried out during the evening and overnight period. The saving will be generated by reduction of plant and equipment.
6	Final phase of public convenience review	Service Reduction	0.020	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	2	Implement final phase of the service review as previously approved by Cabinet.
7	Pass Maintenance Liability and Cleanliness of Cemeteries to Town & Community Councils	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	Part of CAT's proposal	3	The proposal is to pass all liability for the long term maintenance of cemeteries to Community Councils
8	Reducing Cleansing standard in the towns and enforce zero tolerance for littering	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	Subject to a reduction in littering	1	The Council currently has both CPE and Environmental Enforcement teams. Whilst numbers will reduce as part of the service review - this proposal would reduce or remove the service completely.
9	Diagnostic proposals Streetscene	Structural Review	0.050	NM	Productivity improvements - Trade Unions opposition to proposals	1	Following the Fleet Review the proposal is to engage a diagnostic partner to carry out a review of the operations within the highway service and make recommendation to improve efficiencies. Implementation of these changes will be on a no win / no fee basis
11	Probation Service to take on Litter Collections in some areas	Service Reduction	0.100	M	Trade Unions opposition to proposals	2	Currently all cleaning operations are carried out by full time Council employees. The proposal is to engage the Probationary Service to provide a resource on the Community payback Scheme to carry out this service on an SLA
13	Part night lighting in all residential areas	Service Reduction	0.030	NM	Public opposition to the proposals	2	Introduce part night lighting in all residential areas. Subject to risk assessment lights will be turned off between 12pm and 5am.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.425</b>				

<b>STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION TOTAL</b>		<b>2.500</b>		
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<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>2.500</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Count Number	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	10	0.485
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	17	1.240
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/building	13	0.775

## Business Plan

### Summary of Business Planning Proposals

Category	1	2	3	Total
Portfolio	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m	2016/17 £m
Social Care	0.272	0.426	0.238	0.936
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0.272</u></b>	<b><u>0.426</u></b>	<b><u>0.238</u></b>	<b><u>0.936</u></b>

#### Category

1. Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly
2. Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costing/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes e.g. markets
3. High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.

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These Business Plan proposals for 2016/17 build on the work shared with Group Leaders and Chairs of Scrutiny committees and more recently with all Members at the Member workshops.

The tables on the following pages have headings which are familiar.

A new heading refers to the 'Mandatory' duty to provide particular services. It should be noted that all services/functions provided by the Council are provided under many statutory duties. Within these statutory services a 'mandatory' service or function '**must**' be provided.

All 'mandatory' services/functions have been RAG assessed to determine if any 'duty' would be compromised should the business plan proposal be adopted. These are all noted with an 'M' plus an explanation as to the RAG assessment. All 'non-mandatory' services/functions are noted as NM.

**Business Plan Efficiencies for Social Care Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>Older People</b>							
<b>Learning Disabilities</b>							
5	Rationalise the number of sites where In-House short term care is provided	Service Reduction	0.140	M The duty to provide short term care is not compromised by this full year effect of the change introduced last year.	Rationalisation of sites has been achieved	1	Rationalisation of short term care sites has been achieved and will bring about a full year benefit in 2016/17.
6	Consult on the potential to commission provision currently provided by In House Supported Living houses	Service Efficiency	0.125	M Duty to provide services for people with Learning Disabilities in appropriate settings; this model should achieve this.	Process of negotiation with families, service users and workforce underway; to be completed.	2	Criteria developed to identify Supported Living projects that may have the potential to be effectively delivered by the independent sector. There are 6 projects that are being considered. The number of projects that can be appropriately recommissioned from the independent sector, precise savings and timings will be clear once consultation has taken place alongside market capacity analysis. Indicative savings are subject to consultation.
7	Develop a 'progression' model for Supported Living	Service Efficiency	0.250	M Duty to provide services for people with Learning Development in appropriate settings; these models should achieve this.	Process of negotiation with families, service users and workforce underway; to be completed.	2	Adopt the progression model which supports people to live as independent lives as possible. This includes: • maximising technology as part of the support plan (telecare) • providing 'just enough support' in ways that build autonomy and personal resilience • maximise the use of Direct Payments • ensure progression is a key feature of 'transitional' arrangements for young people who have eligible needs This approach should improve peoples' quality of life as well as appropriately reducing support packages and the cost of support
14	Develop alternative approaches to in house day services and work opportunity schemes	Revenue Efficiencies	0.238		Process of negotiation with families, service users and workforce underway; but more progress is needed before assurity about delivery.	3	There is a variance in the care and support arrangements for clients across the day care and work opportunity settings. Some schemes support people with more moderate needs and have greater potential to move to alternative delivery models. Some of the services support people with very complex needs and the speed at which alternative models can be delivered varies along with the timescales and pace for releasing efficiencies.
<b>Children's Services</b>							
16	Service redesign in children's services	Structural Review	0.032	M Duty to provide Childrens and Safeguarding Services will not be be compromised by this redesign.	Consultation with workforce underway.	1	Review and realign structure within Childrens/ Safeguarding services.
22	Review commissioning with Action for Children	Voluntary Sector	0.035	NM	Potential for agreement made in 2015/16 to not be adhered to.	2	Bring together contracts with Action for Children with a view to negotiating a reduction of 10% for the Arosfa and Family Project contracts and ending the funding for the summer playscheme and the therapeutic service
25	Managing the Childcare market	Voluntary Sector	0.016	M Duty to provide services for childcare sufficiency in appropriate settings in line with CSSIW regulations; this model should achieve this.	Living wage costs and more stringent regulatory requirements for child care providers mean that the market may become more fragile.	2	Renegotiate the level of service commissioned from early years child care providers/organisations (3rd sector) with support provided to those parents with greatest/critical need
26	Align expenditure to critical statutory provision in Children's Services	Service Reduction	0.100	M Critical areas of provision will be protected within this proposal	Service review details to be worked through.	1	Review and realignment of structure within Children's / Safeguarding service area.

<b>Totals</b>	-	<b>0.936</b>		
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<b>SOCIAL CARE</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>0.936</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.272
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.426
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.238

0.936



# Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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Overview of First  
Phase of the Budget  
Process  
December 2015





# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- To receive feedback from the suite of Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the first phase proposals for the 2016/17 Council Fund Revenue Budget for services presented throughout December, and to provide commentary to the Cabinet
- To note the implications of the Settlement
- To advise on the budget setting process





# General Points on Process

- Definitions of mandatory and non-mandatory services a useful guide
- Risks to delayed implementation of proposals to be carefully assessed
- Fact sheets to be available for each specific budget proposal in mid-January with a full description, efficiency calculation, efficiency as a % of the service budget, risk assessment and background (where based on an earlier year decision)



# Generic Questions





# Calculating the RSG Change

## Aggregate External Finance (AEF) and Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

» AEF and Outcome Agreement Grant assumed in our MTFS forecast:  
£186.419m + £1.479m = £187.898m

» AEF 2016/17 Provisional Settlement including the transfer in of the Outcome Agreement Grant = £184.743m

» The difference between the two above is £3.155m

» The shortfall assumed in the MTFS forecast was £6.525m

» The net benefit to the MTFS forecast is therefore £3.370m

## Council Tax Base

» AEF figures have been adjusted to take into the revised Council Tax base. The local Council Tax base will rise by £0.400m



# Reassessing the Council case

- 1. Capping RSG reduction to no greater than -2.5%:** exceeded in the Provisional Settlement at a Welsh average of -1.4% and -1.5% for Flintshire
- 2. Funding for Social Services:** achieved in part through 1 above (social care pressures are given some recognition in the Settlement calculations) and achieved in part through the announcement of additional joint funds with the NHS (detail to follow)
- 3. CTRS full funding:** no change. The case for the outstanding review to be pressed for 2017/18
- 4. Removal of funding caps:** discussions ongoing



# Use of Consultants

- The Council's transformation programmes at corporate and service levels principally designed and implemented within our resources
- Consultants are employed sparingly. Two types as 'invest to save' work are fee based or 'risk and reward'. Live consultancies in Streetscene and Transportation (risk and reward), Social Services (fee based) and Corporate Services (fee based)
- Streetscene and Transportation: commercial expertise and the additional capacity to drive through efficiencies
- Social Services: the second largest Council spender with a need to test out whether our existing programmes could go further
- Corporate Services: challenge to reduce support costs to a workable minimum by testing out whether our existing programmes could go beyond their 30% 3 year savings targets

# Specific Portfolio Feedback

## Corporate Financing Proposals





# Environment

## Planning and Environment

### Increase in Planning Application Fee income

An increase of **£101k** on the 2015/16 existing Planning Fee Income Budget of £ 919k. Made up of an Increase in volume of applications as economy continues to recover £51k, and additional charging (e.g. discharge of conditions) of £50k.

### Streetscene and Transportation

No specific feedback to report on the budget proposals as presented.



# Organisational Change

## Deeside Library & Community Asset Transfers

Proposal	Target Date Range	Target Efficiency Range
Deeside Library	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	£30-60,000
Connahs Quay S.P	April-June 2016	£196-261,000
Holywell L.C.	July-December 2016	£81-242,000
Mynydd Isa Library	April-June 2016	£26-34,000
Saltney Library	April-June 2016	£31-41,000
Hope Library	April-June 2016	£10-13,000
Holywell Library Building	July-December 2016	£5-16,000
Broughton Library Building	April-June 2016	£9-12,000
	Total Efficiency Range	£388-679,000
	Total Proposed Efficiency	£574,000





# Social Care and Health

- No specific feedback to report on the budget proposals as presented



# Education and Youth

- Level of funding available to schools through the funding formula is a continuing concern noting that this is a national funding challenge and not one which can be resolved locally
- Concern over the compound impact of specific grants which is beyond the control of the Council
- The sensitivities around the on-going review of Inclusion Services will be worked through in more detail at the coming workshop



# Community and Enterprise

- Concern that the Welfare Rights Service maintains sufficient capacity to continue to advise those in need, particularly during a period of welfare reform

# Closing Information

## Budget Timelines and Next Stage





# Budget Closure Strategy

- Ongoing work on assessing the remaining budget gap
- Need to take into account recalculation of new or changing costs pressures
- Further work advanced on options for corporate financing, workforce costs, income and local taxation, education funding and service plans
- Cabinet staged report on budget strategy and budget closure options due in January



# National Budget Timetable

- *Chancellor's Spending Review 25 November*
- *Welsh Government Draft Budget 8 December*
- *Provisional LGF Settlement 9 December*
- **Welsh Government Final budget on 8 March**
- **Final LGF Settlement on 9 March**





# Timescale for Phasing the Budget

- » Complete the current Overview and Scrutiny round of meetings on the first two parts of the proposed budget
- » Cabinet reappraisal report in January with further options to close the remaining budget 'gap'
- » Further Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee rounds leading to a final Council decision on the total budget, and Council Tax level, by 10<sup>th</sup> March
- » Council dates provisionally in the diary for 26 January, 16 February and 10 March

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**Flintshire County Council**

**This is our moment  
Public Engagement Events**

**Summary Report**

**December 2015**

## Contents

The purpose of the engagement	3
The period of engagement	3
The number of people taking part	3
The programme	4
Summary of open questions and answers	4
Summary of interactive voting session	7
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Appendix 1 – Interactive voting questions	11

## The purpose of the engagement:

- To raise awareness and help people understand the magnitude of the financial challenges facing the Council between now and 2018.
- To draw particular attention to the £21m savings required for 2016/17 and how the Council plans to bridge a £7m budget gap.
- To gauge the level of support for the way in which the Council plans to meet the financial challenge.

## The period of engagement:

Monday 16 November 2015 to Monday 7 December 2015 at the following locations across the County:

Area 1	Argoed, Buckley and Penyffordd Monday 16 November	Elfed High School Buckley
Area 2	Bagillt and Flint Tuesday 17 November	Gwynedd CP School Flint
Area 3	Brynford, Caerwys, Holywell, Halkyn, Llanasa, Mostyn, Trelawyd & Gwaenysgor, Whitford and Ysceifiog Wednesday 18 November	Holywell High School
Area 4	Cilcain, Gwernaffield, Gwernymynydd, Leeswood, Llanfynydd, Mold, Nannerch, Nercwys, Northop, Treuddyn Monday 23 November	Bryn Coch School Mold
Area 5	Broughton & Bretton, Higher Kinnerton, Hope, Saltney Tuesday 24 November	Broughton CP School
Area 6	Connah's Quay, Northop Hall and Shotton Thursday 3 December	Civic Hall Connah's Quay
Area 7	Hawarden, Queensferry and Sealand Monday 7 December	Sandycroft CP School

## The number of people taking part:

A total of 319 people attended the public engagement events. The breakdown by area can be seen in the table below.

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7
Number registered	75	45	66	110	47	82	56
Number attended	50	35	55	59	41	51	28

## The Programme

- Showing of the animated video 'This is our moment'
- Presentations by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive
- Open questions and answers
- Assignment of Chief Officers to act as links for the development of community services in each of the seven areas:
  - Area 1 – Clare Budden, Chief Officer Community & Enterprise
  - Area 2 – Neal Cockerton, Chief Officer Organisational Change
  - Area 3 – Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer Organisational Change
  - Area 4 – Stephen Jones, Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation
  - Area 5 – Neil Ayling, Chief Officer Social Services
  - Area 6 – Andrew Farrow, Chief Officer Planning & Environment
  - Area 7 – Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance
- This is our county – a reminder in pictures of the things people value about the county
- What do you think? Using interactive voting equipment to gauge general levels of support with the actions proposed.

## Summary of open questions and answers

During the sessions people had the opportunity to ask questions, comment and feedback.

A general summary of debate across all areas can be found below:

- *UK and Welsh Government (WG) public spending*  
Concern was expressed around the lateness of the WG settlement information and the difficulties it would create not only for the County Council but for Town and Community Councils also in setting their precepts.

Many queried the funding formula and wanted to understand why Flintshire is a low funded Council and also why WG have been imposing public spending cuts when overall funding from UK Government has not reduced. The impact of the Universal Credit on the Council's revenue was also queried.

There was recognition that local efficiencies and savings would not on their own be enough to meet the projected budget gap, and whilst it was acknowledged that WG was in the same position as Local Councils in allocating a reduced settlement from central Government, it was also generally felt that WG should respond positively to the asks being made by Flintshire County Council.

- *Allocation of additional NHS funding, the impacts of an ageing population and the contribution of leisure services to health and well-being*  
It was evident in all meetings that people were concerned about the effects of an ageing population and the quality of care services needed for the future. The long term sustainability of private social care providers was also of concern if the cuts were to continue. There was strong support that councils should receive a proportion of the

additional National Health Service funding in order to help fund preventative social care services.

There was also a feeling that innovative partnership working between Health & Social Care funding should be a priority, not simply taking funds away from one area to offset budget pressures in another.

The links between leisure services and its benefits on health and well-being were also cited at many of the meetings.

- *Flintshire's economy*

The collection and distribution of business rates was discussed in all meetings and there was a general consensus for a larger proportion, if not all, of the business rates collected by Flintshire to be retained locally.

Concern was raised about any threat to business and tourism support services which would have the potential to lose links with young creative thinkers who are vital to the County's future economy.

- *The Council's budget and assets*

The value of Council reserves and whether they could be utilised to meet the 2016/17 financial challenges was queried along with the accuracy of the Council's projections.

A further understanding of the Council's modernised operating structure and associated redundancy costs was provided.

The disposal of assets, particularly unoccupied buildings, was of concern in some areas, along with the need for the Council to ensure that it was not left to fund significant dilapidation costs and it collected all monies owed.

There were also questions in some areas around the continued funding for services perceived to be less important or beneficial, particularly during times of such austerity when difficult decisions are needed.

- *Community Asset Transfers (CAT)*

It was evident in most areas that there was an appetite for CAT, but that the Council needed to provide more timely and clearer support and guidance about what was on offer and the process for making it happen. The provision of sample models where this approach has worked elsewhere was also requested. A clearer understanding of what local communities would be willing to support would also be crucial to the success of any CAT.

There was concern that CAT could speed up the closure of some facilities and questions were raised around what would happen to facilities put up for CAT if they were not taken forward.

It was also suggested that perhaps the Council should look to selling off surplus assets to generate capital receipts rather than transferring them through CAT.

- *Education*

The sustainability of retaining all existing County schools was raised particularly in respect of pressures on individual school budgets and the upkeep and maintenance of school buildings. The need to ensure all schools were operating efficiently and effectively within budget was raised along with the need to avoid abortive design costs when putting forward submissions for 21st Century School funding.

The ability to realise savings around school transport was queried particularly when decisions around potential school closures would, in some areas, see an increase in transportation costs.

Concerns were raised by members of the deaf community around potential cuts to BSL interpreting services which provided communication support between deaf parents and schools.

The ability of schools to continue to attract the right calibre of teachers was also raised and a call was made to ensure the obligations of developers in respect of 106 agreements were met so as to positively impact on local schools.

- *Local Government Reorganisation*

The question of when and if a local reorganisation of Council's in Wales would take place was raised in most areas and although there was recognition that it was too far away to make a difference to the current financial situation, it could only be beneficial in terms of future savings. There was also the view that a decision needed to be made sooner rather than later as it was not just about money but the delivery of better more efficient services.

- *Council Tax*

The ability for Welsh Council's to set a higher rate of council tax to protect services, in the same way as English councils was called for.

- *Income generation and savings suggestions*

Asset disposal, increasing council tax, toll charges on A55, voluntary contributions from parents towards maintenance of school buildings, switching street lights off completely during the summer, cross border service sharing were all put forward as ways of saving money or generating income.

- *Engaging communities and organisations*

There was a general feeling that wider and yet more targeted engagement was needed not only about the current financial situation, but more significantly around individual service changes, how people would be impacted and how communities, groups and organisations could come together to meet the challenge and bridge the gap.

## Summary of interactive voting session

The audience were asked nine questions to which they could either agree or disagree via the use of interactive voting keypads. A summary of the responses can be found below.

- Q1 When asked about their agreement with the way the UK Government is going about reducing money spent on public services, the majority in each of the seven areas did not agree. The largest majority was recorded in area 6 (87%) and the lowest majority in area 1 (71%).
- Q2 Considering the proposals highlighted by The Leader and the Chief Executive during their presentations, all areas agreed with the Council's plans for bridging the budget gap, with area 5 returning the highest majority (95%) and area 4 the lowest majority (74%).
- Q3 The idea of Councils doing more together to share costs and save money was very popular with returns ranging between 88% and 98% in agreement.
- Q4 There was strong backing in all areas for Welsh Government to support the Council in the way it was being asked. 100% of those voting in Area 4 were in agreement and returns of between 92% and 98% were recorded across the remaining six areas.
- Q5 There was again strong support in favour of Social Services being given extra funding from Government alongside the NHS. In this instance Area 1 returned 100% in favour with the remaining areas returning between 94% and 98%.
- Q6 There was a mixed response when asked to consider if the Council was playing its part to save money. 92% of the people who voted in area 5 were in agreement whilst only 58% were in agreement in area 1.
- Q7 On being asked whether there was support for paying a higher (affordable) rate of Council Tax in order to save local services there was again a mixed response between areas. In six of the seven areas there was a majority return in favour of this action, although the rate of return ranged between 59% and 85%. In area 7 however the majority (52%) were not in favour of an increase in Council Tax.
- Q8 All areas were in agreement with for paying for some services if it meant they could carry on with returns ranging from 73% to 89%.
- Q9 There was strong support in each of the seven areas for communities doing more to help save local services. The highest majority in favour was returned in area 5 (100%) and the lowest majority (81%) in area 1.

A list of the full questions asked can be found in Appendix 1.

## Feedback

At the end of each session people were given the opportunity to complete additional feedback forms and a summary of the information provided is detailed below:

- *Three things valued by communities which have the potential to be delivered differently with community involvement*
  - play areas, leisure centres, bowling greens, recreation, public open spaces, allotments, maintenance of Rights of Way, support AONB, countryside services, development of community gardens on council land, Mold Alex, Bailey Hill, heritage, tourism, Theatr Clwyd
  - community centres, meeting places, youth clubs, combine community centre and library service, swimming pool, public toilets
  - libraries, community roving library services developed to provide additional joined up services resources to support and strengthen rural and isolated areas, library home service to house bound, pay a small payment for library service
  - more 3rd sector preventative services for health & social care, social care (elderly & mental health), dementia friendly communities, home help, links between NHS & social care, snow angels service (Chester and Cheshire West Council), regular warden visits to sheltered housing, neighbourhood monitoring of vulnerable individuals, social enterprise for day services (LD and older people)
  - schools/education, community access for learning for life, skills, experiences and assets of retired population, voluntary support/input in schools, John Summers High School
  - grounds maintenance e.g. cemeteries, Buckley common, litter picking, recycling centres, refuse collection, highway maintenance
  - community watch/security, more community policing, policing (including traffic)
  - transportation, review bus subsidies, community transport, cycle routes, summer road toll on A55
  - business support, support for local voluntary sector, a county run lottery
  - more inclusive discussion and engagement with public
- *Other comments*

Other comments left at each of the sessions were primarily repeats of the discussions undertaken during the question and answer session.



## **The engagement process**

### **Who could get involved:**

A maximum capacity of 200 people was set per venue. 100 places at each location were reserved for attendance by targeted invitation and 100 places were open for registration by members of the public.

Targeted invitations by emailed to:

All elected County Councillors

Town and Community Councils (T&CCs) (4 places allocated to each)

Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors of all county schools

Local Service Board Partner organisations e.g. NW Police, Fire & Rescue, BCUHB, FLVC,

54 voluntary and charitable organisations

Assembly Members and Members of Parliament

Registration for public attendance was promoted via:

Animated video summarising the current financial situation

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment) and [www.siryfflint.gov.uk/EinCyfle](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk/EinCyfle)

@FlintshireCC and @CSyFFlint - Twitter

The Council's emagazine 'Your Council' (9000 subscribers)

Existing networks / service user groups e.g. older people, young people, equality groups, tenants, businesses

Council workforce via Infonet, Moodle and direct email

County Councillors and T&CCs within their respective communities

Press briefing, press release, media coverage

### **Registration**

Registration for places, both by invitation and public spaces, could be secured online or via telephone.

## Electronic statistics

During the period of consultation the following statistics were also recorded:

	English	Welsh
No. of views 'This is our moment' animation recorded on the Council's YouTube channel	457	34
No of unique page views <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment">www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment</a> (incorporating the animation)	3195	68
No. of page views 'Your Council' emagazine	2905	182

**Interactive Voting Questions**

- Q1 Do you agree with the way the UK Government is going about reducing money spent on public services?
- Q2 Do you agree with how the Council plans to bridge the budget gap?
- Q3 Should neighbouring Councils do more together to share costs and save money?
- Q4 Would you support Welsh Government helping in the way we have asked?
- Q5 Should Social Services have extra funding from Government alongside the NHS?
- Q6 Do you agree the Council is playing its part to save money?
- Q7 Would you be prepared to pay a higher rate of Council Tax to save local services?
- Q8 Would you be prepared to pay for some services if it meant they could carry on?
- Q9 Would you support your community doing more to help save local services?

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**Budget 2016/17**  
**Council Fund Revenue**

**Previous Years Growth/ Items Dropping Out**

<u>APPROVED 2014/15 BUDGET</u>	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
<b><u>Social Services</u></b>		
Independent Living Fund (ILF) estimate of RSG transfer	0	
Transition to Adulthood	0.473	
<b><u>Functional VFM's</u></b>		
Learning Disabilities – Short Term Care	(0.013)	
Social Services for Adults – Direct Payments	(0.024)	
	<u>0.436</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</u></b>		
Landfill Tax - increase cost per tonnage	0.053	
	<u>0.053</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Central &amp; Corporate</u></b>		
Impact of Actuarial Valuation	1.504	
Single Status Agreement	3.774	1.726
Income reduction Vacation of former Council Offices, Ewloe	0.399	
	<u>5.677</u>	<u>1.726</u>
<b>TOTAL 2014/2015</b>	<u><u>6.166</u></u>	<u><u>1.726</u></u>
<u>APPROVED 2015/16 BUDGET</u>	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
<b><u>Social Services</u></b>		
Transition	0	0.640
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	(0.074)	0
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<u>(0.074)</u>	<u>0.640</u>
<b><u>Education &amp; Youth</u></b>		
School Modernisation	0.236	0.112
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<u>0.236</u>	<u>0.112</u>
<b><u>Community &amp; Enterprise</u></b>		
Efficiency dropping out in relation to Single Person Discount	0.150	0.000
Impact of CT increase on CTRS	0.371	0.327
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<u>0.521</u>	<u>0.327</u>
<b><u>Central &amp; Corporate</u></b>		
Review of State Pension - estimate	1.487	0
Next Actuarial review - Estimate	0	1.300
Insurance Provision	0.278	0
Prudential Borrowing	0.252	0.029
Loss of income from Ewloe rent	0	0.133
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate</b>	<u>2.017</u>	<u>1.462</u>
<b>Less Pressure dropping out:</b>		
<b><u>Education and Youth</u></b>		
Greenfield Valley Trust contribution to Lottery Funding	(0.021)	
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth one off</b>	<u>(0.021)</u>	
<b>Total 2015/2016 Budget</b>	<u><u>2.679</u></u>	<u><u>2.541</u></u>
<b>Total Prior Year Decisions Recurring</b>	<u><u>8.845</u></u>	<u><u>4.267</u></u>
<b>One Off Investment costs</b>		
People and Resources	(0.050)	
Social Services	(0.200)	
Community & Enterprise	(0.050)	
Governance	(0.430)	
<b>Total One off Investment costs</b>	<u>(0.730)</u>	
<b>Total Investment Pressures dropping out</b>	<u><u>(0.730)</u></u>	

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**Budget 2016/17  
Council Fund - Revenue****Inflation**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Pay</b>		
Pay Inflation from April 2016 (1%) Non Schools	0.936	<b>0.936</b>
<b>Price</b>		
Targeted General Price Inflation	0.573	<b>0.573</b>
<b>Schools</b>		
Schools Inflation	0.869	<b>0.869</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Income - (3%)	0.185	<b>0.185</b>
<b>Total Inflation</b>		<b><u><u>2.193</u></u></b>

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**Budget 2016/17**  
**Council Fund - Revenue**

**Pressures & Investments**

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m
<b><u>Social Services</u></b>			
Extra Care	0.000	0.250	0.500
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.250</b>	<b>0.500</b>
<b><u>Governance</u></b>			
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	0.350	0.350	0.350
I Trent Software Maintenance	0.035	0.035	0.035
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>0.385</b>	<b>0.385</b>	<b>0.385</b>
<b><u>Community &amp; Enterprise</u></b>			
Impact of Council Tax increase on CTRS	0.000	0.000	0.337
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.337</b>
<b><u>Central &amp; Corporate</u></b>			
Auto Enrolment	0.000	0.625	0.625
Single Status	0.000	0.000	0.157
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.625</b>	<b>0.782</b>
<b>New Emerging Pressures *</b>	<b>1.579</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Pressures and Investments</b>	<b>1.964</b>	<b>1.260</b>	<b>2.004</b>

\* Section 1.24 in budget report

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<b>Business Planning Efficiencies for Corporate Services</b>
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No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>PEOPLE &amp; RESOURCES - FINANCE</b>						
1	Implementation of Collaborative Planning Software to finance to improve and automate our processes thus enabling workforce efficiencies	Service Efficiency	0.135	M	2	The introduction of this new software will enable budget monitoring to be undertaken more efficiently, with the minimum of manual intervention which will lead to workforce efficiencies and reductions.
2	Phased roll out of new finance model.	Structural Review		M		The implementation of a new Finance Model and a review of structure and business processes to achieve efficiencies and to operate as a modern Finance function.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.135</b>			
<b>PEOPLE &amp; RESOURCES - HUMAN RESOURCES &amp; ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN</b>						
1	Effective people management skills to increase levels of Managers' self sufficiency	Service Efficiency	0.115	NM	2	Demand management exercise to upskill managers to become increasingly self sufficient in managing their people /teams.
2	Redefine clear roles and responsibilities for Human Resources (HR) / managers	Service Efficiency		NM		Complements the exercise above in that the roles and responsibilities of HR and managers need to be redefined for the future and will reduce reliance on HR resources.
3	Review of Human Resources & Organisational Design operating model and job roles	Structural Review		NM		To review the operating model and structure for Human Resources & Organisational Design to better meet the organisation's future requirements.
4	Further roll-out (50%) of Flexible & Agile Working arrangements (phase 1)	Service Efficiency		NM		Promotion and implementation of flexible and agile to reduce accommodation space.
5	Implementation of iTrent Self Service to Schools	Service Efficiency		NM		Reduction of reliance on corporate and Schools administrative processes thereby creating efficiencies in workforce.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.115</b>			
<b>GOVERNANCE - LEGAL</b>						
1	Increase income	Income Generation	0.015	M	1	To increase the fees recharged to developers etc entering legal agreements with the council in line with other councils in Wales (the income earned as a % of the service budget is approximately half that of other councils).
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.015</b>			
<b>GOVERNANCE - ICT</b>						
1	Reduction in management, staff and non pay costs	Structural Review	0.300	NM	1	To combine services thereby reducing management costs and by reducing software licensing in line with reducing workforce.
2 (new)	Education ICT	Service Efficiency	0.220	NM	1	Remodelling of service to create efficiencies.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.520</b>			
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S</b>						
1 (new)	Voluntary Sector Grants review	Service Efficiency	0.070	NM	2	Revised core funding agreements with voluntary sector partners to reflect new models of delivery and revised funding arrangements.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.070</b>			
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES</b>			<b>0.855</b>			

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>0.855</b>

<b>CATEGORISATION KEY</b>	<b>Total 16-17</b>
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.535
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.320
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.000

**Business Planning Efficiencies for Community and Enterprise Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>						
1	Close the personal answering service for main switchboard telephone calls	Structural Review	0.065	NM	1	Full year effect of 15/16 saving
2	Review of Fees and Charges for Registration Service	Income Generation	0.010	NM	1	Increased fees for weddings
3	Telephone Contact Centre savings	Structural Review	0.100	NM	2	Range of options under consideration to deliver savings - part year effect
4	Customer Services Team Restructure	Service Efficiency	0.014	NM	1	Reduction in team costs
5	Review of Flintshire Connects budgets	Service Efficiency	0.040	NM	1	Reduction in office costs
	<b>Total Customer Services</b>		<b>0.229</b>			
<b>HOUSING REGENERATION</b>						
6	Energy Efficiency Framework	Income Generation	0.050	NM	2	Charge partners for use of council's framework
7	Housing Regen and Strategy further Capitalisation	Service Efficiency	0.030	NM	1	Capitalisation of staff costs
8	SHARP Framework	Income Generation	0.020	NM	1	Charge partners for use of council's framework
	<b>Total Housing Strategy</b>		<b>0.100</b>			
<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES</b>						
9	Welfare Rights Team Review	Structural Review	0.048	NM	2	Consider model of service delivery to safeguard provision of welfare rights service and deliver savings
10	Community Support Services - Management Restructure	Structural Review	0.012	NM	1	Full year effect of reduction of 1 Manager post
11	Community Centres	Income Generation	0.048	NM	1	Charge Housing Revenue Account for usage
12	Community Based Accommodation Support Service	Structural Review	0.062	NM	1	Reduction of 3 posts over 2 years through voluntary redundancy and vacancy management. Service supplemented by volunteers providing good neighbour service
13	Increased use of leased properties to reduce B&B expenditure	service efficiency	0.060	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to support people who are homeless	1	Maximising Housing Benefit income through property leasing. Reduce B&B expenditure
14	Response Service for Older People	service efficiency	0.020	NM	2	Alternative model for out of hours response service
15	Bed & Breakfast Charging	Income Generation	0.005	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to support people who are homeless	1	Year 2 of charging to partially offset service cost
16	Supporting People restructure	Structural Review	0.015	NM	1	Reduce staff costs to reflect grant reductions
17	Galw Gofal Contract Fees	Service Efficiency	0.030	NM	1	Reduction in fee paid to Galw Gofal
18	Review of Financial Assessments	Structural Review	-	-	2	Joined up financial assessment service to deliver improved customer experience. 1 post saved
	<b>Total Community Support Services</b>		<b>0.300</b>			
<b>REVENUES AND BENEFITS</b>						
19	e billing / administration / budget costs	Service Efficiency	0.039	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to administer or collect	2	Saving in admin costs as more people receive e bills together with proposals to reduce revenue budget in specific budget lines
20	Staff restructure to match staff costs to Department of Works and Pensions grant for benefits	Structural Review	0.100	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to administer Housing	1	Reduction in posts could pose a financial risk through potential subsidy loss. There is also a further financial risk due to an ever decreasing subsidy administration grant from DWP
21	In-house bailiff service	Income Generation	0.060	NM	1	Income target already agreed by Cabinet - summer '14. Second year of trading should produce additional surplus as stated, especially with potential joint working with other local authorities
22	200% charge on long term empty properties	Income Generation	-	-	2	Utilisation of new powers for empty and second homes
23	Cessation of NDR charitable reliefs	Service Efficiency	-	-	2	Reduction in scale of support provided with enhanced hardship fund
24	Fraud expenditure budget reduction	Service Efficiency	0.045	NM	1	Service outsourced. Budget saving identified
25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Service Efficiency	0.329	M This proposal does not compromise our mandatory duty to provide people with support for a Council Tax	2	Match budget to recent spend. Liable to in year risk
	<b>Total Revenues and Benefits</b>		<b>0.573</b>			
<b>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b>						
26	Supplies and Services reduction	Service Efficiency	0.003	NM	1	Admin cost saving
27	Business Development Restructure	Structural Review	0.020	NM	1	Service restructure
	<b>Total Business Development</b>		<b>0.023</b>			
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>						
28	Reduction in Training Admin	Structural Review	0.010	NM	1	Service restructure
	<b>Total Support Services</b>		<b>0.010</b>			
<b>REGENERATION (PLACES)</b>						
29	Reduction in scale of service	Structural Review	0.045	NM	2	Service restructure
30	Reduce community environmental projects	Voluntary Sector	0.009	NM	1	Reduced budget for third sector commissioning of environmental projects
31	Earned Income recharge of management costs to Regeneration Projects	Service Efficiency	0.012	NM	1	Capitalise or recharge staff costs to project income
	<b>Total Regeneration (Places)</b>		<b>0.066</b>			
<b>SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE</b>						
32	Senior Management Restructure	Structural Review	0.055	NM	1	Full year effect of management restructure
33	20% Recharge of Wardens Service to HRA	Service Efficiency	0.153	NM	2	Charging for Housing Management Service carried out by support staff
	<b>Total Senior Management Restructure</b>		<b>0.208</b>			
	<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE</b>		<b>1.509</b>			

<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>1.509</b>

<b>CATEGORISATION KEY</b>	<b>Total 16-17</b>
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.725
2 = Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions	0.784
3 = High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/building	0.000
	<b>1.509</b>

**Business Planning Efficiencies for Education and Youth Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17	16-17	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
			PROPOSALS £m	MANDATORY duties		
1	School Modernisation	Structural Review	0.187	M Reduction in over-capacity in school's network will be achieved through this programme	3	Estimate savings released from the schools budget due to school reorganisation. These are subject to Cabinet and ministerial approval.
2	Primary & Early Years Education - Maximising Deployment of Early Entitlement Foundation Phase Grant (including new model for provision of 10% teacher time in funded early years settings).	Service Efficiency	0.017	NM	1	Maximising Deployment of Early Entitlement Foundation Phase Grant (including new model for provision of 10% teacher time in funded early years settings).
3	Further remodelling of Music Service to move to "full cost recovery"	Service Efficiency	0.030	NM	2	Further remodelling of Music Service to move to "full cost recovery" through cost reduction and increased income generation. The Music Service is currently reviewing whether an Alternative Delivery Model would offer a sustainable alternative. Increased tuition fees and/or introduction of a charge for transport will provoke a negative response from music service users.
4	Reduction in administrative IT support.	Structural Review	0.040	NM	1	Further reduction and restruture of Education & Youth 'back office functions'.
5	Additional Learning Needs	Service Efficiency	0.020	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus	1	Residual savings following withdrawal of the additional learning needs service in 2014/15.
6	English as an additional language/Gypsy Traveller Support - Current vacancy removal of post and remodelling of service delivery.	Service Efficiency	0.045	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance	1	Reduction of service with greater emphasis on training schools to deliver appropriate level of support to children with additional language needs. With continuing levels of migration this may place pressure on specific schools.
7	Speech & Language Service - Reduction in Service provision	Service Efficiency	0.007	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus	1	Reduction in service provision.
9	Educational Psychology Service - Current vacancy removal of post	Service Efficiency	0.070	M Children & young people with additional learning needs will continue to be supported either by school action or school action plus	1	Reduction in service provision may place pressure on psychology team and result in waiting lists.
10	Inclusion Welfare Service - current vacancies - reduction in full time equivalent posts to 8.5 officers.	Service Efficiency	0.040	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance	1	Reduction in service provision may impact of the level of service that can be provided to schools.
11	Looked After Children Support	Service Efficiency	0.030	M Service remodelling to ensure ongoing mandatory compliance	1	Reduction in staffing with functions associated with role being picked up by another team.
14	Youth Services - Youth Justice Service Staffing Reduction	Structural Review	0.025	M Service remodelling does not compromise ongoing mandatory compliance	1	Reduced staffing levels.
15	Youth Services - reduction in caretaking	Structural Review	0.035	NM	1	Transfer of responsibilities from Youth to Facilities Services. Reduction in service.
16	Youth Service Planned Management Reductions & Vacancy Management	Structural Review	0.037	M Service remodelling does not compromise ongoing mandatory compliance	1	Reduced staffing levels in line with Youth Service Strategy.
18	SMIT reduction in staffing.	Structural Review	0.047	NM	1	Service restructure - continued reduction in 'back- office functions.
19	Education & Youth Portfolio Service Review Reduction in Management Structure	Structural Review	0.080	NM	1	Service restructure - reducing the number of senior managers.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.710</b>			

<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>	
Total value of Business Plan proposals	0.710
<b>CATEGORISATION KEY</b>	
<b>Total 16-17</b>	
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.493
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.030
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.187
	<b>0.710</b>

**Business Planning Efficiencies for Planning and Environment Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation	
1	Staffing - management restructure	Structural Review	0.105	M The mandatory duties to provide a planning service and regulatory services such as animal and pest control are not compromised by these efficiencies	1	Reduction of Team Leader posts within the Trading Standards and Building Control functions. These savings would ideally be delivered through collaboration although further options are being explored to deliver this saving. In 17/18 this relates to a reduction in Service Managers.	
2	Staffing - service review	Structural Review	0.127		1	Over two years, the Service Review will result in a reduction of 4 posts below team leader level. Releasing vacancies and fulfilling early voluntary retirement requests in addition to bringing forward Alternative Delivery Model work within the drainage and energy areas will assist in achieving the savings proposal.	
4 & 5	Self financing for Public Protection Services - Animal & Pest Control - Licensing Charging	Income Generation	0.050		2	Incremental fee increases over the three year period will ensure that the animal and pest control function can at least operate on a self-financing basis. Proposed fees reflect favourably against neighbouring authorities and the private sector.	
8	Increase in planning fees (15% WG increase) and applications	Income Generation	0.101		2	Planning (Wales) Bill introduced a 15% increase from 01/10/15 on all planning application fees.	
9	Increase in number of planning applications	Income Generation			2	Estimated increase in the volume of planning applications as the economy continues to recover.	
10	Additional elements of charging for Planning Work	Income Generation			2	Planning (Wales) Bill proposes to increase the types of activities for which a planning fee can be charged as described within the proposal. Estimate of saving is based on an analysis of volume of work currently undertaken in these areas.	
11	Pre planning advice	Structural Review / Service Efficiency	0.010		2	Planning (Wales) Bill will introduce the provision of mandatory pre-application services, clarify what the Local Planning Authority has to provide and set standard service charges across Wales.	
12	Reduce cost of newspaper advertising	Structural Review / Service Efficiency			1	Continue to review the requirement to place public notices within local newspapers for all of the Planning and Environment portfolio. Secondary legislation related to Planning (Wales) Bill suggests that this may become less onerous.	
13	Savings from Development Management process improvements	Service Efficiency	0.020		1	Continue to undertake a full LEAN review of the Development Management process drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery of the service.	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.413</b>				
<b>CUMULATIVE</b>							

<b>PLANNING &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Total value of Business Plan proposals	<b>0.413</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Count Number	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	4	0.262
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	5	0.151
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0	0.000
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.413</b>

**Business Plan Efficiencies for Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>CHANGES TO STAFFING AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE EXISTING MODEL</b>						
4	Introduce an integrated transport unit	Structural Review	0.200	NM	2	County wide transport service includes - Public, Social care and Schools transport
5	Shared Specialist Plant with neighbouring authority	Collaboration	0.050	NM	2	The opportunity exists to share specialist plant, e.g. streetlighting equipment, traffic management equipment with another Council.
6	Staffing Structure following Organisation Design review	Structural Review	0.150	NM	1	The recent Organisation Design review has brought together a number of services under the new Portfolio and the staff will be reviewed in order to reduce numbers and provide more generic roles operating to the new business plan.
8	Introduce non-generic streetscene roles (3 year plan)	Structural Review	0.115	NM	2	The Council introduced a generic Streetscene operative role in 2012. The new role requires the staff to work across the sections of Streetscene services in return for an increased salary. Whilst there are clear benefits in this arrangement, having operated this for a period of two years, it has become clear that a generic workforce across the overall service is unnecessary. The intention therefore is to replace any service leavers or new starters with non-generic (service specific) roles on lower salaries.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.515</b>			
<b>REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN WASTE</b>						
1	Develop energy production at landfill	Income Generation	0.100	NM	3	The landfill sites at Brookhill and Standard currently produce energy through gas turbines. The gas supply is reducing resulting in capacity in the connection to the mains grid. With investment, it is intended to increase the level of energy produced by introducing photo voltaic panels to both landfill sites. The potential to extend the energy source to Alltami depot opens the opportunity for utilising the energy to power the fleet (1.7M INVESTMENT REQUIRED)
2	Rationalise Household Recycling Centres provision and provide the service through a performance based contract which would include bulky collections.	Service Reduction	0.250	NM	3	The Council currently operates 7 Household Recycling Centre sites. The sites are operated utilising in-house labour. The proposal is: (1) to reduce the number of sites in the County to three, suggested locations to be decided based on optimising resident access to the sites (2) contract the management of the sites based on an incentivised contract which will improve the recycling levels at the sites. The opportunity to tender the work to a Social Enterprise will be considered.
3	Removing the waste containers delivery service <b>2015/16 Proposal Only</b>	Service Reduction	0.000	NM	2	Residents requiring new waste containers such as recycling boxes, bags, food caddies etc. currently call the Contact Centre and bags are delivered to their address. The proposal will be for residents to collect any new containers they require from: 1. Household Recycling Centre sites 2. Flintshire Connect Centres 3. Housing Offices Deliveries to assisted collection properties would continue and delivery of wheelie bins will also remain unchanged.
5	Introduce a charge for second garden waste bin <b>2015/16 Proposal Only</b>	Income Generation	0.000	NM	1	The Council currently provides a free collection of garden waste and whilst the new policy limits the number of bins provided to two, there are many properties within the County with significantly more than this number. The proposal is to provide a single bin collection free of charge for a second and subsequent bin.
6	Introduce 7 day working and no Christmas collection catch up	Service Efficiency	0.050	NM	2	Currently we collect waste over a six day period and the proposal is to extend that to seven days. The saving will be generated by the reduced number of vehicles within Waste.
7	Diagnostic proposals waste	Service Review	0.050	NM	1	Following the template of the Fleet Review we have engaged with a diagnostic partner to carry out a review of all operations within the waste service and make recommendation to improve efficiencies. Implementation of these changes will be on a no win/no fee basis.
8	Suspend garden waste collections November to February	Service Reduction	0.025	NM	3	During this period there is a limited amount of garden waste material made. The proposal is to cease all garden waste material collections whilst maintaining the black bin collections.
12	Remove the existing policy of returning for missed bin waste collections	Service Reduction	0.075	NM	3	The Council will not in future return to collect any containers not collected in the original visit to that area.
14	Review of Bulky Waste Collection	Service Reduction	0.025	NM	2	Charging all residents / Contracting the service to Social Enterprise
15	Construction of a waste handling and biomass production facility at Greenfield	Service Reduction	0.100	NM	2	Waste handling facility will reduce fleet mileage and fuel costs. Biomass facility will feed Council boilers, invest to save proposal (£1m)
10	Car Parking Charges	Income Generation	0.200	NM	2	Revise the Councils Car Parking Strategy introducing parking charges to all town centre car parks in Flintshire
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.875</b>			
<b>REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORTATION</b>						
2	Replace Demand Responsive Transport with non-subsidised service	Service Reduction	0.250	NM	2	Deeside Shuttle - Demand for the service has grown to the extent that a regular and potentially non-subsidised defined route can replace the existing arrangements. The savings would be generated by a reduction in back office staff costs. Full year effect
5	Charge maintenance of Bus Shelters to Community & Town Councils	Income Generation	0.025	NM	1	Discussions will commence with Town & Community Councils in respect of taking maintenance responsibility for shelters.
6	Review subsidised bus routes	Service Reduction	0.075	NM	3	Remove current subsidised bus services and work with Town & Community Councils and the local community to deliver local community based travel arrangements
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.350</b>			
<b>OTHER</b>						
1	Remove the subsidy for the Community Rail Officer	Service Reduction	0.010	NM	1	FCC currently provides £10k towards the funding of the post
4	Externalise the Stores Managed Service	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	2	Align stores delivery to external provision or utilise Housing tender
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.060</b>			
<b>REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN STREETSCENE</b>						
1	Externalise grass cutting service	Service Efficiency	0.025	NM	1	The majority of area grass cutting is carried out by the in-house service with agency assistance to support existing staff. The operation requires a large amount of specialised plant and equipment which is not owned by the Council and hired at great expense. The intention is to incrementally tender the full function over a three year period - market testing against internal provision at each stage.

2	7 day operations across all service areas	Structural Review	0.025	NM	1	Following the Streetscene Review in 2012, Streetscene now operates a six day working week. The intention is to extend operations to Sunday which will require all staff to work some weekends during the year. The savings would be driven by reduction of vehicle plant and fleet.
3	Extend night working	Structural Review	0.025	NM	1	Streetscene introduced an evening shift in 2012. A small number of people work through the night (365 days a year) dealing with emergencies and small amounts of planned works. The proposal will see this level of work increase with operations such as gully emptying, town centre sweeping etc. carried out during the evening and overnight period. The saving will be generated by reduction of plant and equipment.
4	Reduced Street Lighting Resource	Service Reduction	0.013	NM	2	The current standard of three days for the repair of every light, demands that a fixed level of resources is required by the service. By significantly reducing the standard for the majority of lights in the County whilst retaining it for those lights adjacent to vulnerable residents, e.g. sheltered homes - the number of staff required to operate the service and the number of vehicles can be reduced.
5	Remove second grass cut for highways verges	Service Reduction	0.020	NM	2	The current standard is to cut all highway verges twice a year. The proposal will be to reduce the standard to just once, retaining all cuts on visibility splay at the current frequency.
6	Final phase of public convenience review	Service Reduction	0.020	NM	2	Implement final phase of the service review as previously approved by Cabinet.
7	Pass Maintenance Liability and Cleanliness of Cemeteries to Town & Community Councils	Service Reduction	0.050	NM	3	The proposal is to pass all liability for the long term maintenance of cemeteries to Community Councils
8	Reducing Cleansing standard in the towns and enforce zero tolerance for littering 2015/16 Proposal Only	Service Reduction	0.000	NM	1	The Council currently has both CPE and Environmental Enforcement teams. Whilst numbers will reduce as part of the service review - this proposal would reduce or remove the service completely.
9	Diagnostic proposals Streetscene	Structural Review	0.050	NM	1	Following the Fleet Review the proposal is to engage a diagnostic partner to carry out a review of the operations within the highway service and make recommendation to improve efficiencies. Implementation of these changes will be on a no win / no fee basis
11	Probation Service to take on Litter Collections in some areas	Service Reduction	0.100	M	2	Currently all cleaning operations are carried out by full time Council employees. The proposal is to engage the Probationary Service to provide a resource on the Community payback Scheme to carry out this service on an SLA
13	Part night lighting in all residential areas	Service Reduction	0.030	NM	2	Introduce part night lighting in all residential areas. Subject to risk assessment lights will be turned off between 12pm and 5am.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.358</b>			

<b>STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION TOTAL</b>	<b>2.158</b>
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<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>2.158</b>

\* £1.7 m Capital Investment required for PV panels at Brookhill and Standard

CATEGORISATION KEY	Count Number	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	10	0.360
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	17	1.223
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/building	13	0.575

2.158



**Business Planning Efficiencies for Organisational Change Portfolio**

<b>ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE 1</b>						
No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
14	Deeside Library Relocations	Service Reduction	0.030	M Statutory duty for a comprehensive and efficient library service; proposals do not compromise this requirement.	1	Re-locate Mancot, Hawarden and Queensferry Libraries to Deeside Leisure Centre.
15	Community Asset Transfers	Service Reduction	0.544		2	Community Asset Transfer of: i) Connahs Quay Pool, ii) Holywell Leisure Centres iii) potentially rural libraries iv) building transfer of Holywell and Broughton libraries.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.574</b>			
<b>Ciwyd Theatr Cymru</b>						
1	Proposal to reduce shows and increase productivity	Service Reduction/ Service Efficiency/ Income Generation	0.150	NM	1	Reduction in shows from 8 to 6, combined with a reduction in staffing costs, and increases in income from productions and related activities.
<b>Total Organisational Change 1</b>			<b>0.724</b>			
<b>ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE 2</b>						
1	<b>Catering</b> Work process changes and office efficiency	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM	1	Review of the office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery.
2	Staff structural change	Structural Review	0.019	NM	1	Review of the catering service resources delivered to High Schools, Primary Schools, Residential Homes and Day Care Centres and the way the current service is delivered.
3	Stock management and control	Service Efficiency	0.077	NM	1	Stock control management system has now been purchased and its use is being embedded within the service to deliver increased efficiencies.
4	Increase meal numbers (income)	Service Efficiency	0.080	NM	1	Current performance and take up in schools is currently 39% with a recent study indicating that 43% should be a target that is achievable. This requires improved marketing and promotion of the catering service to increase take up.
5	Debt recovery (income)	Service Efficiency	0.010	NM	1	Manage more effectively the levels of debt relating to school meals and take appropriate action to tackle debt levels. This deliverable is now linked to a new debt process.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.191</b>			
7	Increased Growth	Income Generation	0.003	NM	1	Grow cleaning service into other areas such as leisure services, schools, care facilities.
8	Different model of delivery (mobile)	Income Generation	0.004	NM	1	Deliver a peripatetic cleaning service to areas of the County and in addition increase external market contracts.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.007</b>			
9	<b>Security/Caretaking</b> Staff reductions	Service Reduction	0.056	NM	1	Review undertaken for County Hall and close down at County Hall in place augmented by improved CCTV coverage around the campus.
10	Lock Down and Shift Pattern modifications	Service Efficiency	0.020	NM	1	Review position at Flint and modify service. Continue to review Mold service.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.076</b>			
11	<b>CCTV</b> Staff reductions	Service Reduction	0.040	NM	1	Rationalise service following a review to create efficiencies.
12	Income increase	Income Generation	0.010	NM	1	A number of strands relating to recovery of fee income from system users based upon a more responsive and peripatetic provision, and reductions in system maintenance costs.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.050</b>			
13	<b>Other</b> Campus Management	Structural Review	0.030	NM	1	Rationalise service following a service review to create efficiencies.
14	Maintenance	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM	1	Review budgets and reduce the level of maintenance to the main campus facility.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.035</b>			
16	Valuations & Estates Lease renewals	Income Generation	0.023	NM	1	Increases in rental income on new leases, renewal of leases, agricultural rents and grazing licences.
18	Office management	Service Efficiency	0.002	NM	1	Undertake a LEAN review of the office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice and increased use of electronic delivery of the service.
19	Estate management cost recovery (dilapidations etc)	Income Generation	0.005	NM	1	Increased and more effective recovery from tenants of dilapidation costs following tenant vacation of our property assets.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.030</b>			
20	<b>Property Maintenance &amp; Design</b> Reduce maintenance budget	Structural Review	0.150	NM	1	Review of the council's existing corporate maintenance budgets in conjunction with a reducing property estate, through rationalisation. The Councils performance in relation to its maintenance delivery is already upper quartile.
22	Office running costs	Service Efficiency	0.004	NM	1	Undertake a review of the office running costs, reducing accommodation space and service cost.
23	Office management	Service Efficiency	0.005	NM	1	Undertake a review of office processes and paperwork flows drawing on best practice.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.159</b>			
<b>Total Organisational Change 2</b>			<b>0.548</b>			

<b>TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE</b>	<b>1.272</b>
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<b>ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>1.272</b>

<b>CATEGORISATION KEY</b>	<b>Total 16-17</b>
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.728
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.544
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.000

**Business Plan Efficiencies for Social Care Portfolio**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
<b>Older People</b>						
<b>Learning Disabilities</b>						
5	Rationalise the number of sites where In-House short term care is provided	Service Reduction	0.140	M The duty to provide short term care is not compromised by this full year effect of the change introduced last year.	1	Rationalisation of short term care sites has been achieved and will bring about a full year benefit in 2016/17.
6	Consult on the potential to commission provision currently provided by In House Supported Living houses	Service Efficiency	0.065	M Duty to provide services for people with Learning Disabilities in appropriate settings; this model should achieve this.	2	Criteria developed to identify Supported Living projects that may have the potential to be effectively delivered by the independent sector. There are 6 projects that are being considered. The number of projects that can be appropriately recommissioned from the independent sector, precise savings and timings will be clear once consultation has taken place alongside market capacity analysis. Indicative savings are subject to consultation.
7	Develop a 'progression' model for Supported Living	Service Efficiency	0.250	M Duty to provide services for people with Learning Development in appropriate settings; these models should achieve this.	2	Adopt the progression model which supports people to live as independent lives as possible. This includes: • maximising technology as part of the support plan (telecare) • providing 'just enough support' in ways that build autonomy and personal resilience • maximise the use of Direct Payments • ensure progression is a key feature of 'transitional' arrangements for young people who have eligible needs This approach should improve peoples' quality of life as well as appropriately reducing support packages and the cost of support
14	Develop alternative approaches to in house day services and work opportunity schemes	Revenue Efficiencies	0.200		3	There is a variance in the care and support arrangements for clients across the day care and work opportunity settings. Some schemes support people with more moderate needs and have greater potential to move to alternative delivery models. Some of the services support people with very complex needs and the speed at which alternative models can be delivered varies along with the timescales and pace for releasing efficiencies.
<b>Children's Services</b>						
16	Service redesign in children's services	Structural Review	0.032	M Duty to provide Childrens and Safeguarding Services will not be be compromised by this redesign.	1	Review and realign structure within Childrens/ Safeguarding services.
22	Review commissioning with Action for Children	Voluntary Sector	0.035	NM	2	Bring together contracts with Action for Children with a view to negotiating a reduction of 10% for the Arosia and Family Project contracts and ending the funding for the summer playscheme and the therapeutic service
25	Managing the Childcare market	Voluntary Sector	0.016	M Duty to provide services for childcare sufficiency in appropriate settings in line with CSSIW regulations; this model should achieve this.	2	Renegotiate the level of service commissioned from early years child care providers/organisations (3rd sector) with support provided to those parents with greatest/critical need
26	Align expenditure to critical statutory provision in Children's Services	Service Reduction	0.100	M Critical areas of provision will be protected within this proposal	1	Review and realignment of structure within Children's / Safeguarding service area.

<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.838</b>
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<b>SOCIAL CARE</b>	
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>0.838</b>

<b>CATEGORISATION KEY</b>	<b>Total 16-17</b>
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	0.272
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.366
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.200

**Business Planning Efficiencies for Central and Corporate Finance**

No	Specific 2016/17 Proposals	Type	16-17 PROPOSALS £m	16-17 MANDATORY duties	16-17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness	Explanation
1 (new)	<b>Central and Corporate Finance</b> Reduction in provision for increase in pension contributions in 15/16 and 16/17	Service Efficiency	1.360	NM		1	Due to reducing workforce numbers the costs of the employers pension contributions is projected to underspend as part of the 15/16 revenue monitoring (£0.900m) and this position also impacts on the pressure for 16/17 (£0.460m)
2 (new)	Removal of Historical NSI Provision	Service Efficiency	0.350	NM		1	Removal of Historical NSI Provision. Underspend from 14/15 £0.240m and current estimate underspend of £0.110m in the current year due to continuing low inflation rates impacting on demand.
3 (new)	Welsh Independent Living Fund efficiency	Service Efficiency	0.300	NM		1	Grant will continue to be funded for a further year as a specific grant. This was a pressure within Social Services but has been moved in year to Central & Corporate due to it not being required in 15/16.
4 (new)	Additional Income Generating Activities	Income Generation	0.500	NM		3	Target for additional income generation to be achieved in 2016/17. Further work is being undertaken to identify potential sources.
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>2.510</b>				
<b>TOTAL CENTRAL AND CORPORATE FINANCE</b>			<b>2.510</b>				

<b>CENTRAL AND CORPORATE FINANCE</b>	2.510
<b>Total value of Business Plan proposals</b>	<b>2.510</b>

CATEGORISATION KEY	Total 16-17
1 = Fully Costed and Safe - Very detailed costings/modelling undertaken and the accuracy can be relied upon not to change significantly	2.010
2= Reasonably costed will need refining - The level of detail behind the costings/modelling is reasonable although further work will be required to ensure robustness and to deal with any changes in circumstances e.g. market conditions.	0.000
3= High level costing requires detailed further modelling - The figures are included at a high level with uncertainty around some of the significant detail e.g. further work required to develop a specific proposal such as rationalising services/buildings.	0.500

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**Budget 2016/17**  
**Council Fund - Revenue**

**Specific Grants**

		Budget 2015-16 £	Budget 2016-17 £	Variance to 2015-16 £	Confirmed (or Estimated)
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b> Non Delegated	Language and Play	58,376	0	(58,376)	C
	Teaching Induction Training	30,000	0	(30,000)	C
	Community Focussed Schools	97,877	0	(97,877)	C
	Community Learning	2,034	2,034	0	E
	Funding for Youth Work Training in Wales	22,000	0	(22,000)	C
	Youth Engagement Programme	50,000	0	(50,000)	C
	Youth Crime Prevention Fund	221,882	188,600	(33,282)	E
	YOT / Youth Justice Board	241,006	200,000	(41,006)	E
	School Uniform Financial Assistance Scheme	30,487	29,000	(1,487)	E
	Welsh Baccalureate	61,740	0	(61,740)	E
	Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes	87,320	114,000	26,680	E
	Youth Service Revenue Grant	126,756	126,218	(538)	E
	Free School Milk	179,773	269,403	89,630	E
	Families First	1,735,285	1,532,678	(202,607)	E
	Pupil Deprivation Grant	2,525,510	3,171,700	646,190	E
Education Improvement Grant for Schools	6,446,505	6,124,180	(322,325)	E	
		<b>11,916,551</b>	<b>11,757,812</b>	<b>(158,739)</b>	
Delegated	DCELLS (Post 16 provision in schools)	5,787,094	5,004,686	(782,408)	
		<b>5,787,094</b>	<b>5,004,686</b>	<b>(782,408)</b>	
<b>Social Services</b>	Social Care Workforce Development Programme	367,000	367,000	0	E
	Well Being Activity	10,000	10,000	0	E
	Flying Start	2,954,700	2,954,700	0	C
	Out of School Childcare	0	97,877	97,877	C
		<b>3,331,700</b>	<b>3,429,577</b>	<b>97,877</b>	
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	Concessionary Travel	2,058,000	2,058,000	0	E
	Local Transport Services	399,062	399,062	0	E
	Sustainable Waste - now Environment & Sustainable Development	3,006,226	2,943,729	(62,497)	C
		<b>5,463,288</b>	<b>5,400,791</b>	<b>(62,497)</b>	
<b>Planning &amp; Environment</b>	Safer Communities Fund	221,881	221,881	0	C
	Substance Misuse	638,139	638,139	0	E
	Crime Reduction and Anti Social Behaviour	31,566	31,566	0	E
	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator Funding	37,500	37,500	0	E
		<b>929,086</b>	<b>929,086</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	Supporting People	5,809,818	5,809,818	0	E
	Communities First	708,911	676,315	(32,596)	E
		<b>6,518,729</b>	<b>6,486,133</b>	<b>(32,596)</b>	
<b>Organisational Change</b>	Free Swimming	164,807	164,807	0	E
	National Exercise Referral	125,000	125,000	0	E
	NE Wales Play Forum	319,010	319,010	0	E
	Active Young People	541,638	541,638	0	E
		<b>1,150,455</b>	<b>1,150,455</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	LSB Development Support Grant	50,000	0	(50,000)	C
		<b>50,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(50,000)</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>35,146,903</b>	<b>34,158,540</b>	<b>(988,363)</b>	

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## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Council Tax Reduction Scheme
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) was approved by Flintshire County Council on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

There is a requirement for the Council to formally adopt CTRS for the Authority annually.

This report ensures that the Council meet its statutory obligation to adopt the scheme for 2016/2017.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Agree to adopt the CTRS and maintain the current discretionary elements for 2016 – 17.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME
1.01	The CTRS in Wales is set by Regulations made under Schedule 1B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (As inserted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012).
1.02	The draft Regulations were laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2015 and will be debated on 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 and, subject to approval, will come into force on 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2016.
1.03	These Regulations prescribe the main features of the Scheme to be adopted by all Councils in Wales. They ensure that qualifying tax payers may continue to receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill (depending on the level of their income).
1.04	The statutory instrument uprates certain figures used to calculate an applicant's entitlement to a reduction under the Scheme. They also make amendments relating to eligibility for a Council Tax Reduction and makes consequential amendments as a result of wider changes to welfare benefits and to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
1.05	It does not contain provisions to uprate the financial figures in relation to rates for working age, disability or carer as the UK is currently in a low inflationary period. This means that there will be a 0% increase in these rates in 2016-2017.
1.06	The statutory instrument includes amendments to Regulations to uprate figures in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal Allowances in respect of pensioner rates to align these with Housing Benefit;</li><li>• Non-dependant deductions in relation to income bands and deduction amounts. This amendment is required in order to make appropriate deductions from Council Tax Reductions to reflect average earnings.</li></ul>
1.07	These uprated figures have been calculated with assistance from the Department for Work and Pensions following the Chancellor's Autumn statement.
1.08	In addition to the uprating this statutory instrument amends the 2013 Regulations to incorporate a number of changes to legislation which governs interrelated benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 ("the 2014 Acts")</li><li>• National Insurance Contributions Act 2015</li><li>• Pensions Act 2014</li></ul>
1.09	There is limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional elements that are more generous than the normal scheme.



1.10	<p>Discretions exercised in the current Scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide an extended payment period of 4 weeks after they return to work, when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit for at least 26 weeks;</li> <li>b) Disregard the whole amount of War Disablement pensions and War Widows pensions when calculating income;</li> <li>c) Backdate the application of Council Tax Reduction awards for working age customers the standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.</li> </ul>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The cost of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is largely covered through direct funding from Welsh Government.
2.02	This is a fixed amount and does not increase year on year to take into account of the usual inflationary increase in Council Tax.
2.03	To mitigate this the Council budgets for a provision which for 2016/2017 is £317,000 to meet the inflationary increase which assumes an annual increase in Council Tax of 3.0%.
2.04	Based prior year trends, because of a diminishing caseload and costs, there is sufficient budget provision to meet fully the cost of CTRS.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None Required.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Based on current levels of claims and the cost of CTRS, there is sufficient budget provision to meet the cost of all awards especially given that the Council will set aside £371,000 to meet increasing inflationary costs of Council Tax Increases.
4.02	The service is demand led and the Council has no control over costs, however, there are systems and measures in place to closely monitor costs against the budget and to report any discrepancies in year.
4.03	The Cost of CTRS in recent years has not increased and in the current year there is a projected surplus, however this is not risk free as any changes in the local economy could result in an increased caseload and costs.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Jen Griffiths – Benefits Manager</b>  <b>Telephone: 01352 702929</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk">jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</b> – The scheme replaced Council Tax Benefit in April 2013. It is a scheme for people on low incomes to claim support towards paying their Council Tax bill. It is means tested and awards for eligible tax payers can be up to 100%.
7.02	<b>Housing Benefit</b> – A benefit for people on low income who require financial assistance with their housing costs.
7.03	<b>Personal Allowances</b> – Set by Department for Work and Pensions and is a calculation of need based on a set of personal circumstances which is then used to calculate benefit entitlement.
7.04	<b>Non-dependant deductions</b> – A non-dependant is someone who normally lives with the claimant, such as an adult son or daughter, relative or friend. A non-dependant deduction is applied to the calculation of Council Tax Reduction based on the income of the non-dependant.



## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Review of Discretionary Rate Relief
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although the Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) scheme is approved annually by cabinet, the principles of who gets rate relief and at what level, has not been considered in detail since 2010.

There is a growing need to carry out a full review of DRR awards and the opportunity to review the current levels of rate relief could potentially provide efficiencies for the Council and help to bridge the budget gap from 2017-18 and beyond.

If cabinet approves this review, alternative DRR schemes will be explored during the early part of 2016-17 which can then be implemented from 2017-18.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	For cabinet to approve the review of DRR leading to the development of a new scheme which could be implemented from April 2017.
2	Approve the dispatch of letters in January 2016 to all business ratepayers currently in receipt of DRR. This provides ratepayers with the statutory 12 months lead in time to revoke the current scheme and the existing level of awards before changes to DRR levels are implemented in 2017-18.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF
1.01	For Mandatory Rate Relief, relief of 80% of the annual rates bill is discounted if a ratepayer is a registered charity or a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and the premises are wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes. The cost of awarding Mandatory Relief is met entirely by the Welsh Government.
1.02	The current scheme also provides Discretionary Rate Relief (either as a 20% 'top-up' to 80% Mandatory awards or as straight Discretionary only awards) to 213 organisations. As a result, rate relief totalling £273,131 is awarded, the cost of which is split between the Council and Welsh Government. The Council picks up annual costs of £103,000 with the Welsh Government picking up the remaining contribution of £170,131.
1.03	For those organisations that are registered charities, additional Discretionary 'top-up' relief can be awarded up to the remaining 20% rate liability. The cost of funding 'top-up' relief is funded 75% by the Council and 25% by WG.
1.04	For Voluntary and Non Profit Making Organisations not registered with the Charity Commission, Discretionary only Relief can be awarded at levels up to 100%. The cost of awarding discretionary only relief is funded 10% by the Council and 90% by WG.
1.05	<p>In line with the existing policy of the Council, levels of rate relief are currently determined by the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premises used by for charity purposes by organisations registered with the Charity Commission.</li> </ul> <p><i>(20% discretionary 'top-up' is awarded with the exception of CASC's or charity shops operated by national organisations who receive only the 80% Mandatory Relief element)</i></p> <p><b>154 organisations currently benefit from discretionary 'top-up' relief at a cost to the Council of £87,612</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premises occupied by community sporting clubs, societies or other organisations used for recreational, social welfare etc.</li> </ul> <p><i>(100% Discretionary Relief is awarded with the exception of voluntary golf clubs which are awarded 50% Discretionary Relief)</i></p> <p><b>59 organisations benefit from discretionary relief at a cost to the Council of £15,388</b></p>
1.06	There is a legal requirement for the Council to provide ratepayers with one full financial year's notice of an impending change to the scheme or a decision to end or vary the level of rate relief already in place.

1.07	If cabinet supports the review of the current scheme, it will be necessary to issue letters to all ratepayers in receipt of discretionary rate relief by no later than 31/3/2016. This would give a clear indication of the Council's plans to review the policy. It would also provide the necessary statutory notice to ratepayers and also provide sufficient time for new a scheme to be drafted up and approved during the early part of 2016-17 ready for implementation in 2017-18.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	To bridge the budget gap in 2017-18 and beyond, business planning proposals for the Community & Enterprise Portfolio reflect the growing need to review the existing DRR scheme and consider the implementation of a lower cost scheme from 2017-18.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None at this stage, although if cabinet agree to review DRR there will be a need to consult further when a new scheme is formulated.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The future implementation of a lower funded DRR scheme could potentially result in creating financial hardship for some of the organisations currently in receipt of 100% rate relief but who would might be expected to pay some rates in the future.
4.02	To mitigate risks around financial hardship, section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act, allows the Council to allow rate relief to relieve hardship to any business ratepayer. The conditions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ratepayer would sustain hardship if the Council did not grant relief</li> <li>○ The award of Hardship Rate Relief would be reasonable having regard to the interests of Council Tax payers</li> <li>○ There is a requirement of businesses to satisfy the Council that it is not able to meet its net liability for business rates, usually as a result of insufficient income or bank balances, and that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet the rate liability. It is also important to determine whether enforced payment of the net liability would impact on the ability of the business to continue operating.</li> </ul>
4.03	If a ratepayer meets all three requirements and it is in the public interest to support the business, Hardship Rate Relief can be awarded – the cost of which is funded 75% by Welsh Government and 25% by the Council.
4.04	The review of DRR could also potentially impact on the development of existing and new Community Asset Transfers (CAT) as many of the

	groups who want to lease buildings or land from the County Council for community benefit, could be entitled to DRR at levels of up to 100% with the current DRR scheme.
4.05	If cabinet support the development of other DRR schemes that provide lower levels of rate relief from 2017-18, to mitigate risks and secure the financial viability of CAT'S, there may be a need to build into future CAT'S, additional short term funding to assist community groups with the cost of business rate bills.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Local Government Finance Act 1988 (sections 43 and 47) Hardship Rate Relief (section 49)  <b>Contact Office: David Barnes, Revenues Manager</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 703652</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk">david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Mandatory Rate Relief:</b> Where a business property is occupied by a charity or a Community Amateur Sports Organisation and the property is put to use 'wholly or mainly' for charitable purposes, there is an automatic entitlement to a 80% reduction in the rate bill, the cost of which is picked up by Welsh Government.
7.02	<b>Discretionary Rate Relief:</b> Voluntary Groups and 'Not for profit' organisations which are not registered charities are not eligible to receive Mandatory Rate Relief, but they are eligible to receive discretionary rate relief up to 100% (either as a 'top-up' to Mandatory Rate Relief or as an award in its own right based on the policy of a local authority).  To be entitled to Discretionary Rate Relief, organisations must satisfy certain rules and conditions where the premises are occupied and put to use for charitable or otherwise for used for philanthropic, religious, education, social welfare, science, literature, the arts or recreational purposes
7.03	<b>Hardship Rate Relief:</b> The Council, at its discretion, can sometimes award rate relief up to 100% to business ratepayers in exceptional circumstances who are experiencing hardship and it is reasonable for the Council to grant some relief having regard to the interests of local taxpayers who partly fund Hardship awards.

7.04	<b>Community Asset Transfers:</b> At its simplest level, a community asset transfer is a change in management and/or ownership of land or buildings from local authorities to communities (usually to community and voluntary sector groups or community enterprises)
7.05	<b>Community Amateur Sports Club:</b> The Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme was introduced by HMRC (HM Revenue and Customs) as an option for sports clubs to register with HMRC to receive 'charity type' tax reliefs providing that the club meets certain qualifying conditions. The scheme generally requires less regulation than if a sports club registers as a charity. Organisations that have CASC status with HMRC automatically receive 80% Mandatory Rate Relief for business rates.

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Welsh Local Government Association Manifesto <i>Localism 2016-21</i>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) has recently published its Manifesto for local government, *Localism 2016-21*, in advance of the National Assembly for Wales's elections to be held in May, 2016.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is invited to formally support the Welsh Local Government Association Manifesto <i>Localism 2016-21</i> ; and
2	The Council to engage with the Association and fellow councils in working with a newly elected Welsh Government in May to promote adoption of the Manifesto proposals in national policy and funding plans.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>MAKING THE CASE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>
1.01	The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) periodically publishes a Manifesto which presents the case for policy and finance reform for local government in Wales. The WLGA has recently published the latest Manifesto. The Manifesto is timed to influence the commitments being made by the political parties in advance of the National Assembly for Wales's elections to be held in May, 2016.
1.02	<p>The Manifesto, <i>Localism 2016-21</i>, calls for:-</p> <p><b>Clarity and commitment to partnership:</b> clarity from the Welsh Government about the future of local government, its roles and its responsibilities, and clarity around the plans and timescales for reform. A restatement of a commitment to partnership governance in Wales is essential to ensure that local and national government are working together based on clear principles or mutual respect and understanding;</p> <p><b>Fair and flexible funding:</b> councils need greater fiscal autonomy and flexibility to respond to local needs and priorities. Specific grants should be transferred into the settlement, and the Welsh Government should commit to multi-year financial settlements so councils can plan more effectively, and should fully cost and fund any new national initiatives or legislation; and</p> <p><b>Commitment to the principle of Subsidiarity:</b> the Welsh Government should commit to the European Charter of Local Self Government and the principle of subsidiarity, where the presumption is that power is transferred to the level of government closest to the people. The Welsh Government has a clear national strategic role, but councils want to see momentum behind the devolution of powers beyond Cardiff Bay to local government and to local communities.</p>
1.03	<p>In launching the Manifesto alongside the announcement of the Welsh budget by the Welsh Government, the WLGA issued the following statement:-</p> <p><i>"The WLGA has only recently published its <a href="#">'Localism 2016-21'</a> manifesto, which offers a 40 point plan for public services in Wales. Key to our call was the need to refocus resources on the local public services that make such an important contribution to alleviating the build-up of costly pressures elsewhere in the system such as in our NHS, and also the need for councils to be offered far greater financial flexibility in the future. It is heartening to hear these points acknowledged so strongly by Welsh Government within today's draft budget announcement.</i></p> <p><i>We have been clear that there is a need to rewrite the rulebook on how our councils are funded if we are to avoid a similar situation to that in England, where local public services have been cut to the bone and a number of councils face the very real possibility of being unable to meet even their most basic statutory duties. Today's (budget) announcement offers a glimmer of hope that a different reality can be written for vital local public services in Wales."</i></p>

1.04	Localism 2016-21, is accessible by following the hyper link in the background documents table or by visiting the WLGA website.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	None directly.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	All member councils, including Flintshire, were consulted by the WLGA in the development and drafting of the Manifesto.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	None directly.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p><i><a href="#">'Localism 2016-21'</a> Manifesto of the Welsh Local Government Association.</i></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Colin Everett Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702101</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):</b> the representative body of principal councils, fire and rescue authorities, and the national parks in Wales.

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## MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	School Organisation – Ysgol Llanfynydd
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Cabinet of the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd.

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to invite Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with a statutory proposal for school organisational change.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd.
2	Cabinet is requested to consider comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the reports.
3	Cabinet is requested to determine the next steps for school organisational change for Ysgol Llanfynydd.

### REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	In June 2015, the Cabinet determined that we enter into formal consultation on closure and other school organisation options for Ysgol Llanfynydd by September 2016.
1.02	<p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Llanfynydd as at January 2015 (based on the Pupil Level Annual School Census or PLASC) had 42 full time pupils with unfilled places at 47.5%. As of September 2015 the school population had 34 full time pupils with unfilled places at 57.5%.</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio); for 44% of pupils attending Ysgol Llanfynydd is not their nearest school, and</li> <li>• Small School Criteria – the school population and capacity of Ysgol Llanfynydd is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy.</li> </ul>
1.03	The formal consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd commenced on Wednesday 21 October 2015 and ended on Wednesday 2 December 2015.
1.04	The Council has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.
1.05	Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.
1.06	<p>During the consultation responses from the pupils, community, staff, parents and carers have focused on the following concerns, in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accuracy of data contained within the consultation documents;</li> <li>• impact on pupils/transition/friendship groups;</li> <li>• education standards;</li> <li>• capacity of other schools in the area to accommodate pupils;</li> <li>• admissions to other schools should Ysgol Llanfynydd close;</li> <li>• transport and traffic.</li> </ul>
1.07	As part of the consultation the views of children and young people have been sought. The pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd do not want their school to be

	closed. They have expressed concern that they will lose friendship groups. They have expressed concern for their teachers and about transition onto a new school. Other nearby school councils consulted were sad that the school could close but would try to make Ysgol Llanfynydd pupils welcome and would be happy to make new friends should the school close (see Appendix 2 Consultation Report).
1.08	Responses also focus on the strengths of the school, such as the family ethos and the inclusive nature of the school. These strengths are positively acknowledged.
1.09	Additionally an alternative suggestion of federation has been made by a number of consultees, notably the governing body. They want the Council to use powers to federate Ysgol Llanfynydd with another school. Governing Bodies also have the power to promote a federation proposal, but a key factor for success is having two or more willing partners. The Governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd have not identified a willing partnering school or schools with which to pursue a federation.
1.10	Neighbouring schools have confirmed that they have not and will not be bringing forward a federal proposal.
1.11	The Governing Body has also requested a reduction in its school funding formula allocation in order to demonstrate a lower operating cost per pupil. This is an innovative suggestion. However, the primary school funding formula was fundamentally reviewed in 2013/14 with full involvement and consultation with schools and other stakeholders including the Schools Budget Forum and Education and Youth Scrutiny. The formula must be applied consistently across all schools with any changes to the formula being consulted on and agreed. There is a primary schools funding formula group comprising Authority officers and nominated Headteachers which meets regularly to consider formula issues. A key ongoing concern from small primary schools has been to secure adequate resources to enable school leaders to fulfil their responsibilities.
1.12	It is for individual schools to ensure that they are deploying the funds allocated to them in the best interests of the pupils in the school at that time. Where schools do not fully spend their allocation in year due to staff vacancies they are entitled to carry balances forward, however, where balances are above 5% they are subject to "claw back" arrangements.
1.13	The consultation documents are subject to rigorous compliance checks prior to their publication, which includes verifying information provided by the schools and national sources (see Appendix 1 - Compliance Statement).
1.14	The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable learners such as those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). As part of implementation plans the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental

	preference).
1.15	The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close. This view is upheld by Estyn in its response. However, additional places can be established at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, at either no cost or minimal cost for that school to be available to all current pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd.
1.16	<p>Transport eligibility is determined by the Authority in which the pupil resides. Seventeen pupils who live in Flintshire would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption that pupils transfer to their nearest school (Ysgol Parc Y Llan) on the basis of the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the nearest appropriate available school is more than 2 miles away;</li> <li>• that the route to the alternative schools would be considered to be hazardous by the Council due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</li> </ul>
1.17	Estyn's formal response to the consultation confirms the independent inspectorate's view that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.
1.18	Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 6 January 2016 to consider the outcomes from consultation. The resolution of the committee was that comments be collated and presented to Cabinet. Comments from individual scrutiny members are included at Appendix 5.
1.19	Previous and current school leaders have worked hard to maintain stability within the school's operations and should be commended for this. However, pupil numbers have dropped from 43 full time pupils in January 2015 to 34 full time pupils at September 2015. This will not provide sufficient income to sustain high quality provision at the school. With such exceptionally low numbers the quality of the social experience within the school will also be limited.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There is sufficient staff capacity to prepare the detailed transition plans for pupils.
2.02	Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Llanfynydd, including teaching and support



	staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.														
2.03	The estimated net saving that could be achieved if the proposal to close the Ysgol Llanfynydd goes ahead, is as follows:- <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Saving/Costs</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Formula Funding Saving</td> <td>£94,542 pa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Costs</td> <td>-£16,150 pa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catering Saving</td> <td>£5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Net Saving</b></td> <td><b>£83,392 pa</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backlog Maintenance Saving</td> <td>£102,935 (5 year cycle estimate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Saving/Costs	Amount	Formula Funding Saving	£94,542 pa	Transport Costs	-£16,150 pa	Catering Saving	£5,000	<b>Net Saving</b>	<b>£83,392 pa</b>	Backlog Maintenance Saving	£102,935 (5 year cycle estimate)		
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Backlog Maintenance Saving	£102,935 (5 year cycle estimate)														
2.04	The estimated annual costs of transport as a result of the proposal are £16,150. However, actual transport costs can only be fully assessed once all families have chosen their preferred school.														

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	In addition to consultation undertaken in line with the School Organisation Code, consultation has also been undertaken with the Council's Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3.02	If the Cabinet decision is to proceed, the Council will publish a Statutory notice providing a 28 day notice period for objections. 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.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation business plans and manage risks in close detail. Reports are made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking, performance reporting and evaluation.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Compliance statement Appendix 2 - Consultation report Appendix 3 - Estyn response Appendix 4 - Statutory proposal anticipated timeline Appendix 5 - Comments raised by Education and Youth OSC

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
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6.01	<p>All responses from the consultation period (and responses received before the consultation period) are available in the members' library.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision</b>  <b>Telephone: 01352 704135</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk">Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>PLASC</b> – The Welsh Government Pupil Level Annual School Census is mandatory with returns for all sectors required every January including nursery, primary, middle, secondary and special. Returns are required every January.</p> <p><b>School Organisation Code</b> – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.</p> <p>The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code</p> <p><a href="http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf">http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Estyn</b> - Estyn is the education and training inspectorate for Wales. Estyn is responsible for inspecting primary and secondary schools and nursery schools maintained by, or receive funding, from local authorities.</p> <p><b>Federation</b> – The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation.</p> <p>The Welsh Government have brought in new regulations around federation of maintained schools in Wales. The Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 22 May 2014 gives effect to Council's powers to federate schools. (School governors already have powers to federate by choice under provisions introduced in 2010). These powers have now been consolidated into the 2014 Regulations.</p> <p>Estyn's definition of small school - Is a school of 100 or less.</p>

## **Compliance Statement in Relation to the Current School Proposals**

### **Introduction: School Organisation:**

The School Organisation Code imposes requirements and provides guidelines in respect of all school organisation proposals in Wales.

For all of the current school organisation proposals the School Modernisation Team have planned the consultations, decision making and statutory notices in line with what the Code requires.

### **Consultation Process Timescales:**

#### **RAG Status: GREEN**

The Schools Modernisation Team are required to ensure that timescales are adhered to in relation to school organisation proposals.

The timescale and process for consultation, decision making and statutory notice for the current school proposals have been checked and verified with Flintshire County Council Legal Team and through external verification through the Welsh Government Officers.

### **Welsh Government Consultation Documentation Checklist.**

#### **RAG status: GREEN**

In the case of all school organisation proposals, the consultation document **must** contain certain information in line with School Organisation Code, July 2013 (Document number: 006/2016).

A RAG checklist has been produced by Welsh Government School Governance & Organisation Branch for the current school organisation proposals. The RAG checklist document follows a colour coding system in order to highlight any missing information or areas which Welsh Government felt could have been dealt with more thoroughly.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant proposals have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

### **Flintshire County Council Consultee Checklist:**

#### **RAG status: GREEN**

When bringing forward statutory proposals the School Organisation Code provides a full list of consultees that the proposer should consult with during the statutory process. An internal checklist has been produced by the School Modernisation Team to assess if the required statutory consultees have been identified.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant consultee checklist have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

## Verification of Data in the Consultation Document:

**RAG status: GREEN**

The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:

- School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)
- Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.
- National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.
- GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.
- The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.
- Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.
- Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics
- Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales
- Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.
- Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.
- Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.
- Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis
- School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools
- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.

- School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DfE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.
- School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.
- Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41
- Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.

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# CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

DECEMBER 2015

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposer (the Council) to publish a consultation report. In this document the proposer is required to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Respond to these by means of clarification.
- Set out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

1.2 This report should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation relating to the proposal.

## 2.0 The Proposal and Consultation

2.1 On Tuesday 16 June 2015, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for Ysgol Llanfynydd with a future report to be provided to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation period commenced, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ended, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

2.3 In accordance with the code, the consultation documents were published on Flintshire County Council's website, Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015, and a link to the consultation documents was provided to stakeholders. A complete list of recipients can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.4 A special version of the consultation document, for primary school children, was also published on the Flintshire County Council website and provided to all pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd. Copies of this document were also provided to the school councils at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchgwyn CP School. Both versions of the consultation document can be found in the school modernisation section of the Flintshire County Council website at the following link:-

<https://t.co/Cn5xTEZMVU>

2.5 Hard copies of the consultation documents were delivered to Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchgwyn CP School for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Hard copies were also available on request and were either posted or collected from County Hall, Mold.

- 2.5 A post box was made available at Ysgol Llanfynydd for consultation responses to be posted and collected by a member of the school modernisation team.
- 2.6 The Council produced a response document (standard response form) to assist and encourage people to give their views. This formed part of the consultation document and was also published on the Council's website. The children and young people's version of the consultation document contained a simpler response form. The consultation response form was converted into an online survey using the survey monkey online tool. Links to the survey were also published on the website.
- 2.7 All consultees received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document, supplementary documents, and also the link to the online survey on the first day of the consultation 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.
- 2.8 Documents were produced in both Welsh and English.

### **3.0 Consultation events/meetings**

- 3.1 Whilst not a requirement under the Code, the Council held separate consultation meetings on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 with:

#### **Teachers and support staff and governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd**

Officers from Flintshire County Council attended these meetings. Officers informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.

A summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

#### **Parents/carers/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd**

The parents/carers/guardians meeting took place in Ysgol Llanfynydd. Each parent/carer/guardian received a letter containing the date, time and location asking them to register their attendance at the event.

The consultation event allowed for parents/carers/guardians to meet with Council representatives and ask questions or raise issues which were pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.

The summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

- 3.2 A school council consultation event was arranged for Ysgol Llanfynydd. The event was facilitated by the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator whose role includes engaging and consulting with school councils. A member of the school modernisation team was also present at the school council meetings.
- 3.3 Consultation events were also arranged with the School Councils at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Ysgol Estyn, Hope, and Bwlchwyn CP School. A member of the school modernisation team was also present at the School Council meetings. Abermorddu C.P. School, chose to facilitate their own meeting with the School Council to discuss the proposal.

The findings of the School Council meetings are set out in **Appendix C.**

- 3.4 The School Modernisation Team met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the nearby affected schools. (Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, Abermorddu CP School, Ysgol Estyn, Hope and also Bwlchwyn CP School).

A record of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors meetings are set out in **Appendix D.**

#### 4.0 Consultation responses

- 4.1 In total 153 responses were received before and during the consultation period. These included a response from Estyn in the form of a report. A number of responses were received on electronic response forms, e-mails and letters.
- 4.2 The table below show the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms (all online)	35
Children & Young People's Response Forms	40
Letters and E-mails	25
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	35
School Council Responses	5
School Governors Responses	5
U Tube Clip	1
Union Response	1
Estyn Response	1
AM and MP Response	5
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>153</b>

The number of contacts made pre and during the consultation are listed on the next page.

Method of contact	Pre Consultation	During Consultation	Total Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms (online)	0	35	<b>35</b>
Children & Young People's Response Forms	0	40	<b>40</b>
Letters and E-mails	10	15	<b>26</b>
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	35	0	<b>35</b>
School Governors Responses	0	5	<b>5</b>
School Council Responses	0	5	<b>5</b>
U Tube clip	1	0	<b>1</b>
Union Response	0	1	<b>1</b>
Estyn Response	0	1	<b>1</b>
AM and MP Responses	2	3	<b>5</b>
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>153</b>

#### 4.3 Breakdown of Petition Information

No	Response Type	No of signatures
1	Online Petition	1175
2	Handwritten Petition	433
Totals		1608

#### 4.4 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the correspondence received from adults highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The information is out of date. The pupil numbers in the school would not fit into any of the alternative schools. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and	42 comments

		incorrect. The Schools Capacity looks incorrect. The diminishing resources criteria is flawed. Projections for the school look incorrect.	
2	Impact on the community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community. Closing the school would rip the heart of the community. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	35 comments
3	Positives of the school itself	The school has many positives, it's a family school, and it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teaching staff. The Castell Alun Consortium arrangement is very strong. Strong connections of the school with Welsh culture and language.	34 comments
4	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is evidence that a Federation would work as the current Headteacher is currently being shared with Ysgol Parc Y Llan.	32 comments
5	Housing Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration.	16 comments
6	Alternative Provision and educational standards	The only alternative school that meets the current standards of the education is Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is not enough room for the full cohort to transfer to Parc Y Llan.	15 comments
7	Traffic and transport	Traffic will increase in the Abermorddu area. Transport costs do not seem to be correct.	10 comments
8	Impact on pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the current pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration, breaching UN rights of the child.	8 comments
9	Transition and timetable	Concern about the transition for pupils. Timetable for the proposal is a concern with only a term to make a decision which alternative school to send to.	8 comments
10	Family connections	Request that siblings should be able to attend this school. Family connections with the school and a number of families	7 comments

	with the school	attended the school historically. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	
11	Other schools overfilled	Overfilled popular schools should send their children to this school. We should be helped to promote the school.	7 comments
12	Impact on Teaching Staff	Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school.	6 comments
13	Financial information	The financial modelling seems incorrect. How have the Wrexham based pupils been factored into the funding? The school has been overfunded for a number of years.	5 comments
14	Impact of threat of closure	Threat of closure is putting other parents off selecting this school, making it hard to reduce our unfilled places.	4 comments
15	Comments supporting the proposal	Supportive of the proposal. There is clear rationale to support the proposal.	3 comments
16	Additional Learning Needs	There is a high percentage of Additional Learning Needs pupils in the school.	3 comments
17	New uniforms and bags	How will we pay for new uniforms and bags.	3 comments
18	Admission process	The admission process for the alternative schools is not clear. It's not clear how the risks for parents not being able to select their preferred school will be managed.	3 comments
19	Childcare	There is no afterschool club at Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, but there is one at this school. There is wrap around care available at the school through the Montessori Play School.	3 comments
20	Parental choice	Our parental choice is being taken away.	2 comments
21	School site	What will happen to the school site should the school close?	2 comments
22	Consultation Process	There was no community engagement.	1 comment

4.5 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the children's and young people's correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Positives of the school itself	The school has many positives, it's a family school, and it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff. We are a small school that can do many things, we raise lots of money for charity, we have lots of after school clubs.	83 comments
2	Impact on pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration, the upset that closing the school would have on us, concern over friends being split up.	82 comments
3	Family connections with the school	Siblings should be able to attend the school. There are many family connections with the school. A number of families have attended the school. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	28 comments
4	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn. There is evidence that a Federation would work as the current Headteacher is currently being shared with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, we are saving money.	13 comments
5	Impact on Teaching Staff	Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school.	10 comments
6	Impact on the community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community. Closing the school would rip the heart out of the community. The school has been in the village for hundreds of years.	8 comments
7	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The pupil numbers in the school would not fit into any of the alternative schools.	4 comments

8	School site	What would happen to the school building should it close?	4 comments
9	Alternative Provision and educational standards	There is not enough room for the full cohort to transfer to Ysgol Parc Y Llan.	2 comments
10	Housing Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration.	1 comment
11	Financial information	Savings would not be that much.	1 comment

4.6 An analysis of the frequency of issues raised within the children and young people's correspondence received from School Councils highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on pupils	<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils.</li> <li>• Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up.</li> <li>• Emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration.</li> <li>• The upset that closing the school would have on us.</li> <li>• Concern over friends being split up.</li> <li>• Sadness and anger should the school close.</li> <li>• It would be strange</li> <li>• New teachers would not know us that well.</li> <li>• Would be concerned about losing current friends.</li> </ul> <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heartbroken, traumatised, devastated, awkward, scary, nervous and shy</li> </ul>	144 comments
2	Comments supporting the proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed emotions.</li> <li>• Would like to make new friends.</li> <li>• It may be okay.</li> <li>• It may be nice to have new teachers.</li> </ul>	40 comments



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would be happy to make new friends.</li> </ul>	
3	Alternative suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should stay open and stay together</li> <li>• We should join another school</li> <li>• Build an extension</li> <li>• We could save money</li> <li>• Our new headteacher works in another school: that should save money</li> <li>• They could do some fundraising</li> <li>• They could get more pupils in</li> </ul>	31 comments
4	Positives of the school itself	<p>Pupils' comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has many positives, it's a family school.</li> <li>• It's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building.</li> <li>• The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff.</li> <li>• We are a small school that can do many things</li> <li>• We raise lots of money for charity, and we have lots of after school clubs.</li> <li>• We are friendly and happy.</li> <li>• We are an Eco School.</li> </ul>	18 comments
5	Impact on Teaching Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about what will happen to the Teaching and support staff at the school</li> </ul>	11 comments
6	Impact on Other Affected Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would have some concerns about the impact on our school.</li> <li>• We have full classes and some classes with spaces and would be worried about full classes.</li> <li>• We currently share our headteacher with Ysgol Llanfynydd - what are we getting in return.</li> <li>• Will there be a bigger bus from Leeswood to our school?</li> </ul>	7 comments
7	Impact on the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would rip the heart out of the community.</li> <li>• The village would be a ghost town.</li> <li>• We have lots of services at the local church.</li> </ul>	5 comments
8	Housing Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about the new housing developments in the local area?</li> </ul>	1 comment

9	Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has a good breakfast and after school club, not all schools have these.</li> </ul>	1 comment
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4.5 The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in **Appendix E.**

## 5.0 Response forms and correspondence

5.1 The standard response form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the proposal;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to the school;
- what alternative suggestions they would have for sustaining education in the area; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the standard response form is set out in **Appendix F.**

5.3 On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were responding as a pupil, parent, governor, teacher, support staff, local resident or other. Details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix F.**

## 6.0 Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the proposal and the Council's response to them are set out below. A full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G.**

Estyn Comment	Comments which require response
The proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.	n/a
Would be sufficient unfilled places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanfynydd. The proposer has demonstrated capacity within the existing four schools to manage this increased demand for school places.	n/a
The proposal outlines the expected benefits and disadvantages of each option against the key drivers of educational improvement, suitable buildings, unfilled places, diminishing resources and resilient school leadership.	n/a
The proposer have also recognised the potential impact of closure on the local community and have completed a community impact assessment.	n/a

The proposal appropriately outlines the reasons for discounting alternative options and the reasons for their preferred option. The Local Authority believes that longer-term benefits for pupils outweigh any disadvantages	n/a
The proposer has suitably identified the relevant risks relating to the proposal and has outlined clearly how these risks will be managed. However the proposer has not clearly identified how they will manage the risk of parents not being able to choose their preferred alternative school.	A bespoke admission cycle will be run by Flintshire's Admission's team in accordance with its admission's policy. The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close. However, additional places if required can be established at Ysgol Parc y Llan, Treuddyn.
The proposer has given suitable consideration to the impact of the proposal on pupils travel arrangements and their ability to access the provision	Agreed
The proposer has completed a detailed separate equality and Welsh language impact assessment	Agreed
The document also gives a detailed analysis of each school's most recent property building survey. These show that each school is in a similar satisfactory condition fit to effectively deliver the primary curriculum	Agreed
The proposer has undertaken a detailed equality impact assessment that carefully considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs and mobility issues. Where available, comments from the most recent Estyn reports from each of the alternative providers, judges their provision for pupils with additional learners needs as good.	Agreed
The proposer suitably recognises the potential additional challenge of change for many pupils and accurately considers how transition would be managed successfully these more vulnerable groups of learners	Agreed

## 7.0 Responses from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament

In total 5 responses were received during the consultation period from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament.

The table below show the methods Assembly Members and Members of Parliament used to respond to the consultation:

### Breakdown of Responses from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament

No	Response Type	Response from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament
----	---------------	--------------------------------------------------------

		AMs	MPs
1	Consultation Response Form	0	0
2	Letters and Emails	1	4
Totals		1	4

The letters from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament and responses from the authority can be viewed in **Appendix H.**

## 8.0 Responses from Governors

In total 5 responses were received during the consultation period from governors. The table below show the methods governors used to respond to the consultation:

### Breakdown of Responses from Governors

No	Response Type	Amount of Governors received
1	Consultation Response Form	1
2	Letters and Emails	4
Totals		5

The correspondence from governors can be viewed in **Appendix I.**

# **APPENDIX A**

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## APPENDIX A

### Consultation Document (Adult and Children’s and Young People Versions); Transport Assessment, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment Recipient List

No	Stakeholder	Number of Recipient List
1	Maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposal	20
2	Any other local authority likely to be affected Denbighshire County Council – School Modernisation Conwy County Council – School Modernisation Wrexham County Borough Council – School Modernisation	3
3	The Church in Wales	1
	Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	1
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Llanfynydd	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn	11
	School Governing body for Abermorddu CP School	11
	School Governing body for Bwlchgwyn CP School	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Estyn, Hope	11
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Llanfynydd	61
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn	104
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Abermorddu CP School	229
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Bwlchgwyn CP School	134
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Estyn, Hope	258
6	The Welsh Ministers, AMs and MPs	7
7	Estyn	1
8	Teaching and Staff trade unions	17
9	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service - Consortium - GWE	2
10	Regional Transport Consortium	4
11	Police and crime commissioner	1
12	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is subject to the proposal	4
13	The local communities first partnership	1
14	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent provider	1
15	In the case of proposal affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People Partnership	1
16	URDD	1

17	Welsh Government Schools Management	4
18	Local Members	5
19	Equality and Welsh Language	2
20	Local High School – Headteacher and Chair of Governor	1
21	Local Health Authority	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>919</b>

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# **APPENDIX B**



## APPENDIX B

YSGOL LLANFYNYDD 23 NOVEMBER 2015, 4PM

### TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF AND GOVERNORS MEETING

In attendance: Flintshire County Council: Ian Budd; Claire Homard; Damian Hughes; Steven Gow, Brian Rozier, Sarah Thomas; Jennie Williams. School staff & Governors: Joy Gladman, Emma Jones, Belinda Evans, Lowri Evans, Carol Pye, Samantha Hanmer, Dafydd Morgan, Martin Hanmet, Mary Nightingale, Louise Thompson, Barbara Connor, Dawn Westaway, Neil Worthington, Paul Whybro, Meilir Ashford,

IB Introduction and presentation. Points raised noted down. Make most of the opportunity to ask questions but also use email/letters to give your points of view  
Headteacher encouraged all to ask questions

Q: PW - Why have we ended up being reviewed?

I would also like to raise the issues of the maintenance costs and suitability on page 51 which quotes £81,000 – I would like to know what quotes and what does it relate to?

A: DH - Local Authority use an independent contractor who complete condition surveys and who are also qualified building surveyors. They refer to DFES guidance who use building construction indices to provide the Authority with estimated costs repairs and maintenance activities required on a five year cycle..

Q: PW - Would you not get 3 quotes

A: DH - The estimates provides the Council with a strategic overview of maintenance and repairs and enables the Council to prioritise maintenance programme. Priority 1 works would be looked at first, if the work was required then the Council would procure via competitive tendering.

Q: PW - The backlog maintenance for this site is not much money, when compared to the upheaval for staff and parents. My view is that the costs should be more precise. Also the school building provides energy saving and I would have liked to have seen this in the document. The document has been written in a negative way which I feel is unfair.

A: IB - We all want to see fairness whilst we complete this process. The document has been developed in line with the School Organisation Code and also checked with Welsh Government to see if it meets their WRAG status. The school has been selected for review on the grounds of unfilled places, diminishing resources and also the school sustainability against the levels of austerity facing the Local Authority.

Comment: NW - I was not aware that the school had a roof issue.  
DH - The maintenance and backlog programmes is a global assessment of the issues for a site, and are based on estimates, we can provide you with more detailed explanation of the roof situation from our Maintenance Team.

Q: NW - I have downloaded from the Stats Wales school pupil numbers, the number of unfilled pupil places and it looks to be in region of 451, is there something wrong with your statistics, and I am keen to understand your views on this.

A: DH - firstly the total schools capacity is reviewed, so we look the individual capacity of a school. The capacity of each school is formulae driven and also signed off by the school.

The surplus places of each school is calculated against the capacity and the actual school PLASC returns, this provides a global pupil surplus total. It would be helpful for you to share the figures either way to help understand what information is being referred to.

Q: DW - On page 40 of the document it refers to ensuring that the alternative provision under the School Organisation Code section 14 is of equivalent standard, looking at the information the only school that can be considered as an alternative is Parc y Llan.

Also on point 10.10 it states that there is no capital investment required, if pupils did go to Ysgol Parc Y Llan.

A: CH - There is a new Welsh categorisation model, and Estyn have graded Parc Y Llan as a grade 2. This is based on the quality of leadership and ability to improve and other factors.

Use of data can vary, a number of factors are considered when looking at equivalent standards.

Parents can express a preference to an alternative school, and parents would be advised to visit the school so they can understand their ethos and ensure confidence in the leadership of the school.

Estyn as an independent inspectorate produce their own report on content of proposal which looks at the standards and provides a view on the standards of education within the area, this will be made a public report.

DH - In terms of revenue funding for schools, funding follows the learners. In terms of capital funding, the Local Authority has a statutory role to ensure the right number of schools in the right condition. In general terms what most Authorities are appreciating is more parents are expressing a preference for a school other than their local school. The movement of pupils means that it becomes more difficult to manage the school estate. It is the Local Authority view that the existing schools estate could accept pupils without the need for capital investment.

Q: DW - Looking at the Admission Policy, it looks that depending on places there is no guarantee of admission. As a governing body we believe that the admissions policy is a concern.

A: CB: The Admission policy is managed by the admission teams, when parents are not provided with their chosen school because they are oversubscribed, then they can appeal against this decision, the panel is completely independent of the Local Authority. It is often difficult to manage school preference issues, and management of places compared to national legislation around admissions.

Q: BC - We appreciate there is information and guidance on these processes, but the document is full of jargon, leaving parents totally confused, in Annex A of the School Organisation Code there is an easy to follow format. Also the admissions school timetable does not match the timetable for this review. There is also missing information there is no mention finding a school place and no guidance on it. The admission system is supposed to minimise concerns. When we don't know the final date for decisions, and the school finds out in April, how are the parents and children supposed to secure a place elsewhere? There are 11 siblings in this school and very few places in each year. Also when do parents of nursery children know their choice – will parents receive a letter? Year 1 when do they apply? Will priority will be extended to siblings so they can attend the same school together? Is there any feasibility to be flexible with the admission process? With the decision due in Spring this is stressful and we have a duty of care on these families.

A: IB – The documents are large documents, which follow the School Organisation Statutory code, this was as result of a judicial review, so the documents have got more complex. The Children and Young Peoples document is much more accessible. The Admissions team will work closely with families as the Local Authority is the admitting body. The admission policy will be followed, and with any appeals the Panel may take a view and may warrant over admitting to a school.

IB - Aligning the timetable is difficult because of the national timetable that the Local Authority is required to follow. The Admission Team will complete a mini assessment process and will have dialogue with the school and local school network.

Comment: BC - Abermorddu C.P. School have a sign outside their school indicating they still have nursery places available. The uncertainty does breed panic. On page 43, it indicates that small schools face a greater challenge. The document fails to mention the Castell Alun consortium, and that we have been held up as a good model with links between primary and secondary.

Comment: NW – It was disappointing to see that federation for this school had such a small section in the document, and this also included the advantages of a small school, there were no costings on federation.

IB: There is a separate substantial document providing advice on federation, it provides practical advice around pay and conditions.

Comment: LT – I would be interested to hear the policy on sustaining rural communities, the school closing would impact on community, the school use the church, and there is a remembrance garden and Brymbo choir visit. This proposal has caused a lot of worry and concern in the community.

CH - no one wants to sit here discussing closing schools, however with the funding crisis there is a major black hole in budgets and this is why we have to protect learners by removing inefficiency from the system. There is of course a recognition the contribution the school makes to the community.

Comment LT – Closing the school would be a drop in ocean to the savings they are so insignificant, we can prove we can federate. The report is biased, why didn't we get more notice it's unfair.

CB - School budget forum should have done something earlier, the schools modernisation strategy has been in place since 2010, the policy has always been there, but the drivers for change have not been as pressing as they are now.

Comment NW – with the cost per pupil figure, the school has been overfunded massively, we have used this money to fund additional teachers to drive up standards. This has been in the region of around £35000, I think this is County Hall's fault.

IB: Schools budget are kept under regular review, and discussed through the primary Headteacher Federation. Future budget projections will see a 4-5% gap between funding this is due to increases in National Insurance, Superannuation and increases in pay awards. The level of cuts schools will be dealing with are significant.

Comment NW – we received the budget information for this year, and it was not as bad as we thought it was going to be.

Comment DW – The community impact assessment talks about the building and not people, the village without schools would have a significant detriment on the community. I think the community impact assessment was biased to buildings.

DH: We asked the Headteacher to complete information about the community links with the school, that information is not censored, the community impact assessment return is based on the headteacher questionnaire return.

Q: JG : I would like to ask about the situation with redeployment

MA: HR are going to stay behind to answer any questions if staff wanted to ask more individual questions

JG: Section 14.3 of the document talks about working with current staff what does it mean?

SG: Assuming the worst case scenario then staff would be issued with notice, this would be for the Governing body to confirm a compulsory redundancy situation.

There is also a legal duty to support staff to find suitable alternative employment, staff are provided with access to vacancies throughout the council. We do encourage other schools to work positively with those at risk but there is no obligation for other Governing bodies to take displaced staff.

JG: There is normally a windows in school year when vacancies come out, I have looked for jobs on FCC, Denbighshire and e-teach

<p>SG: I have to confirm that there is not a lot of opportunities out there and it is getting harder</p> <p>CH: The Local Authority and Governing body cannot stand in your way for you to find job opportunities, if the decision is made to close the school the Local Authority will act as an advocate on your behalf to help you find vacancies.</p> <p>SG: There may also be different scenarios for staff depending on their own personal circumstances.</p> <p>SG: The level of recruitment is dropping rapidly, also there have been lots of redundancies this year and last year, we will work closely to maximise redeployment opportunities, and ensure all at risk are guaranteed an interview.</p>
<p>Q: BC - Why have you extended the timetable?</p> <p>A: DH – the timelines have been working towards a closure date of September 2016, the timetables were an indicative draft programme, due to the complexity of documents, and preparations have taken longer than originally anticipated.</p>
<p>Q: BE – This is a good school its high achieving why are you trying to close it? One of our Year 3 has just been told she has won local eisteddfod champion of arts</p> <p>A: CH – this is not about the school not achieving on education standards, the drivers are around the financial budget challenge, and a time when the council has diminishing resources, it is just not possible to review every school.</p>
<p>Comment: EJ – I am a transporter for the school, and as far as I can see you cannot guarantee me work.</p> <p>A: No we could not guarantee work at this stage, as we have no decision on the schools future yet.</p>
<p>Comment: LE: Comments made about teachers workload in smaller schools I disagree with, as staff we work together to ensure the work is shared compared to larger school, we have less marking at the end of year assessments</p> <p>CB – we note your point, the challenge for smaller schools is that they often share curriculum leads</p>
<p>Comment: CP - But the school has high standards</p> <p>CH: The challenge for smaller school is how they can maintain standards, as budgets impact, and Teacher pupil ratios increase, Governors will have to make harder decisions.</p> <p>IB: The Cabinet will need to be confident that standards in the area will be maintained</p> <p>Since 2010/2015 the school modernisation policy has provided opportunity for governors to put forward sustainable proposals for their school, this includes putting forward any proposal in relation to federation with another school. In order for this be a realistic option, the governors need to identify a willing partner and pass a number basic tests, the proposal has to be resilient and sustainable, no one has come forward with this proposal. Federate requires more resources.</p>
<p>Q: SH: If the majority of children in key stage 2 and Foundation phase move would you consider the staff moving with them</p> <p>A: IB: If the transfer of pupils takes the school over their staffing rota, then the governing body of that school would consider that the existing staff would be a valuable asset, the funding follows the pupils, and it would be wise to look at staff</p>

<p>who are familiar to the pupils. We would support a sensitive approach to transition for pupils.</p>
<p>Comment: SH: If this is about saving money, I don't think the Local Authority is going to save money with this proposal.  IB: Budgets are based on the school funding formula, savings can be made if a schools federate in relation to their leadership costs.  CB: In relation to the building, the local community can make a bid for the building.  IB: The building could be transferred over under a community asset transfer arrangement.</p>
<p>Comment: BC - invite local communities 2030 budget demands  5/10years time  Hope building were going to education the children  Could be growth area</p>
<p>Comment – There are no issues with the children's education in Llanfynydd. Why don't you look at other larger schools which are failing?  IB – Just like to make it clear that there are no schools in Flintshire which are failing.</p>
<p>Comment – Pupils have been moved to Llanfynydd School and are now gaining confidence and doing well.</p>

DRAFT

**YSGOL LLANFYNYDD - PARENT/CARER/GUARDIANS CONSULTATION EVENT ,  
23 November 2015, 18.00pm**

**Council attendees:**

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Gill Yates, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas

IB welcomed parents, carers and guardians to the meeting noting their concerns and anxieties. It was stated that the review was to ensure that their concerns can be aired. He confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and shared with school and with decision makers. It is a public record and made available to all. All views will be shared with Cabinet members and these will be taken into account in their considerations.

IB advised that a Questions and Answer session would follow after a short powerpoint presentation and drew attention to council prioritisation of funding for learners and safeguarding of the vulnerable; £52m reduction in public services over next 3 years; a priority is low pupil teacher ratio; funding challenge ahead for the community to participate in; a challenge for small schools and how they could be organised in the future as they have to manage diminishing resources; the admissions process will assist families with their preferences; pupils with additional learning needs will be supported through transition arrangements with this school and receiving schools.

IB referenced the national admissions regulations, Flintshire's policy and how parents can apply for a space. Each schools has a year group number limit but in limited circumstances a right of appeal to an independent panel could be made; parents were advised of the link to Flintshire's School Transport policy on the web; pupils have entitlement to free school transport if they live 2 miles from their nearest appropriate.

IB stated that options for families would be worked through on an individual basis; the meeting was an initial consultation process to identify the issues; the indicative timeline was responses by 2 December 2015 with report back to Council Cabinet in January which will include copy of all correspondence from school community along with identification of the issues raised and council responses. The Cabinet will then decide to issue either a statutory proposal to close or some other option. There will be a need to publish objections received to a statutory notice. Views and objections can be submitted to the council in a variety of ways.

**Questions and Answers :**

IB asked the meeting to note some ground rules to help ; to avoid interrupting when another person talking; to avoid distracting side conversations and to respect each other's views'

**Q** – You refer to a 3 year cycle of financial planning ahead – why only 3 years?

**A** – DH – The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide the right number of places in the right locations. We do not look at 10/20 years ahead with the pending budget situation. We have to look at the holistic view with the cuts in budgets. We are confident there is enough pupil places within the local schools network for future approved housing development. DH explain how housing development is calculated (see 4.16 of the Formal Consultation Document)

**Q** – As one of the 44% who are not from the local area. Do the projections take account of the pupils who choose to come to this school from out of the area?

**A** – The projections are based on a 3 year average of nursery intake based on school returns. Projections are produced annually following the school statistical returns.

**Comment** – We have been looking at new strategies to increase the numbers at the schools i.e. the Montessori Play Group this might attract pupils and they then follow on into the school. – There may be the possibility of using part of the Foundation Phase classroom and using it for pre-school provision – we are looking to apply for registration.

**Q** - Number of children from new local housing developments in Hope cannot get into their local schools. Looking at all the information in the consultation document, I don't think that the council has taken into consideration what is actually happening on the ground.

**A** – DH – We work with the information we have available to us. Information about schools including their Capacity and Admission Number for schools is based on the standard formula across Wales 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'. Surplus places in the area are reviewed by returns we get back from schools themselves.

**Q** – The document is more about figures and surely this is more than about cutting costs

**A** – IB – The document has to provide information in line with the School Organisation Code, they are weighty documents and not always an easy read, but this is because of the legal requirements, information commentary on the quality of educational standards is also part of this information which is supported by GWe and also the national category system.

**Q** – I live out of the area and have two children in different schools. How can you ensure this doesn't happen?

**A** – GY – We cannot hold pupil places – it is not legal to do this. For example – A local primary school has reached it's admission number in some year groups. If parents/carers/guardians express a preference and there is available space for 1 child but the other year group is full. Parents/Carers/Guardians can go to an independent appeals panel. GY confirmed Flintshire County Council's admissions policy is the same for both Primary and Secondary Schools. There is no feeder school system going into secondary schools

**Q** – I refer to page 4 of the Formal Consultation document. How can you promise to maintain/raise education standards? The only option left for parents are in a lower category which is limiting the options to parents.

**A** – CH – School Categorisation is based on a number of factors which is why the schools have different categorisation, such as the number of Free School Meals, performance, additional learning needs are often not taken into account. If there are small numbers in a school cohort this can make the numbers go up and down, and this is no fault of the school. It is the Local Authorities view that all of the schools identified as alternative schools are good schools and require light touch support. CH advised that as a parent when looking at another school, it is important to visit and all consider all the aspects of the school such as its ethos. IB – There is also an independent report produced by Estyn who are statutory consultees during the consultation process. Estyn provide their own report on the proposal providing their point of view on the standards of education in the area.

**Q** – In the School Organisation Code – it says that you have to provide equivalent or better standards of education

**Q** – Llanfynydd's Estyn Inspection Report is based on old data, couldn't you of waited until after we had been inspected?

**A** – CH – The Authority has no control over when a school inspection will take place. Estyn used to inspect on a 6 year cycle but this does not happen anymore, and they are calling schools out of cycle. The report also includes information on standards from GWE School Improvement Service.

**Q** –You are only basing judgements on half of the facts.

**A** – IB - All education standards information and performance is based on information contained within the website 'My Local School' [www.mylocalschool.com](http://www.mylocalschool.com)



<p>There is a lot of different sources of information that are used to look at the standards of education.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – I am disappointed by the presentation as it contained no information on how to keep the school open, and the document is one sided and it appears the decision has already been taken, there are no options on federation. If I was reading the Formal Consultation document based on the information you have provided it would be difficult to justify keeping the school open.</p> <p><b>A</b> – DH - The Formal Consultation Document follows the School Organisation Code and has been checked by Welsh Government. The Governors/Community are able to put forward alternative sustainable options. This is a period of consultation and there has been no pre-determination of the decision that would be illegal.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – There is nothing wrong with Ysgol Llanfynydd’s roof and there is a maintenance figures of £80,000. Where has this come from?</p> <p><b>A</b> – DH – Condition Surveys of school buildings are carried out on 5 year cycle by independent qualified building surveyors based on DFES guidance who produce a report. The costs are estimates based on construction indices. The information is used to prioritise the council’s maintenance programme in schools</p> <p><b>Q</b> – Why have you published maintenance figures that are estimates why not get quotes?</p> <p><b>A</b> – If the works were in Prioritised the Authority would need to tender for the work.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Why has the original timescale slipped? This only gives us one term to decide where to move our children if the decision is taken in April to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.</p> <p><b>A</b> – GY – Once we are aware of the decision we will hold a mini admissions process but we cannot take this forward at this stage until a decision is made.</p> <p><b>A</b> – IB – Parents/Carers/Guardians will be able to express a preference for their child/children. If the decision is made to close Ysgol Llanfynydd a further meeting will be held with Parents/Carers/Guardians or individuals can individually contact the Admissions Team at any time.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – If a child lived 7 miles away but got their admission form in early would they get in before a child that leaved 3 miles away?</p> <p><b>A</b> – GY – Once a decision is made we will run a mini admissions process and look at all the applications together.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – If we decide to request a place at an alternative school now. Does that not make it is easier for you?</p> <p><b>A</b> – IB – The Governors of Ysgol Llanfynydd would not want you to do that until a decision has been made, it is important that the schools stability is maintained until a decision has been made. That does not stop a parental right to request a new school.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – It is testament to the quality of the school that only 3 children have not come back in September 2015. You ‘MUST’ be able to provide education – my child is in Year 6 and it is the right of the child to provide them continuity. Will Wrexham children be treated equally?</p> <p><b>A</b> – IB – With regard to admissions – Yes. With regard to transport this will depend in which Authority they reside. Children leaving in Wrexham will have to apply to Wrexham County Council for Transport.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Who is entitled to Transport?</p> <p><b>A</b> – GY – Pupils who leave more than 2 miles from their nearest school and pupils who walking route is deemed hazardous to the nearest school.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Why are you giving people from Cymau free transport to Abermorddu School?</p> <p><b>A</b> – GY – I am unable to comment on individual schools but it may depend on where you live in Cymau as Abermorddu may be the nearest school and deemed a hazardous route.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – You commented on the standards and the general feel and ambience for a school before, will Cabinet be taking your advice and visiting this fantastic school or will they be taking recommendations of the categorisation?</p>

<p><b>A</b> – CH – Cabinet Members have already received an invitation to the schools open day. It is up to them if they attend.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Will every letter/email be sent to Cabinet?</p>
<p><b>A</b> – DH – All correspondence both pre-consultation and during the consultation will be made available to Cabinet Members</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Would the school be left to go derelict if there is a decision to close Ysgol Llanfynydd?</p>
<p><b>A</b> – DH – No decisions can be made on the future of the building until a decision has been made on the future of the school. If the community wish to put a robust business case forward for community use they can do. If the decision is made to close Ysgol Llanfynydd, Education and Youth will declare the building/site surplus to education requirements and passed over to Asset Management Section.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – There has been lots of instability at the school recently and since Mr Ashford has been here the pupils are happy and they think he is funny – we are not against Federation</p>
<p><b>A</b> – IB – I am glad to hear that Mr Ashford’s leadership and his work has been recognised. Governors have the powers to Federate – if you can get a willing partner to work with and provide a sustainable option including working through the governance/leadership and staffing issues by 2<sup>nd</sup> December and provide as much detail as you can. Cabinet will have to look at this option. Governors have had the power to federate for some time, the Local Authority has only just been given powers to propose federation. Often the stumbling block for Federation has been finding a willing partner. During the last meeting we have checked with Governors that they have a full copy of the Federation guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Can Ysgol Terrig be included in this option of Federation as Mr Ashford is a Welsh speaker</p>
<p><b>A</b> – IB – There can be more than two federation partners, Governors would have to agree and be willing partners.</p>
<p><b>H</b> – It could be that federating with a Welsh medium school is more sensitive and controversial as it may be that school would want to preserve the welsh culture at the school.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – would that be your advice to Federate?</p>
<p><b>A</b> – IB – Governors can make the proposal to federate and the Local Authority can propose to Federate, but that does not absolve school organisation intervention, and we would still have to work through the process. If the school wanted to advocate Federation, then this would need to presented as an option and Members of the Cabinet would need to determine the schools future.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – I didn’t fully understand the timetable?</p>
<p><b>A</b> – IB – During the consultation period, responses to the proposal are collected, this is then reported back to cabinet, a consultation report is produced which includes all the issues raised during the consultation period and the Councils response to them. If the Cabinet decided to support that proposal then a statutory notice is issued, this is a legal part of the process which indicates that formalities around the school closure and on what date, with the arrangements for transition. The statutory notice is published for 28 days, during which time anyone can object to the proposal. Following this statutory notice period a post objection report is completed and then Cabinet make a final decision.</p>
<p>The process can stop via Cabinet should a new option come to light, this may lengthen the timetable for further considerations.</p>
<p><b>Q</b> – Are there 34 pupil places available in the local schools network?</p>
<p><b>A</b> – GY – There is available places in the other schools, no school is completely full, space depends on the school. Pupil numbers change on a daily basis as pupils move schools all of the time, so it would be better for contact the Admissions team to get an up to date picture.</p>
<p><b>Comment</b> - As most of spaces in Ysgol Parc Y Llan, if this school did close I would prefer the children to be together, as less disruption for our children.</p>

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IB – If the difficult decision was made to close this school, then the number one priority will be working with pupils and parents, alongside the local authority officers to develop transition plans.

DRAFT

# **APPENDIX C**

DRAFT

**Ian Budd**  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)

COPY



Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the afternoon of November 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

It was important that we met with you to understand how you are feeling and what your views are, in order to share these with Cabinet Members. Thank you all for participating in the session; for your honesty and heart felt answers. You gave us very mature feedback, and your behaviour throughout the session was a credit to yourselves and the school. Enclosed is a summary of the feedback you gave us for you to keep.

We would also like to thank you for completing the children's consultation document (booklet) before the session. If you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd, or if any other pupils in your classes raise any other important points, you can complete additional booklets and return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND. Or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) by **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**.

During the session the Chair of the Council asked about the cost of a play worker and whether the funding could be used differently. I can confirm that 'Playful Futures' is a pilot project which costs £4,500 is funded entirely by Welsh Government (not Flintshire Council). There is no cost to the school and the project is delivered for one term only.

Yours sincerely



**Claire Broad**  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



**Jennie Williams**  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)



Copy. Sent 23/11

## Ysgol Llanfynydd School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. What do you like about your school? What would you like to change about your school? Detailed below are pupil responses on the flip chart:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Small numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That are not many people in the school which makes it good</li><li>• Its quite small so you get a lot of attention</li></ul>	2
Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I love my school</li><li>• I love Llanfynydd</li></ul>	2
Building and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's a historic building that has amazing facilities</li><li>• This school has been open for over 150 years</li><li>• I like our school field because we are allowed to play on it. We do rugby and rounders</li></ul>	3
Friendly and Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe, everyone has friends, happy</li><li>• The people know each other</li><li>• We always have a great time working and its happy</li></ul>	3
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The teachers rule</li><li>• The teachers know all about everyone</li></ul>	2
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loads of activities</li></ul>	1

The children stated they did not wish to change anything about Ysgol Llanfynydd.

2. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Anger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Angry</li><li>• I would feel annoyed</li></ul>	2
Sadness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I would feel sad</li><li>• We'll all be sad but I would feel very sad</li><li>• I'll be sad!!!</li><li>• I think everybody would be very sad</li><li>• I've been here since nursery so it would be very sad</li><li>• Really sad inside</li><li>• If the school close I would be sad</li><li>• Very sad if our school was to close</li></ul>	14

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It wouldn't affect me because I'm in year 6 but I will still feel upset because a lot of my friends are here</li> <li>• Sad, all the friends may be split up</li> <li>• Sad, I wouldn't like it</li> <li>• It would be upsetting to see a historic building close that's been open for a very long time and nearly all my family went to this school</li> <li>• We would lose our memories</li> <li>• We spend most of our life and day at this school</li> </ul>	
Heart broken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would feel heart broken</li> <li>• Heart broken</li> <li>• I would feel heart broken</li> </ul>	3
Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't separate friends</li> <li>• It would be like it is taking friends away</li> <li>• I would feel that I would be alone in my new school for a week</li> </ul>	3
Traumatized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traumatized</li> <li>• Traumatized</li> </ul>	2
Devastated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be devastating to see our lovely school close</li> <li>• I would feel devastated, I have attended it for 8 ½ years and so has my brother so I have known this school for most of my life</li> </ul>	2
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't rip the heart out of our community</li> <li>• Without our school this village would be a ghost town and no one would know each other</li> <li>• This school raises loads of money for charity so if you were to close it, it wouldn't just be us it would be affecting</li> <li>• The school is lovely and safe</li> </ul>	4
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the teachers would have to get a new job</li> </ul>	1
Sad face / thumbs down		18

3. How do they feel about possibly making new friends? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Angry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angry face</li> </ul>	1
Awkward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be awkward</li> </ul>	1
Scary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would not like it it would be scary</li> </ul>	1



Nervous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would feel a bit nervous but hopefully it won't shut down</li> <li>• Making new friends is nerve wracking because they might say no!</li> <li>• I'll feel quite nervous</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
Hate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would hate it so much! No</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>
Don't do it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please don't do it</li> <li>• Don't do it!!</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>
Separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't want new friends I like my friends now</li> <li>• Boo! I want to keep my friends I've got now</li> <li>• I really like my friends don't break us apart</li> <li>• I would not like to be separate from my friends</li> <li>• I beg you don't separate us</li> <li>• How would you feel if you were separated from your friends?</li> <li>• I am in year 6 so it would not affect me but it will affect all of my friends and I do not want to be split up</li> <li>• Some sisters and brothers will break up</li> <li>• All of my friends might not see each other again</li> <li>• I would not like my school to close as I would always want to know my friends</li> <li>• Keep friends together!!!!</li> <li>• Keep everyone together!!!!</li> <li>• Please don't separate us please</li> <li>• Keep friends together</li> <li>• Me and my friends have known each other for a long time</li> <li>• I love my friend and my school</li> </ul>	<b>16</b>
Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like making new friends but it still won't be the same</li> <li>• It will be good but I would like to stay with all of my friends</li> <li>• It may be okay</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
Very hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be hard</li> <li>• Very hard</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>
Sad face /crying face / other pictures		<b>14</b>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please care</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>

4. How do they feel about possibly being taught by new teachers? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Themes	Responses	Number of Responses
Scared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would feel scared being taught by a new teacher</li> <li>Scared</li> <li>I would feel very scared!!! Boo!!</li> <li>Even though I'm in year 6 I'm going from a friends point of view and it would be scary because you don't know how nice they are</li> </ul>	4
Not happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not happy</li> </ul>	1
Nervous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would feel nervous, very nervous?</li> <li>Nervous!</li> </ul>	2
Strange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would be strange. Boo!</li> </ul>	1
Not the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It wouldn't feel the same</li> <li>It would be different because I would have been in this school for nine years it would be so weird being taught by new teachers</li> </ul>	2
Unlike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boo - I would not like it</li> </ul>	1
Unsure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I don't know!</li> </ul>	1
Fondness of existing staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I love my teachers don't take them away! Noooooo</li> <li>I love my teachers</li> <li>I really like my teachers don't take them away!</li> <li>I might not see them again.</li> <li>My teachers are amazing don't make them get new jobs</li> <li>I love (names of all staff)</li> <li>No!!! I love my teachers!!!!</li> <li>Don't take our teachers away. Boooooooooo</li> <li>I think they should not lose their jobs, it's not their fault if the school closes</li> </ul>	9
Concern about new teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They wouldn't know me so well</li> <li>I wouldn't like to be taught by new teachers because they could be really mean!</li> <li>Bossy</li> <li>Bossy, mean, not the same, boooo and moody</li> <li>Boo - Angry, [? ] poo, like nothing</li> <li>No Boo, get out of here</li> </ul>	2
Sad face, thumbs down, other		7
Mixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would be nice but nothing would be better than Ms Evans and Mr Morgan and the other staff</li> </ul>	1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even if the teachers we may have in the future are the [best?], according to people, I still like ours now!</li> </ul>	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!</li> <li>• Boo</li> </ul>	2

**5. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
We should stay open	5
The school should not be shut and there are buses that come to the village with no one on them	1
We should join another school	1
We should get more into the school	1
Our friends should stay together	1
How about building an extension	1
We could save money	1
The new head works in another school that should save money	1

**6. Would you like to say anything else?**

The Chair of the School Council shared his speech with the group which he had prepared himself as he felt very passionate about the school. A copy of the speech was provided.

**School Council had met prior to the consultation to discuss the proposal and they had prepared the following questions:**

I heard that the play worker cost money about £5,000 – why do we have them if we need to save money

Our schools has a good breakfast and after school club and not all schools have these

How much money do you think you would save by closing the school

Can you make savings anywhere else instead of the closing the school

By using taxis and buses this will cost money – would it be better to keep the school open compared to closing it

Do you really have the heart to close the school and separate siblings and friends

There is planning permission been given to build new homes in the area – where are the new pupils going to go to school if this school closes and Abermorddu school is full

Together we raise lots of money for charity for example for Macmillan. What benefits would closing the school give

We get loads of help from other teachers what would happen to them

What will happen in the future if more money is needed

What would happen to the school building if we closed

Should the buses be running if there is no one on them

I think the lights are turned off in the village after a certain time that would save money

1. If you are taking our headteacher away  
what our you gonna give us?

2. Why dont your pupils come to  
our school?

3. ~~If~~ If ~~what~~ <sup>(handwritten)</sup> children  
what will you give us in  
return?

If the Children come here

- Asferd would have get more  
aff and <sup>more</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>moneys</sup> ~~money~~ so will you  
ive us some more

lONEY!!!

3. We will have to lay on a  
gger bus.

Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

Flintshire threat of closure meeting

Recently you have threatened to close our great school down because you need more money but why would you close this great eco friendly historic school! Here are some reasons why our school is so great and why you shouldn't close it down:

- Our school raises a lot of money for charity each year e.g for Macmillan we raised over £200, for comic relief we raised over £100 and on our welly walk for motor neurone disease we raised over £150 therefore if you closed our school we wouldn't raise thousands of pounds for charity.
- Our school has a massive impact on the community and if it wasn't for this school most of the parents and pupils wouldn't know each other. We also have lots of services with the church
- Our school is very eco friendly and has got its second green flag better than most schools which shows how much this school can accomplish even though it is small.
- The pupils, teachers, parents, governors and all the other people related with the school all have a great relationship with each other and this schools all mean a lot to them. Our school may be the smallest but ours means the most to all of them and means the most to me.

So why would you close down this amazing school! I'm in year 6 so it wouldn't affect me if the school was to close but that doesn't make me one bit relaxed because it's my school and I'm going to fight for it!







# Flintshire village school closure threat sparks fury from parents

“We’re not going down without a fight” – that’s the message from defiant parents of children at a closure-threatened school.

Yesterday the [Daily Post](#) reported the future of three primary schools had been thrown into doubt and that a question mark could soon hang over another four amid Flintshire council’s latest education shake-up.

The local authority is considering the potential closure of [Ysgol Maes Edwin](#), [Ysgol Llanfynydd](#) and [Ysgol Mornant](#) by September 2016.

Council leaders also intend to carry out an area review which will shape proposals for the future of Brynford, Lixwm and Nercwys Voluntary Aided primary schools and Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Parents, grandparents and supporters of Ysgol Maes Edwin in [Flint](#) Mountain reacted furiously to the proposal and launched an online petition and Facebook campaign group within hours of hearing the news.

A group of campaigners spent this afternoon collecting signatures on a written petition in the village and met at the school to discuss future action, including holding a peaceful protest outside the council’s cabinet meeting next week.



Flint Mountain Primary School

Mum-of four Barbara Masters, who launched the online petition and is spearheading the fight to prevent the potential closure, said: “We’re not going down without a fight. People feel really passionate about this school.



“It’s not even been 24 hours and we’ve got more than 400 signatures on the online petition and more than 500 on the Facebook group – it’s overwhelming.

“We’ll be holding a peaceful protest on Tuesday and will be contacting the other schools so we can make a stand together.”

### **"Shocked and stunned"**

Headteacher John Plunkett said he was “shocked and stunned” when he learned of the council’s proposals.

He said the supportive reaction from parents, pupils and the local community had been “incredible”.

Mr Plunkett added: “Our school currently has 73 pupils on roll. This represents a significant year-on-year growth in terms of pupils numbers since 2008 when we had 17 pupils on roll.

“Our school has an admission number of ten pupils per year group. We have space for one pupil in year three and one pupil in year six.

“We are currently over-subscribed in all other year groups. There is very little surplus capacity.

“Today, I have sat the pupils down and explained to them what is happening. Their reaction was one of deep shock and upset.”

The proposals form part of Flintshire council’s ongoing School Modernisation Strategy, which aims to improve education in the county and tackle unfilled places.

### **Cabinet Approval**

A report to the cabinet by Ian Budd, chief officer for education and youth, recommends that they enter into formal consultation “on closure and other school organisation options” for the three schools.

The reorganisation options could include creating federations, where two or more schools are governed under a single body, or amalgamation.

Mr Budd is also seeking approval from the cabinet – due to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday – to press ahead with the review of the four other schools, which could result in recommendations being put forward by January next year.

Ysgol Llanfynydd and Ysgol Mornant refused to comment.



# WATCH: Closure-threatened Hope recycling centre given 'stay of execution'



-->

Campaigners have won a temporary reprieve in their fight to save a recycling centre in Hope after Flintshire County Council gave it a "stay of execution".

The council had proposed shutting the facility, which costs £125,000 a year to operate, from June 1 as it struggles to find £18m worth of budget cuts for 2015/16.

More than 20 protesters from [Caergwrle](#) Community Action Group greeted councillors before today's meeting waving placards and shouting "save our tip".

It followed another [peaceful protest on Saturday outside the Hope recycling centre](#).

Community councillor for [Hope](#) Christine Cunnah told how she had been approached by more than 400 residents over the controversial plans while other protesters told of their concerns that closing the facility would increase fly-tipping in the area.

But members of the council's Cabinet today decided to temporarily postpone their decision to allow for more consultation to take place, including looking at proposals to keep it open at weekends only which would cost £80,000 a year.

## Changes to bin collections and other recycling centre opening times

Councillors also voted through plans to reduce opening hours at [Flint](#) and [Connah's Quay](#) recycling centres from seven days a week to just Saturday, Sunday and Monday from June 1.

Other changes include the introduction of a charge hand on each bin collection round who will sign off each street once collections have been completed in the hope it will reduce missed bin collections.

Residents will also now be charged for having more than one brown bin (garden waste) while the council will only collect garden waste between March 1 and November 30, as of December 1.





Dave Healey of Hope, who was among the campaigners opposing the Hope centre closure, said after the meeting: "I am pleased that they have not gone ahead with the closure today, but the community need to remain vigilant. This is just a stay of execution. It is in no terms a victory. We need to keep fighting this."

Cllr Kevin Jones told the meeting it was no longer "affordable" to keep Hope recycling centre open.

He said: "Hope is the worst performer in the whole county in terms of recycling. It is very small and we cannot put sufficient kit in there to develop it.

"We did look at an option to restrict the site to recycling only but given the poor performance and the restriction on space it was deemed that option was not affordable."





## **Council leader 'fearful' for future of other services if cuts continue**

Council leader Aaron Shotton said he understood residents' anger over the proposed closure and said he was "fearful" for the future of services in years to come if financial cuts continue.

He told of his "concern" the Caergwrle ward may currently be under-represented following [the death of Cllr Stella Jones](#) and suggested the decision over closure should be deferred until a new representative was elected on May 7.

While several councillors voiced their support for deferral, Cllr Derek Butler said it had already been discussed "at length" and the site in Hope should not be given "credence" over other communities.

Chief executive of [Flintshire County Council](#) Colin Everett said: "It does need a rigorous and hard business case review, we will look at the possibilities, but we will look at the realities too."

The decision over the centre, which was destined to close by June 1, is expected to be made by Cabinet on June 16.



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# the Leader



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## Llanfynydd school closure 'would destroy community'

Published date: 10 July 2015 |

Published by: Romilly Scragg

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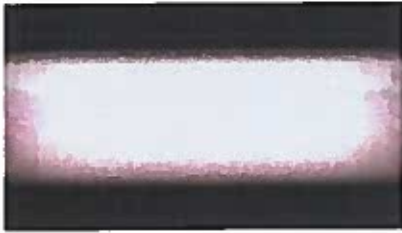
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**A SCHOOL governor has accused education bosses of producing policies fit only for lighting a fire.**

ADVERTISING



Parents with children joined governors and staff from Llanfynydd Church in Wales Primary to protest at proposals which could see the school close as part of reorganisation plans.

Campaigners met councillors with protest placards outside County Hall in Mold yesterday ahead of a meeting of Flintshire Council's education and youth overview and scrutiny committee and said now was the wrong time to even consider closing schools.

School parent governor Paul Whybro said closing the school closed contradicted policies which spoke of protecting rural communities and wife Elaine warned that closing the school would mean destroying a community that was resilient. Flintshire Council has begun a consultation into the "closure and other school organisation options" for Ysgol Llanfynydd as well as Ysgol Maes Edwin in Flint and Ysgol Mornant in Gwespyr.

According to the council's education chief Ian Budd, the three schools earmarked for closure meet the "diminishing resource criteria" – when schools raise concern regarding sustainability within the schools portfolio, higher costs per pupil, and unnecessary building and administration costs because of dwindling numbers.

But Mr Whybro from Minera said a lot of people were "pretty devastated" at what was being proposed.

"We can't understand why they want to undertake this process now."

With the current Welsh Government review of county councils likely to see Flintshire merge with Wrexham and possibly also Denbighshire in the coming years, he said the timing was "strange".

Parent governor Louise Thompson said the school was a central part of the community along with the pub, church, garage and post office.

"They all feed off each other," she said. "Footfall through the village will fall if the school closes.

"The school has play equipment for the children to use at other times. The village has no other play facilities – there's no park."

The school also offers a breakfast club, after-school club and French club and has additional facilities for children with disabilities.

Parent Ruth Hodson, who has two children at the school, said she was told that alternative schools could not offer places for both infant and junior children but added that she had chosen Llanfynydd because it was "a brilliant school".

Mr Whybro added: "If you look at the county's policy documents, it's all motherhood and apple pie but when it comes to the crunch, they don't apply it.

"It takes thousands of hours of officers' time to produce these plans and, in the end, you may as well use them to light your fire."

"They say they want resilient and cohesive communities," said Mrs Whybro, "and yet they're willing to destroy one that is resilient. They're contradicting their vision."

Mrs Thompson said members of the committee meeting including Cllr Ian Roberts and Cllr Dave Healey encouraged campaigners to put a case together, telling them "it's not a foregone conclusion".

For more news from across the region visit [newsnorthwales.co.uk](http://newsnorthwales.co.uk)

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22

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## From the Web

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**Dylan** - I live in Llantynydd and I think that the school plays an important part in the community. We do a lot together like hold events to raise money for charities, for example Macmillan. Apart from saving money, what other benefit would school closure have? I don't think there would be any benefits at all!

8

**Beth** - Llanfynydd has good breakfast and afterschool clubs. Not all schools have these! Why wouldn't you want to keep a school with such good facilities open?

2

**Megan** - Do you really have the heart to separate siblings and friends?

6

**Information** - what makes Ysgol Llanfynydd so good?

**Archie** - Why do you need so much money? Why are you in debt?

10

7

Ferne + Are there savings that can be made elsewhere?

Lilly - Using taxis and buses to take children to different schools will cost Flintshire County Council a lot of money. Surely it would make more sense to keep the school open?!

5

Hari - Planning permission has been given to build new homes in the local area. Which school would you expect these children to go to? Abermoddu is full!

7

Josh - How much money do you think you would save by closing the school? Is it really worth it?

3

Toby - We get loads of help from all the teachers. What would happen to ~~our teachers?~~ them?

9



T.H.A

22/10/15 meeting called by head teacher.

The Present Sophie, Emily, Danny, Seren, Emily, Jacob,  
agenda Joseph, Oliver, Kirstyn.

1. Ysgol Hanfynydd consultation document.

The meeting discussed this document,  
filled in the children's vision on behalf  
of all pupils.

The head teacher read through the document  
and left the meeting while we decided  
if we wanted to resubmit.

The document was completed and sent to  
county hall.

Meeting closed 9:45 am.



# Ysgol Llanfynydd Consultation Document

Children's version

2015



# Who are we?

Flintshire County Council are responsible for all the schools in our area.

We are part of a team that work for the Council to support schools.



# Our Aims

- To give all children the best chance to learn in excellent schools in our area.
- To have safe and strong school buildings.
- To make sure money for children and schools in our area is spent in a fair way.
- To give everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard and listened to, in decisions that affect them.



# Changes

It is not always possible for every school to stay as they are and sometimes this means the Council needs to make some important changes.

Changes can help to give everyone the best chance to learn, in the best possible school.



# What does this mean?

This could mean that Ysgol  
Llanfynydd may close in the future.

If Ysgol Llanfynydd was to close, you  
would go to a different school near to  
your home address in Flintshire or  
Wrexham.



# What would change?

If you were to go to a different school, your classroom would change and you would have a new teacher. You would also have a new school uniform.





# How long do things take?

October 2015

December 2015

January 2016

September 2016

page 249

1. People tell us what they think.

2. We collect all the responses and tell everyone what the main comments are.

3. The Council will have a meeting to decide what to do. We will then let everyone know what the decision is.

4. Any changes agreed will start from this date.



# Want to find out more?

If you want to find out more, there is information in a much bigger document on the internet for parents, teachers and members of your school community. Log on to:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)



# What do you think?

It is very important that we talk to lots of different people about this idea, especially children. Your opinion is important to us.

In this booklet you can write down anything you want to tell us and any ideas you may have.



# Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Abermawddu C.P. school

Student council representing  
all pupils aged 4-11

Please write your answers in the box.



How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close?

The Student council had some concerns about the impact on our school

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



# Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

We are sad but we  
can't think of an alternative

Please tell us what you think  
by writing your answers in  
the box.



# Would you like to say anything else?

We have full classes  
and classes with spaces we  
are worried about the  
impact on full classes

Please write your answer in the box.



# What Happens Next?

Please post your completed booklet to us by Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept anything you send us after this date.

**Address:** Schools Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND.

Or you can Email your comments to:  
[21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)





**Thank you**





## Bwlchwyn CP School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Angry	1
Not fair	1
Sad (including 5 sad faces)	10
Other:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think if the school closes it would be hard for the kids to get to a new school and their parents will have to take time off and won't be able to earn money (sad face)</li> <li>• Stay open (smily face)</li> </ul>	1  1

2. How would you feel about making new friends? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Happy	4
Good	2
Hard for them	2
Worried	1
Shy	1
Awkward	1
They would be frightened	1
Other:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golden Moment box is where you get notes that you see and have been good.</li> <li>• Worry pig is where you put your worries into</li> </ul>	1  1

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
The school could do some fundraising	4
Could they find new ways to get new pupils in	2
Could make the school exciting	1
The looks great	1
Could make the school bigger	2

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

The school looks amazing it should not really close

Do they have different class sizes

How many classrooms do they have

The school could visit other schools and could share ideas

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the afternoon of November 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) **this has to be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely



**Claire Broad**  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



**Jennie Williams**  
Project Officer – School Modernisation



## Ysgol Estyn School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Happy	4
I don't mind	1
Sad	9
Other:	1

2. How would you feel about new pupils starting at Estyn? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

	Number of Responses
Happy about making new friends	3
Happy (including SMILEY FACES)	10
Shy	1
Sad	1
Other: I don't know some people	1

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
Money could be raised for the school so that it doesn't close	1
Could make the school bigger and extend it so more pupils can go	2
Could advertise for more children	1

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

Nothing was raised



**Ian Budd**  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Your Ref Eich Cyt

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad

17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am

Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union

01352 704015

Fax Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) **this has to be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)



## Ysgol Parc y Llan School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Llanfynydd were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Happy	3
Mixed emotions	4
Sad	1
Other: The school would need to pay out more money if there were more pupils and buy more equipment. Pupils wouldn't learn anymore if the school was to close.	3

2. How would you feel about new pupils starting at Ysgol Parc y Llan? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

	Number of Responses
Happy about making new friends	2
Happy (SMILEY FACE)	2
Mixed (great but wouldn't want to lose current friends)	1
Not happy (incase loose current friends)	1

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
Send some pupils from the biggest school in Flintshire (Ysgol Bryn Coch) to Ysgol Llanfynydd	1
Could extend their school to make it bigger?	1
Could their school join together with another school with different school buildings but do the same fund raising?	1
Could the school join together with another school in the same building?	1

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

**School Council had met prior to the consultation to discuss the proposal and they had prepared the following questions:**

- What do we get back for our Head teacher working 2 days a week at Ysgol Llanfynydd?
- Why do the children not come here?
- What will we get in return if we get new children?
- Will we get more staff and more money?
- Will there be a bigger bus from Leeswood to our school as there is sometimes no room on it?

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Llanfynydd or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) **this has to be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely



Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation



# **APPENDIX D**

## APPENDIX D

**Llanfynydd C.P. School**  
**Proposal to close Llanfynydd C.P. School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 2.00 p.m. at County Hall, Mold**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
Jennie Williams, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
Meilir Ashford, Headteacher, Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn  
Sue Williams, Headteacher, Bwlchgwyn C.P. School (Wrexham County)  
Alison Fisher, Chair of Governors, Bwlchgwyn C.P. School (Wrexham County)

		ACTION
1.	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Dafydd Ifans, Head of Education Transformation and Workforce Development, Wrexham County Borough Council	
2.	<b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b>  DH welcomed the group and advised that he will be meet with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected schools Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Abermorddu on Wednesday, 18th November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at Ysgol Estyn.	
3.	<b><u>School Modernisation</u></b>  DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a>  As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li><li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li><li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li><li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li><li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li><li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li></ul>	



	<p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Consultation Documents</u></b></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a> or hard copies are available on request by either emailing <a href="mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk">21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk</a> or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>DH asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Parc Y Llan and Bwlchgwyn for confirmation on the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents.</li> <li>• 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school.</li> <li>• The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link.</li> </ul> <p>Ysgol Parc Y Llan and Bwlchgwyn confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/</p>	

	<p>Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via an A5 hard copy note advising of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Parc Y Llan Treuddyn confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Parc Y Llan on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Bwlchgwyn C.P. confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams were meeting with the School Council of Bwlchgwyn C.P. on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 1.00 p.m.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Revised Timeline</u></b></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Llanfynydd C.P. showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></b></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	

**Llanfynydd C.P. School**  
**Proposal to close Llanfynydd C.P. School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at Ysgol Estyn, Hope**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
 Jennie Williams, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
 Gareth Jones, Headteacher, Ysgol Estyn, Hope  
 Chair of Governors, Ysgol Estyn, Hope  
 Ian Roberts, Headteacher, Ysgol Estyn, Hope

		ACTION
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he will be meet with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected schools Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn and Bwlchgwyn C.P. on Tuesday, 17th November 2015 at 2.00 p.m. in County Hall, Mold.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>School Modernisation</u></b></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a></p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li> <li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul>	

	<p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Consultation Documents</u></b></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a> or hard copies are available on request by either emailing <a href="mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk">21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk</a> or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>DH asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Abermorddu C.P. for confirmation on the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents.</li> <li>• 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school.</li> <li>• The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Ysgol Estyn, Hope and Bwlchgwyn C.P. confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/ Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via an A5 hard copy note advising of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Estyn, Hope confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Estyn, Hope on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Abermorddu C.P. confirmed that the school had carried out their own consultation with the School Council and would provide the notes to the School Modernisation Team.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Revised Timeline</u></b></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Llanfynydd C.P. showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></b></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	

# **APPENDIX E**

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## APPENDIX E

### Summary of Issues and Responses

#### Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer groups and siblings may be split up.</li> <li>• Breaches the UN rights of the child.</li> <li>• Children will lose friends.</li> <li>• Distress and psychological impact.</li> <li>• Detrimental effect on pupils.</li> <li>• Children will be heartbroken.</li> <li>• Transition and how it can be managed successfully for vulnerable learners.</li> <li>• Timeline changes means less time to find a new school.</li> <li>• There is a high % of additional learning children at the school.</li> <li>• Some pupils have already transferred from large primary schools.</li> <li>• Wish not to send child to large primary school.</li> </ul> <p>Positive Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our school would welcome any pupils wishing to transfer.</li> </ul>	<p><b>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Llanfynydd be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A marginally longer route to school for pupils who reside in the Llanfynydd area</b></li> <li>• <b>A shorter journey time for pupils who reside in the Wrexham area</b></li> <li>• <b>A new school uniform</b></li> <li>• <b>New teachers and support staff</b></li> <li>• <b>New learning environment</b></li> <li>• <b>Friendship groups may be affected, however, new friendships can be formed.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The council and affected schools have a duty to support appropriate transition should Ysgol Llanfynydd close.</b></p>
<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about impact of closing school.</li> <li>• Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up.</li> <li>• The upset that closing the school would have on us.</li> <li>• Concern over friends being split up.</li> <li>• Sadness and anger should the school close.</li> <li>• It would be strange.</li> <li>• New teachers would not know us that well.</li> <li>• Would be concerned about losing current friends.</li> <li>• Please don't separate us.</li> <li>• Keep us together.</li> <li>• I love my teachers.</li> <li>• I feel safe.</li> </ul> <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heartbroken, traumatised, devastated, awkward, scary, nervous, annoyed, angry and shy.</li> </ul> <p>Positive Comments:</p> <p>Would like to make new friends. Would be happy to make new friends.</p>	<p><b>The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).</b></p> <p><b>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</b></p> <p><b>The Council will run a mini admissions cycle to support parents with transition to another school should the school close.</b></p> <p><b>The Statutory timeline, complies with the School Organisation code. The timeline allows sufficient time for parent/carers and pupils to select an alternative school and allow effect transition should Ysgol Llanfynydd close.</b></p>

## Strengths of Ysgol Llanfynydd

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school is amazing.</li> <li>• The school has a community/family feel.</li> <li>• The small school environment works for my child.</li> <li>• Quality of the Teaching staff.</li> <li>• School is the hub of the community.</li> <li>• It would be a shame to close a good school.</li> <li>• Small school is good.</li> <li>• High standards at the school.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd are noted.</b></p> <p><b>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</b></p>
<p>Pupils comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has many positives, it's a family school.</li> <li>• It's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building.</li> <li>• The school has lovely excellent supportive teaching staff.</li> <li>• We are a small school that can do many things</li> <li>• We raise lots of money for charity, and we have lots of after school clubs.</li> <li>• We are friendly and happy.</li> <li>• We are an Eco School.</li> <li>• I love my school.</li> <li>• It's a historic building.</li> <li>• It's quite small so you get a lot of attention.</li> </ul>	

## Alternative Suggestions:

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would should federate with another school.</li> <li>• Federation with Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn.</li> <li>• We are already sharing the Headteacher with Parc Y Llan.</li> <li>• We are proving we can make federation work.</li> <li>• The Council should support community regeneration to help increase the numbers of families in the area.</li> <li>• Offer places to parents out of the area.</li> <li>• Advertise places to overfilled schools.</li> <li>• The school can save more money.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the current proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the school modernisation strategy which are as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Continuing to raise educational standards</b></li> <li>• <b>Creating the conditions for school leaders to succeed</b></li> <li>• <b>Ensuring that school buildings are attractive learning and working environments</b></li> <li>• <b>Reducing the number of unfilled places and the inequity of variation in cost per pupil; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Providing resilience against falling revenue funding</b></li> </ul>



In Ofsted's report on Federation (2011) Three main reasons were given for federating. Some schools had been approached by a Council to help a struggling school; others were small schools in danger of closure or unable to recruit high quality staff; and others were seeking to strengthen the overall education of pupils in their communities.

There are clear benefits by working together, through federation and other partnership arrangements, schools can:

- raise their standards, for example, by shared training and working practices, encouraging their staff to support each other and developing integrated curriculum and pastoral policies;
- offer pupils a wider range of opportunities, for example, by holding joint activities or sharing facilities or teachers that might be difficult to sustain individually;
- develop a range of extended services and activities for pupils and the wider community;
- improve their leadership and management, for example, through shared headship; and
- maximise the sharing of resources, taking advantage of economies of scale.

However, Federal arrangements in schools often fail to meet a number of the key drivers of school modernisation. Key issues include:

- **Suitable Buildings –** The 21<sup>st</sup> Century programme funding arrangements from WG rely on rationalisation of school estate to generate revenue saving to enable access prudential borrowing. Additionally in some cases sale of surplus estate, will also generate capital receipts both are used to find the Local Authority's 50% contribution to the programme. Federal arrangements will not rationalise the estate, therefore the revenue saving will be either nil or limited to small potential savings in the school allocations and only if formula allocations and/ or structures can be changed.
- **Unfilled Places -** As Federal arrangements do not rationalise

	<p>school estate, reducing unfilled places is limited to mothballing areas of schools, this may or may not be achievable in individual schools for operational, practicable or building related reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Diminishing Resources – Federal arrangements do not support large revenue savings, instead small potential savings in the school allocations could potentially be achievable through the formula allocations if staffing structures were changed. The building related costs would remain as they are currently.</b></li> </ul> <p>At the time of writing this report the Governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd have not identified a willing partnering school or schools in which to pursue a federation.</p>
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### Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School has been an integral part of this community and outlying villages.</li> <li>• Devastating effects on the community and local businesses.</li> <li>• Detrimental impact on the village.</li> <li>• Going against the corporate governance document under responsibilities that the Council should 'work for and with its communities.</li> <li>• School have served the village for years.</li> <li>• If the school closes the Council would be ripping the heart out of the community.</li> <li>• Links with community groups, church etc. would be removed if the school closed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and the Council acknowledges that where a school closure is proposed it will have some impact on the local community. The school is not widely used by the community.</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council will work with the schools and community to mitigate impacts where possible.</b></p> <p><b>The Council have no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</b></p> <p><b>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</b></p>

### Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaccurate information.</li> <li>• Estyn report is outdated.</li> <li>• Costs for the roof seems overestimated.</li> <li>• Document is negative.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</b></p>

- Document is biased towards closure.
- Document is not balanced.
- Information has been cherry picked.

- **School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)**
- **Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.**
- **National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.**
- **GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.**
- **The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.**
- **Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.**
- **Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics**
- **Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales**
- **Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.**
- **Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.**
- **Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.**
- **Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis**
- **School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition**

	<p>against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.</li> </ul> <p>Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-</p> <p>Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year  Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years  Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years  Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period</p> <p>The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.</p> <p>The roof at Ysgol Llanfynydd has slipping slates due to nail [fixings] fatigue associated with the main duo pitched roof. Additionally the roof has the original old lath and plaster beneath, which would also need to be replaced.</p> <p>Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DffE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.</li> <li>• School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.</li> <li>• Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close, this view is upheld by Estyn. However, additional places if required can be established at Ysgol Parc y Llan, Treuddyn at either no cost or minimum cost.</p>
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### Alternative Provision and Educational Standards

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Llanfynydd is a very good school education wise - why are children having this opportunity taken from them.</li> <li>• It's a successful school.</li> <li>• Only one of the alternative schools meet the standards of the school and there is not enough space.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The consultation document has identified alternative schools that at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.</b></p> <p>Estyn have provided a response to the consultation. It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.</p>

### Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing development in Abermorddu have been underestimated.</li> <li>• The report does not take into account the Local Development Plan for potential housing developments.</li> <li>• The development in Parc Celyn has not been fully taken into consideration.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</b></p> <p>Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work based on national census data from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.</p> <p>The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.</p>

	<p>The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that should Ysgol Llanfynydd close, the local school network has the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of current and future housing developments.</p>
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### Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have not held a consultation meeting for the community.</li> <li>The timescales have moved which means less time to sort a new school out for my child.</li> </ul>	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>There is no requirement contained within the School Organisation Code to hold meetings.</p>

### Family Connections with the School

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has been open for over 150 years.</li> <li>It's a historic building.</li> <li>Many families have been through the school.</li> <li>All my family have been educated at this school.</li> </ul>	<p>The responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd are noted.</p> <p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p>

## Admission Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The admissions procedure is not clear</li> </ul>	<p>The Admissions information is available on the council's website on the following link: <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admissions.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admissions.aspx</a></p> <p>The council will run a mini admission process once the future of the school has been decided. The Admissions Team will work with each individual family to discuss their options.</p>

## Impact of the Proposals on School Numbers

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flintshire's own actions have created an atmosphere of uncertainty for parents of school age children</li> <li>Parents who would have had their children admitted to Llanfynydd have been scared away by the authority's actions particularly since 2012.</li> <li>Current low numbers are at least partly due to the uncertainty about the school's future.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has to follow the process as defined by the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that statutory consultation around school organisation change will cause a level of uncertainty within the local school community, which can be a contributory factor in pupil number reduction.</p>

## Impact of the Proposals on Other Schools

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic will increase in the Abermorddu area.</li> <li>Our classes will increase in numbers.</li> </ul>	<p>Currently there is no free transport provision to Ysgol Llanfynydd. The proposal would mean that some parents would be entitled to free home to school transport (subject to transport policy) for their children, which would reduce the number of parental vehicles transporting children to and from school.</p> <p>An excessive number of unfilled places unproductively tie up resources. As schools funding and provision are largely driven by pupil numbers, unfilled capacity means a disproportionate amount of funding is spent on infrastructure (such as buildings) and the "fixed costs" of running a school (such as leadership and administration).</p> <p>This funding could be better used to ensure that pupil teacher ratios are maximised to make a direct difference to learners. As public service funding reduces over forthcoming years the case for reprioritisation and change becomes even more compelling.</p>

### Impact of the Proposals on Transport Costs

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The transport costs do not look correct.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport eligibility is determined by the Authority in which the pupil resides. Seventeen pupils who live in Flintshire would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption that pupils transfer to their nearest school (Ysgol Parc Y Llan) on the basis of the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the nearest appropriate available school is more than 2 miles away;</li> <li>That the route to the alternative schools would be considered to be hazardous by the Council due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</li> </ul> <p>The estimated annual costs of transport as a result of the proposal are £16,150. However, actual transport costs can only be fully assessed once all families have chosen their preferred school.</p>

### Impact of the Proposals on Teaching Staff

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What will happen to the teaching staff</li> <li>Redundancies</li> </ul>	<p>Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Llanfynydd, including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.</p>

### Other comments

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who will be expected to pay for all the new uniforms, book bags and PE kits.</li> </ul>	<p>A school uniform exchange is available for Flintshire pupils. The School Uniform Exchange aims to encourage the people of Flintshire to recycle and donate unwanted or unused school uniform items rather than putting them in the bin. All donated school uniform is available for sale in Nightingale House. Hospice shops throughout Flintshire at a significantly reduced cost compared to high street prices.</p> <p>It is also fairly typical that most pupils will require new uniforms as they enter into a new academic year, therefore there may be a</p>



	<b>requirement to purchase a new uniform regardless of what school the pupil attended.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Llanfynydd has an breakfast club and after school club and Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn doesn't</li> </ul>	<b>Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn does have a breakfast club and after school club facility</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will happen to the school site should the school close?</li> </ul>	<b>The Council has no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as to the school's future is determined. Should the proposal be implemented Ysgol Llanfynydd (building and site) would be declared surplus to Education and transferred to the Property Asset Team at Flintshire County Council.</b>

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# **APPENDIX F**

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## APPENDIX F

### Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

**Question 1** Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	0	0%
No	35	100%
	35	

**Question 2** Please tell us if you are responding as:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	0	0%
Parent/Carer	11	31.4%
Governor	0	0%
Teacher	0	0%
Support Staff	2	5.7%
Local Resident	17	48.6%
Other	11	31.4%
Skipped Question	8	22.9%
	49*	

\* Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

**Comment:** All of the respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils, parents, carers, guardians) were against the proposal.

**Question 3** Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Flint Mountain?

Alternative Suggestion	Total	Percentage
Federation	19	54.3%
The school should remain open	5	14.3%
Pupil numbers could be increased by promotion and community regeneration	3	8.6%
Use some space to establish wrap around care, making some income	1	2.9%
The school could try and save more money	1	2.9%
The roof costs are exaggerated and work could be undertaken much cheaper	1	2.9%
Pupil numbers have been detrimentally affected by the inability of previous Governors and teaching staff	1	2.9%

Could the school become an academy	1	2.9%
Consultation document has been commissioned to justify closure and is not objective	1	2.9%
Reduce the schools capacity	1	2.9%
Use the building more effectively	1	2.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	

**Comment:** Of the 35 respondents, 28 answered the question and 8 skipped the question. The majority of people who responded said that they would like to see Federation with another school as an alternative.

**Question 4** Additional comments or views regarding the proposal.

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in **Appendix E.**

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# **APPENDIX G**

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## **Estyn response to the proposal by Flintshire County Council to close Ysgol Llanfynydd, an English medium community primary school as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government.

### **Introduction/Proposal**

- This is a consultation proposal by Flintshire County Council.
- The proposal is that Flintshire County Council close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference

### **Background**

- Ysgol Llanfynydd in a small English-medium primary school situated in the village of Llanfynydd, Flintshire.
- The school currently has 34 pupils on role, a decrease from 42 pupils in January 2015. Predictions indicate that over the next four years, pupil numbers are not set to rise. Capacity at the school is 80 pupils.
- The current individual school budget per pupil is £4,838. This is the highest of all primary schools in Flintshire.
- The Local Authority currently has 17.5% unfilled primary places, which is significantly above the national target of less than 10%. In January 2015, they published a 'Revised School Modernisation Strategy'. To assist with reducing surplus school places, proposals within this strategy include closing any primary school with less than 105 full time places.

### **Summary/ Conclusion**

It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.

The four local schools currently have 58 unfilled places between them with the potential for this to be increased to 63. This would be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanfynydd. Based on approved planning applications for new housing developments within the catchments of the four schools, the proposers predict that an additional 15 primary places will be needed. These figures when added to the pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd, still demonstrate capacity within the existing four schools to manage this increased demand for school places.

The proposers have considered two alternative options:

- Maintaining the status quo

- Federating or amalgamating the school with another school

The proposer outlines the expected benefits and disadvantages of the two options appropriately. The proposal has also appropriately considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option against the key drivers of educational improvement, suitable buildings, unfilled places, diminishing resources and resilient school leadership.

The proposers have also recognised the potential impact of closure on the local community and have completed a community impact assessment. This has identified a number of possible areas where closure could have a negative impact on a small number of local families and the village community as a whole. For example, on long term provision for community groups

Based on this process, the proposal appropriately outlines the reasons for discounting alternative options and the reasons for their preferred option. The Local Authority believes that longer-term benefits for pupils outweigh any disadvantages

The proposer has suitably identified the relevant risks relating to the proposal and has outlined clearly how these risks will be managed. However, the proposer has not clearly identified how they will manage the risk of parents not being able to choose their preferred alternative school

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the impact of the proposal on pupils' travel arrangements and their ability to access the provision. The proposer has clearly identified that for 15 of the current 34 pupils attending Ysgol Llanfynydd, this is not their nearest school. They have predicted that 17 pupils who would have attended Ysgol Llanfynydd in September 2016 would be entitled to free transport to an alternative school. This would incur an annual cost of £16,150. The proposal has identified that for most pupils living in the Llanfynydd area, distance to school would increase but not in excess of Welsh Government guidelines. Routes to and from schools in the area have been considered as hazardous due to its rural location and limited safe walking routes through the village.

The proposer has completed a detailed separate equality and Welsh language impact assessment to consider the potential impact in respect of all areas of equality and Welsh language and the potential ways in which the impact can be limited and a positive impact can be promoted.

This assessment summarises that there are no obvious negative impacts on Welsh Language provision. Subject to parental preference, there is the option for pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd to access Welsh medium education at other Flintshire schools should the proposal to close the school go ahead.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal contains useful details about the four alternative schools concerned, including

- Judgements from most recent Estyn reports
- Current Welsh Government categorisation including Standards groups and capacity to improve
- Current level of support from the local authority
- Attendance levels over time
- Class organisation

Three of the four alternative schools are currently in Welsh Government's 'Standards Group 3' with one school in 'Standards Group 1'. All four schools are currently judged as 'yellow' effective schools that know the areas in which they need to improve schools. Their capacity to improve is categorised as good.

The proposer provides detailed information on each of the alternative school's capacity to provide a broad and balanced curriculum at both the Foundation Phase and key stage 2. It outlines judgements made in the most recent Estyn inspection reports and progress that each school has made in addressing their recommendations. The proposal judges that each school has the capacity to at least maintain current standards in terms of curriculum delivery.

The document also gives a detailed analysis of each school's most recent property building survey. These show that each school is in a similar satisfactory condition fit to effectively deliver the primary curriculum.

The proposer has undertaken a detailed equality impact assessment that carefully considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs and with mobility issues. Where available, comments from the most recent Estyn reports from each of the alternative providers, judges their provision for pupils with additional learners needs as good.

The proposer suitably recognises the potential additional challenge of change for many pupils and accurately considers how transition would be managed successfully these more vulnerable groups of learners.



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# APPENDIX H

DRAFT



Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NF

1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Ysgol Llanfynydd**

I have been approached by two constituents, who are concerned, with regard to the possible closure of the above school. The points raised are as follows:

*Estyn status* - The schools modernisation agenda document states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher Estyn category. I understand that the schools mentioned in the document, Abermorddu, Hope and Bwlchgwn all hold Estyn category 3, whilst Llanfynydd is category 2. Parc y Llan in treuddyn cannot accommodate all the children in Ysgol Llanfynydd. I understand there is also a concern for places for Year 3 children.

Some constituents have two or three children in Ysgol Llanfynydd. Could they be accommodated in the same school, to ease transport difficulties for parents.

The consultation documents state that 44% of the children attending Llanfynydd are not from the immediate area. I understand that all these children are there for a reason, with many of them having been bullied or unhappy in other schools.

I am informed that 16.7% of children at the school have additional needs, higher than many other schools, believed to be due to it being a small supportive school with excellent facilities.

I understand that although not a Welsh medium school, Ysgol Llanfynydd has Welsh speaking staff and it is more widely spoken there than many of the bigger primary's. Llanfynydd embraces this, the children are involved in eisteddfod's every year both within the school, surrounding schools and the county too. My constituents feel that to close the school is an attack on Welsh in itself, as Ysgol Llanfynydd is very much involved, with all the important Welsh days being celebrated at the school.

I understand that Ysgol Llanfynydd is the only primary school in the area that is all on one level with superb disabled access and facilities including a wet room and physio bed. My constituents feel that this should be promoted with the school and in the area!

The consultation papers identify that £80,000 is required to do the school roof in the next year. However, my constituents feel there is nothing wrong with the roof and understand that no one has even looked at the roof. Furthermore, my constituents believe that the papers do not include monies received from Wrexham for children that reside in Wrexham but come to school in Llanfynydd, and are querying why these figures have been omitted from the document.

The papers reference to travel expenses states 17 children will require transport, cost £16,150. However, this is only the children who would have to travel over three miles. The council are also to provide transport for children whose journey to school is not a safe walking route, which would include pretty much every child in the school. Again, my constituents are querying why these have not been included in the travel costs?

My constituents are asking if the school is to be shut and parents send their children to schools which are not their closest, will the County Council remove all provided travel?

I understand that, using the Estyn tables and charts in the consultation papers, Ysgol Llanfynydd has excellent results, including 100% in foundation phase outcome.

With regard to wrap around care, I understand the mini villagers is currently based in the school, and that many of the issues stated regarding Llanfynydd such as no car parking, no soft play area, no covered play area, apply also to other schools in the area. Due to its small size, everyone parks along the main road. There is also a crossing point at the school and an application currently in place to reduce the speed limit to 20 through the village.

The papers talk about the UN rights of a child. Moving my children from the school they are happy in I believe is breaching this. They will lose their friends and have to go to a school where they may not know anyone, this can cause distress and unhappiness in a child. New routines, new staff, new uniform, new children, bigger classes, less support will all cause stress, unhappiness, anxiety and instability for the children, as a paediatric nurse I say this is not right for a child and breaches their rights. I am also aware that children attend Llanfynydd that have moved their children from the other schools the council expect us to use due to them being unhappy or not achieving, where are they expected to send their children? Back to the schools they left? How distressing for the children will that be?

To lose the school would be a huge blow to the community of Llanfynydd. The school has strong links with the church and utilise the post office regularly for teaching Welsh with the children in a real environment, as opposed to just a class room. A variety of local groups also utilise the school building regularly.

My constituents believe that a federation between Llanfynydd and Treuddyn is the way forward, with benefits to both schools and without the expense of another head teacher, reducing costs per child.

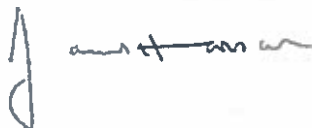
I understand that the deadline for a decision on closure or not has now been moved from January to Easter. My constituents believe this to be unacceptable. In the event of closure, the families of the children in Llanfynydd would have just weeks to find new schools.

Finally, my constituents are questioning who would be expected to pay for new uniforms, books, bags if the school closes?

I would be grateful if the above concerns can be considered, as part of the consultation process, which ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**



**Fw: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation**  
Amanda Davidson to: Customer Services  
Cc: Damian Hughes, 21stCenturySchools  
Bcc: Jennie Williams

08/12/2015 15:15

Please see letter attached, for logging on the mail system and allocating please to Damian Hughes and 21st Century Schools. The letter has been acknowledged.



ysgol llanfynydd.docx

Many thanks  
Amanda

**Amanda Davidson**

PA to Chief Officer, Education and Youth | Cynorthwy-ydd Personol | Brif Swyddog, Addysg ac Ieuencid  
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

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<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

— Forwarded by Amanda Davidson/Environment/Flintshire/GB on 08/12/2015 14:46 —

From: Joanne Pierce/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB  
To: Amanda Davidson/Environment/Flintshire/GB@Flintshire,  
Date: 08/12/2015 14:19  
Subject: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation

Hi Amanda

Please see attached letter below from David Hanson, MP in respect of Ysgol Llanfynydd.  
Can you please ensure the letter is logged, acknowledged and sent to the appropriate officer for a response.

Thanks Jo

**Joanne Pierce**

Executive Officer | Swyddog Gweithredol  
Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr  
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702106

Email | Epost | [joanne.pierce@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.pierce@flintshire.gov.uk)

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>



— Forwarded by Joanne Pierce/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 08/12/2015 14:18 —

From: "ROBBINS, Helen" <ROBBINSH@parliament.uk>  
To: "Joanne\_Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne\_Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>,  
Date: 02/12/2015 09:04  
Subject: Ysgol Llanfynydd - Consultation

---

**For the attention of Mr Colin Everett – Chief Executive**

Please see attached letter from David Hanson MP, to be considered as part of the above consultation.

Best wishes,

*Helen*

Helen Robbins  
PA to David Hanson MP  
4 Trelawny Square  
Flint  
Flintshire CH6 5NN  
Tel: 01352 763159

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Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Prif Weithredwr



The Rt Hon David Hanson MP  
4 Trelawny Square  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5NN

Your Ref Eich Cyt DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref Ein Cyf IB/AD  
Date Dyddiad 8 December 2015  
Ask for Gofynner a:n Joanne Pierce  
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 702106

Dear Mr Hanson,

### Ysgol Llanfynydd

On behalf of Colin Everett, Chief Executive, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1 December 2015, regarding Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Pierce  
Executive Officer

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NF  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug CH7 6NF  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cynghor yn croeso i chi hysborthu yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg







**The Office of Carl Sargeant AM  
Alyn & Deeside Constituency**

Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

School Modernisation Team  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6ND

Our Ref: SARG01001/01150407  
(Please Quote in Correspondence)

30 November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Closure of Llanfynydd School**

I have been approached by a constituent whose grand-children attend Llanfynydd School which is currently under review for closure. I am aware that concerns are being raised about where the pupils are to be placed, travel costs, uniform costs, other travel issues if the placements are further away from home than is currently the case, disruptions to education, differences in teaching standards and even discrepancies in E-styn categorising of alternative schools. I am keen to know exactly how these issues are to be resolved and I am seeking assurances that decisions are taken on closures only when matters are effectively resolved.

I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely

  
Carl Sargeant AM  
Alyn and Deeside

Email: [Carl.Sargeant@wales.gov.uk](mailto:Carl.Sargeant@wales.gov.uk)

**Constituency Office**

70 High Street  
Connah's Quay  
Deeside ✓  
Flintshire CH5 4DD

Tel: 01244 823 547

**Assembly Office**

National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Tel: 029 2089 8292  
Fax: 029 2089 8293



*If you do not wish to be included on a mailing list for future communications please contact Carl Sargeant at either of the above addresses.*



**Ian Budd**  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mr Carl Sargeant AM  
Constituency Office  
70 High Street  
Connah's Quay  
Deeside  
Flintshire  
CH5 4DD

Your Ref/Eich Cyl SARG01001/01150  
407  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/AD  
Date/Dyddiad 18 December 2015  
Ask for/Gofynner am Damian Hughes  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704135  
Fax/F facs

Dear Mr Sargeant,

**School Organisational Change - Consultation on Proposed Closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd**

Thank you for your letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015, outlining concerns of a constituent in relation to the above and seeking assurances that decision makers will consider such concerns prior to determination.

The Statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

Thereafter, Officers will prepare a consultation report to Cabinet in the January committee cycle. The consultation report as you will be aware is a requirement of the School Organisation Code and will summarise the key themes from all consultees including the views of Children and Young people, together with the Council's responses.

Additionally decision makers will have access to all consultation responses including those received prior to the official formal consultation period. Cabinet in their decision making will, I'm sure wish to be satisfied that education continuity is unaffected and that robust and effective transitional arrangements are put in place.

I hope this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or you require a briefing meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me further.

Yours sincerely

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
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Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP  
Constituency Office  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ich Cyt DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DHRH  
Date/Dyddiad 26 November 2015  
Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

**Ysgol Llanfynydd – School Organisation Proposal**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd. I can confirm that we have also received correspondence from Ruth Hodson expressing her views on the proposal.

As you have already observed consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Llanfynydd has already commenced and is due to end on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

During this period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we have already held meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Carers as well as a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

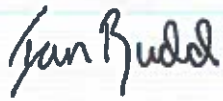
I can confirm that Ruth Hodson's email correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Ncuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

---

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NF

13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Ruth Hodson, 12 Bryn Barug, Pontblyddyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4GA**

I have been approached by the above named constituent, who is concerned, with regard to the possible closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

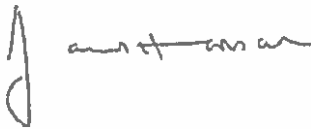
My constituent has set out her concerns, at length, in the attached document, and I would be grateful if they could be taken into consideration, as part of the consultation process.

I look forward to hearing from you, in due course.

I shall shortly be submitting my own views, for consideration.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**





## Compliments, Comments and Complaints

### Details

#### Step 1

Reference number	1511 013179	Type	Request A Service
Title	Mr	Address 1	
Surname	Hanson MP	Address 2	
Forename	David	Town	
E-Mail Address	ROBBINSH@parliament.uk	County	
Phone Number		Postcode	
Is this record in relation to the FCC Welsh Language Scheme?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Service this record relates to	School Modernisation / Schools Review
Confidential?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Restrict to ...	Alan Holden/Corporate Services/GB
Receipt method	Mp/Mep	Language Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Braille <input type="checkbox"/> Disc <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh
Received by name	Alan Holden	Received on	16/11/2015
Received by directorate	Community and Enterprise	Received by service	Customer Services

#### Details

On behalf of Ruth Hodson, 12 Bryn Barug, Pontblyddyn, Mold CH7 4GA , regarding proposed closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd:



ruth hodson - ysgol llanfynydd.docx

Constituent's original email to MP's office:

Good morning David

I hope you are well, I hoped to get to your surgery in leeswood yesterday but a recent accident I am on crutches and was unable to get transport up.

We have contacted you before regarding our children's school Ysgol Llanfy the consultation papers are now out there is to be a consultation meeting at school at 6pm on Nov 23rd, I'm sure you would be too busy to attend but I you you anyway if you would come?

We now desperately need support in order to save this amazing school.

I am now attaching the letter I have sent to the councillors, I am also sending mark tami, Carl sergeant I've also sent it to Cardiff!

There are some important points especially regarding the modernisation of the estyn categories and the consultation documents as you will see I have addressed in my letter to the council . Thanks for your time and look forward

hearing from you.

The consultation papers regards the closure of ysgol llanfynydd are now available. I am writing as a parent of children in the school. To close this is a travesty and there are many points in the consultation papers that need addressed.

The main point being estyn status. In the schools modernisation agenda documents it clearly states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher estyn category. The schools mentioned in the document, abermorddu, hope and bwlechwyn all hold estyn category 3. Llanfynydd is category 2 so places in aforementioned schools should using the modernisation agenda be dismiss. This leaves only parc y llan in treuddyn. They currently do not have space for all the children in our school. So please explain to me what will happen in case should you close our school?

According to admissions at county hall there is only one year three space within a five mile radius. ( my son is yr three hence using this school year) they say which school this place was available at. Yet within an 8 mile radius there are 7 year three places, so where will the children in year three go to? In sept we will have three children requiring school places can you guarantee they will be placed together if you close the school? In the meeting held at school it was conveyed by councillors that they would not give us a school of our choice we would have to go through standard admissions process and that they would not maintain sibling preferences to keep them together. I am not prepared to transport three children to three different schools. I work full time and have to be in work before 8.30.

In the consultation documents, it says that 44% of the children attending llanfynydd are not from the immediate area. As my children are amongst the 44% let me tell you why. My eldest son started at llanfynydd in 2009/2010 we moved to Flintshire, he has autism and dyspraxia. The environment at llanfynydd changed his life over night, he went from being a child who was bullied and victimised and I was told would never sit a GCSE, to a flourishing happy child. This was purely down to the school and its staff. This summer he attained 11 GCSEs all A-C, this includes an A in Welsh, he had never heard a word of Welsh before starting at llanfynydd, I thank llanfynydd for setting him in the right direction. Although it's not a Welsh medium school they have Welsh speaking staff and it is more widely spoken there than many of the bigger primary's. Welsh isn't just a second language it's a way of life, llanfynydd embrace this, the children are involved in eisteddfod's every year both with school, surrounding schools and the county too. To close the school is an affront to Welsh in itself as llanfynydd is so much more involved in the way of life than larger schools. All the important Welsh days are celebrated at the school.

The amazing change in Adams life gave us no doubts whatsoever in sending our second son there ( currently in yr 3) he has challenging behaviour, ocd and camhs waiting list for asd assessment. We sent Alfie to llanfynydd because we knew he would succeed there, receive the support he needs and he would be accepted by the children, as there is a family attitude amongst the children at the school. Alfie is indeed doing well. I know for a fact the small school environment and the good ratio of staff to pupils helps and I know in a larger school he

struggle greatly.

I have a child in reception and my youngest set to start nursery in llanfynyc sept 2016.

As the only primary school in the area that is all on one level with superb disabled access and facilities including a wet room and physio bed to close school would be bad news. This should be promoted with the school and in area! The consultation papers identify that 16.7% of children have addition needs this is higher than many of the other schools and I believe it is because parents send their children to llanfynydd due it being a small supportive school with excellent facilities .

All the 44% of children non local attend llanfynydd for a reason, many of the children have been bullied or unhappy in other more local to them schools, is a reason we choose to take our children to llanfynydd and that is because such an amazing environment for our children to learn and grow up. I can't speak for myself but I expect many of the other parents will give you similar reasons!

The document covers many facts and figures regarding costs. This includes apparently £80,000 to do the school roof in the next year , this is interesting; there is nothing wrong with the roof and it's our understanding from the school that no one has even looked at the roof. So please explain .

The papers do not include monies received from Wrexham for the children who reside in Wrexham but come to school in llanfynydd, can you say why these figures were omitted from the document as that will reduce the apparent sum quoted.

The papers do not fully cover the travel expenses. It states 17 children will require transport , cost £16,150 , yet this is only the children who would have to travel over three miles. The council are also to provide transport for children whose journey to school is not a safe walking route, which would include probably much every child in the school, why has this not been put in the travel cost means that the travel expenses is higher than stated.

Whilst discussing the travel, if the school is to be shut, if parents end up sending their children to schools which are not their closest will you remove all council provided travel? Because as it's the council forcing people to move their children and not actually parental choice the council should be providing transport ; try to enforce the parents provide their own transport because they choose ; it's a school rule that the council has.

Using the estyn tables and charts in the consultation papers ysgol llanfynyc achieved excellent results, including 100% in foundation phase outcome for 2014 not the other schools achieved this.

The papers state there is no wrap around care, this is incorrect as the mini village is currently based in the school. None of the other schools mentioned provide this as stated in the documents, many of the issues stated regarding llanfynydd such as no car parking, no soft play area, no covered play area, apply to all the other schools in the area, the parking at abermorddu is particularly bad! The whole area near there at start and end of school is dangerous! There was an accident just last week which could easily have resulted in children being hurt there is no crossing point and parents just block the road and walk across regardless of traffic, with the development of the new housing estate next to the school this is now even worse, incidentally how can the council predict this

will only produce 8 children requiring school there? There isn't this issue at Llanfynydd due to its small size and everyone parks along the main road away from the school, there is also a crossing point at the school and an application currently in place to reduce the speed limit to 20 through the village.

The papers talk about the UN rights of a child. Moving my children from their school they are happy in I believe is breaching this. They will lose their friends and have to go to a school where they may not know anyone, this can cause distress and unhappiness in a child. New routines, new staff, new uniform, bigger classes, less support will all cause stress, unhappiness, anxiety and instability for the children, as a paediatric nurse I say this is not right for a child and breaches their rights. I am also aware that children attend Llanfynydd that have moved their children from the other schools the council expect us due to them being unhappy or not achieving, where are they expected to see their children? Back to the schools they left? How distressing for the children that be?

To lose the school is a huge blow to not only our families but the community of Llanfynydd, the school has strong links with the church and utilises the opportunity for regularity for teaching Welsh with the children in a real environment as opposed to just a classroom. A variety of local groups utilise the school building regardless as you have acknowledged in the documents.

As of this week Mr Ashford has taken over as acting head teacher at Llanfynydd. He is the head at Parc y Llan. A federation between Llanfynydd and Treuddyn believe is the way forward for our school. There are benefits to both schools that haven't even been mentioned in the consultation papers. Our children can stay in their happy safe school environment, their teachers would not end up redundant or shipped out elsewhere, Treuddyn can benefit as if they were children who would thrive better in a quieter environment they could spend time at Llanfynydd.

Without the expense of another head teacher it reduces the costs per child. It is very obvious that this whole plan to shut the school is purely about money. Llanfynydd is an extremely successful school with better Ofsted status than most of the schools in the surrounding areas, it's clear that federation would be the best outcome for all.

Since I began writing this letter there has been a change in circumstances brought about by Flintshire council which is of a serious nature. The time line for this procedure has now been changed with a decision on closure or not being made from January to Easter. This is not acceptable. Should the cabinet decide to close the school this gives the families of the children in Llanfynydd just weeks to find new schools and try and sort our children out. This is absolutely not acceptable. John Summers school have been given two years notice of closure yet Llanfynydd may have just one term? 12 weeks? How can the council see this as acceptable? Incidentally who would be expected to pay for all the new uniform, books and PE kits were the school to close? Would the council pay for this? I can't afford to pay out for this for three children all in one go.

I look forward to your reply and hope to see you at the consultation meeting at school later this month.

Ruth Hodson

Good morning David

I hope you are well, I hoped to get to your surgery in leeswood yesterday but after a recent accident I am on crutches and was unable to get transport up.

We have contacted you before regarding our children's school Ysgol llanfynydd , the consultation papers are now out there is to be a consultation meeting at the school at 6pm on Nov 23rd, I'm sure you would be too busy to attend but I ask you anyway if you would come?

We now desperately need support in order to save this amazing school.

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The main point being estyn status. In the schools modernisation agenda documents it clearly states that where schools are to be closed, the children attending must be offered a space in a school with equivalent or higher estyn category. The schools mentioned in the document, abermorddu, hope and bwlchgwn all hold estyn category 3 . Llanfynydd is category 2 so places in the aforementioned schools should using the modernisation agenda be dismissed. This leaves only parc y llan in treuddyn . They currently do not have spaces for all the children in our school. So please explain to me what will happen in this case should you close our school?

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Incidentally who would be expected to pay for all the new uniform , book bags and PE kits were the school to close ? Would the council pay for this? I can't afford to pay out for this for three children all in one go.

I look forward to your reply and hope to see you at the consultation meeting at the school later this month.

Ruth Hodson





Allocated to Directorate  
Allocated to

Education and Youth  
Damian Hughes, Sarah  
Thomas, Jennie Williams

---

**Monitoring Form**

This monitoring information is required to ensure that we follow an inclusive, robust and transparent process

All of the information contained in the Monitoring Section will only be used for monitoring purposes.

**Information Not Provided**

**Gender**

Male  Female

**Age range**

Under 25  25-34  35-49  50-54  55+

**Disability**

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as:

*"a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".*

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?  Yes  No

**Ethnicity**

Choose ONE section from A to E then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

**A White or White British**

- English  
 Scottish  
 Welsh  
 Irish  
 Any other White background

Please write in

**B Mixed**

- White and Black Caribbean  
 White and Black African  
 White and Asian  
 Any other mixed background

Please write in

**C Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh**

- Indian  
 Pakistani  
 Bangladeshi  
 Any other Asian background

Please write in

**D Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh**

- Caribbean  
 African  
 Any other Black background

Please write in

**E Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh**

- Chinese

**F  Any other background**

Any other background

**First Language**

English  BSL  
 Welsh  Other

Please write in

**Nature of Complaint**

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16/11/2015 12:05:18 Alan Holden  
email acknowledgement sent.

16/11/2015 12:10:07 Alan Holden  
Reallocated from Alan Holden/CorporateServices/Flintshire/GB to Damian Hughes, Sarah Thomas, Jennie Williams

Last Updated on 16/11/2015

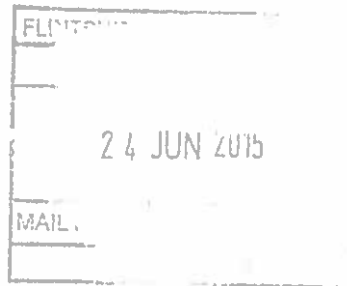
Last updated by Ala

1506 012103.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall, Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 6NB



Ref: CPMT

18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

I would like to place on record my objection to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd Primary School. This is a school with deep connections to the village and surrounding area that it serves.

Both of my children attended Ysgol Llanfynydd and I am aware of the importance that it has on the area where I live, it has previously undergone some difficulties but I am aware that the school has worked hard and are now overcoming these problems.

I am also concerned about the impact that the closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd would have on the surrounding area. Abermorddu Primary School and Ysgol Estyn, in Hope are already oversubscribed and with planned building work in the area, there could be a problem for many parents to find a nearby school for their children to attend.

Ysgol Llanfynydd also has excellent facilities for disabled children and the school is all on one level making it easier for children with mobility problems. It would be a great loss to Flintshire if this school was to close.

I also have serious concerns about the impact that this decision would have on the village of Llanfynydd itself. The primary school is at the heart of the village, with many villagers having attending the school itself when they were young. It is used by the whole community and would be dearly missed if it was to be closed.

Yours sincerely

  
Mark Tami MP  
Alyn & Deeside

70 High Street [ ]  
Connah's Quay  
Flintshire  
CH5 4DD

Tel: (01244) 819854  
Tel: (01244) 836350

[ ] House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Tel: (0207) 219 8174  
Fax: (0207) 219 1943

email: [tamim@parliament.uk](mailto:tamim@parliament.uk)



Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mark Tami MP  
70 High Street  
Connah's Quay  
Flintshire  
CH5 4DD

Your Ref Ffôn Cyt CPMT  
Our Ref I in Cyt IB/AD/1506 012103  
Date Dyddiad 29 July 2015  
Ask for Gofynwr am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax Ffôn

Dear Mr Tami,

**Forthcoming Review of Ysgol Llanfynydd.**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in which you wish record an objection to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Consultation on Ysgol Llanfynydd is due to commence in the Autumn Term in 2015. I will record your objection and will ensure that your views are presented in the required report following consultation. We will also take your views into consideration when working with the school leadership team and governors on developing the review process.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that they may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

You have our assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's statutory school organisation code.

Picking up the concerns outlined in your letter, I can confirm that it is a requirement to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate. The Authority also conducts impact assessments on issues such as community, transport, equalities and language as part of the review process.

As always, should you have any queries I am more than willing to meet to talk through the programme, statutory requirements and any issues you may have in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Budd

Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold CH7 6ND  
www.flintshire.gov.uk  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
www.sirymint.gov.uk



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cynghor yn croeso â'u pobolwrth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg





Member of Parliament for Delyn

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 5064  
Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NR



19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation**

Thank you for the copy of the School Modernisation Report, from Damian Hughes, which was to be presented to the Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

I have been approached by a number of constituents, with regard to the above matter. Please find attached copy correspondence. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

In the meantime, I would welcome an update on this matter, now that the cabinet meeting has taken place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**

2





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**ROBBINS, Helen**

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**From:** simonphodson@gmail.com  
**Sent:** 16 June 2015 20:45  
**To:** ceri\_shotton@flintshire.gov.uk  
**Cc:** HANSON, David; ruthie hodson; welshnews@dailypost.co.uk  
**Subject:** Llanfynydd School

Good Evening Ms Shotton,

I hope you are well?

It is with great distress that I hear the proposal to close this primary school hasn't been abandoned today.

I feel that the arguments for closure are ridiculous and would like some points addressed:

1. There are a number of new houses to be built in the local area with no availability at the local schools, why close the schools that can take those future students.?
2. My eldest child has just finished secondary school, before we moved to Wales in 2010 he went to a primary school where they had written his chances of even sitting GCSE's off because of his Autism; This primary school changed education for him in the space of 1 year and kept him mainstream. If his mocks are anything to go by then he has just bagged a brace of As and Bs. The school performs, why not send more kids there not punish them for achieving!
3. Why is the consultation period set for over the summer holidays? This seems an underhand way to hope that 6-7 weeks of parents not seeing each other and therefore not communicating. Sorry to point this out but OUR little school got over 1000 signatures in under a week and plenty of us intend to fight this decision.
4. Don't the council represent us? The community want the school to stay so let it stay.

Kind Regards

Simon Hodson

Sent from Windows Mail



## ROBBINS, Helen

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**From:** Simon Hodson <simonphodson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 10 June 2015 09:37  
**To:** HANSON, David  
**Cc:** ruthie hodson  
**Subject:** Ysgol Llanfynydd

Good Morning David,

I hope you are well and enjoying the beautiful weather?

My family moved to this area in January 2010. At the time my eldest boy had been having a hard time in primary school. The primary school were looking to get him a statement and said they doubt he would be able to sit his GCSE's. Five years later and if his mock exam results reflect anything then he will have finished with a braces of A's and B's; not bad for a 16 year old autistic lad in mainstream school, without a statement or extra support. His Name is Adam Hodson and he has just finished at Castell AJun, I invite you to ask the school what they think of him and bet you get a good report.

The point recounting a portion of my family story is because the main people that turned it all around for Adam were the staff at Ysgol Llanfynydd. They were fantastic and should be treasured for their teaching abilities! My wife and I value them so much that we have eagerly sent our next two boys into that school and very much hope our daughter will follow.

Yesterday I went to pick Alfie (our 7 year old) up and was handed a letter that has left us shocked!

*"...a recommendation will be made to Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday, 16th June 2015, which may affect you. The proposal is that the Council enters into a period of Statutory Consultation about the future of Ysgol Llanfynydd from September 2016."*

I realise that when any school in your area has it's future questioned, you must get inundated and I will join them all in saying "but our school is the best" but I will say it anyway and perhaps, as a society we should look to not cutting funding to schools at all. I would rather see council tax increase by a couple of pounds than the loss of any performing school.

This is the second time I have emailed you for help and guidance, I wouldn't if I didn't trust in you or your office and ask you for your help.

Kind Regards

Simon Hodson

12 Bryn Barug  
Pontblyddyn  
Mold  
CH7 4GA



**ROBBINS, Helen**

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**From:** GarethR2006@aol.com  
**Sent:** 10 June 2015 15:42  
**To:** HANSON, David  
**Subject:** (no subject)

just read the[ sepp blatter ] flintshire council are destroying fine village primary schools on your patch and on your watch why? do they want to put incinerators on the sites ?



Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuencid)



David Hanson MP  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/I in Cyl IB/AD/1506 012104  
Date/Dyddiad 29 July 2015  
Ask for Gofynwr am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson MP,

### School Modernisation - Flintshire County Council

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19th June 2015, requesting an update.

Cabinet on 16th June resolved to agree the actions identified within the report presented. We are now planning to review provision with pupils, governors and staff and parents and careers within the following communities:

- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain;
- Ysgol Llanfynydd; and
- Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

Consultation is planned for the Autumn Term in 2015. Communities will be encouraged to express their views on the proposals and are able to offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views received during consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in order that they may consider the views of the communities in their decision making. This will be in the form of the required consultation report.

You have our assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

As part of the process we will be required to report on capacity issues within our school estate and education standards. We will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as community, transport, equalities and language.

Additionally, Cabinet have also agreed, six monthly reviews for:

- Nercwys VA school; and the
- Lixwm, Rhos Helyg and Brynford area.

County Hall, Mold CH7 6ND  
www.flintshire.gov.uk  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

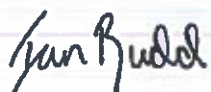


The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i w golybhuadau yn y Gymraeg neu i Saesneg.

In these areas, officers will work with the governors of the schools to form options for future education delivery in the area/schools. The intention is that recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in January 2016.

Should you have any queries, we are more than willing to meet to talk through the programme and any issues you may have in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth



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# **APPENDIX I**

DRAFT



Ysgol Llanfynydd Governing Body,  
c/o Ysgol Llanfynydd,  
Llanfynydd,  
Flintshire.  
CH5 5HG  
27/11/15

School Modernisation Team,  
Flintshire County Council,  
County Hall,  
Mold,  
Flintshire.  
CH7 6ND

**Response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfynydd to Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

**Introduction**

This document constitutes the Governors response to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

The Governors understand the need to review the provision of education in Flintshire and have regularly indicated a willingness to work in partnership with the council as part of the School Modernisation process. The Governing Body recognises the financial challenges facing the Council and indeed the whole of the public sector and, as such, has been open to considering options for education provision in the area. We are however deeply disappointed that the only proposal given any detail by Flintshire County Council is school closure.

## Points arising from the consultation document

Section 2.4 of the consultation document sets out the three factors that need to be considered by the cabinet before they make a decision on this proposal:

- Quality and standards in education
- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools; and
- Resourcing of education and other financial implications

The Governors feel strongly that considering these three factors the cabinet should not agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Of the four alternative schools proposed only one meets or exceeds the GwE standards of Ysgol Llanfynydd so, coupled with larger class sizes, the disruption of moving schools and splitting up peer groups we believe quality and standards in education will drop.

None of the four schools identified as alternatives can take the entire family of pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd, in fact, with the exception of reception, no one school can even accommodate an entire year group. This means that the entire school portfolio in the area will be completely full with no flexibility in the system for future growth.

As we can prove, the closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd will have a marginal, if any, impact on the savings required by Flintshire County Council to set a legal budget. Flintshire are looking to save £1.45m from their education budget. Closing Ysgol Llanfynydd in its current form would account for a tiny fraction of this amount.

Section 3.4 sets out the key drivers or criteria for modernisation:

- Educational improvement – Ysgol Llanfynydd has excellent outcomes and GwE assessments – The Estyn report quoted later in the document is so out of date that it is irrelevant, the school has gone through a whole generation of an intake since this was written.
- Resilient School leadership – new ‘shared’ head teacher arrangements are proving very successful and providing significant cost savings to two school’s budgets as well a blue print for a new format of school organisation in the locality
- Suitable Buildings – whilst acknowledging some limitations, this is a suitable building for a small primary school.
- Unfilled places – We acknowledge that Ysgol Llanfynydd has a significant number of surplus places, in fact, the 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the county. There are two significant ways in which the council could correct this which would have no budgetary impact:
  - Amend the admissions policy to stop year groups in neighbouring schools going over their admission number.
  - Encourage Estyn to perform an inspection, the school has been ready for inspection for 12 months and GwE assessments indicate a favourable outcome. Nothing would improve Ysgol Llanfynydd’s chances of attracting new parents more than a favourable inspection report.

**Section 3.5** of the proposal suggests "The primary school portfolio has 1967 (or 17.15%) unfilled places (based on January 2015 PLASC), whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%".

This is a key statistic as it is used frequently by the council's officers to explain why the school modernisation process was brought to cabinet in January and is often used to justify why changes must be made.

Flintshire's own documentation however, proves this to be deeply misleading, giving a school capacity total 14877 and pupil numbers of 13931, this equates to surplus places of 946 or 6.46%. <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Admissions/List-of-Schools.pdf>

Flintshire have indicated the "1967 places" relates to full time places only, however, that raises two further questions:

Welsh Government target is set as a percentage figure (10%), 1967 as a percentage of 14877 is 13.2% not the published figure of 17.15% (we are told this is an average of the surplus places in each school???)

These figures would suggest that the number of part time places are significantly over subscribed, a number which must feed through to the full time places next year.

We would like the Cabinet to consider if the process of reviewing our school would have started if they had been told in January that the target for surplus places was significantly closer to being met?

**Section 3.6** Whilst we're sure this 12 year old report has solid foundation it highlights issues which are unrecognisable to the staff and management at Ysgol Llanfynydd. The benefits of consortium and federated school structures mitigate most, if not all, of these arguments. Recent discussions with staff have highlighted that the largest single factor increasing their workload and restricting professional development is central education team cuts not small school status.

**Section 3.8** As our introduction states and the council's officers will confirm, the Governing Body has been open to discussions with regards to modernisation. We have noted that it is now the council's policy to federate schools of less than 105 pupils, with this in mind, we find it difficult to understand why they will not initiate a federation of Ysgol Llanfynydd with another school. The two options for federation laid down in the Welsh Government circular 011/2014 are for 'LA led federation' or 'Governing body led federation'. For Governing body led federation it requires 2 or more willing Governing bodies to agree to federate. Considering the neighbouring schools stand to benefit from Ysgol Llanfynydd closing then, not surprisingly, this has not been forthcoming.

**Section 4.2** We appreciate that Ysgol Llanfynydd is a small school with surplus places but percentage figures can exaggerate a problem when used with a small cohort. The capacity measurement for Ysgol Llanfynydd was last updated in 2007, using the Welsh Government document 021/2011 published in 2011 we have calculated our current capacity to be 64. This makes the unfilled places 34%, admittedly still high, but significantly better than 57.5% published in the consultation document. Crucially this also moves Llanfynydd from 4<sup>th</sup> in the surplus places "league table" to 12<sup>th</sup>.

This also raises the question about whether surplus places across the primary portfolio are being recorded correctly.

Section 4.3 Budget constraints could have been pushed down from County earlier saving significant sums, our school has been overfunded to the extent of over £1000 per pupil per year giving a false impression of an underlying issue. The actual issue here is the school funding formula and we believe addressing this will save the council considerably more money than closing a handful of small primary school. This has been confirmed this week by Ian Budd quoted in the press about growing surpluses in the primary portfolios budgets. Address this issue and the painful and costly process of closing small primary schools will not be needed.

Section 4.4 part 1.4 of statutory code clearly states: children must be able to receive an education of at least equivalent standards,". The table provided in section 4.4 clearly states that only Ysgol Parc Y Llan can provide at least equivalent standards of education. Ysgol Llanfynydd staff and Governors have worked very hard over the last few years to drive standards in the school and give pupils the very best opportunity. Closing this successful, high achieving school would have the effect of diluting the overall counties standards which is opposite to the effect everyone is aiming to achieve. As has been discussed in various forums, Flintshire's officers will insist that "capacity to improve" and "support category" are the same for all of the schools but the statutory code explicitly states "standards", in this measurement these schools fall short of Ysgol Llanfynydd and so the statutory code defines that they must not be considered as alternatives.

Section 4.6 We strongly believe that where there are over subscribed schools in the local area the Counties admissions policy should direct pupils to schools with surplus places and if appropriate provide transport to these schools. Llanfynydd historically attracted a lot of pupils from Cymau but since transport from Cymau has only been available to Abermorddu this has stopped. The Counties own school modernisation strategy update states that "we need to ... manage school provision through admissions and appeals procedures". This currently does not happen.

Section 4.7 We find this argument does not sit well alongside the current admissions policy of "parental choice" and driving standards. Llanfynydd has a successful educational track record and hence attracts parents from further afield than other schools and as you would expect being close to a county boundary, this does include children from Wrexham. We should not be criticised for this.

Section 4.8 As detailed in section 4.2 given the nature and seriousness of this proposal we find it incredible that the latest Welsh Government document 021/2011 has not been used to calculate the schools capacity and why a visit has not been made to the school to check facts before issuing such a proposal. We have undertaken this work ourselves and the capacity is 64 not 80 as stated.

Section 4.11 Despite the current uncertainty surrounding the school, nursery intake has increased this year with an intake of 5, the highest for a number of years and two additional children starting after Christmas.

**Section 4.14** We have stated in section 3.5 the inaccuracies of this figure but even considering this you do not achieve a significant reduction in a percentage by closing small schools such as Ysgol Llanfynydd who's surplus places account for less than ¼%. By closing Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Parc Y Llan would become full leaving no spare capacity in the system, this will lead to Flintshire having to spend further funds that they haven't got to increase the size and quantity of classrooms at other schools.

**Section 4.16** this covers only active planning permissions and does not include land in the UDP that could have planning and building work commenced with 12 months, especially as the economy continues to improve and the likely central government drive on the quantity of house building.

**Section 4.19** The statutory code states that where the proposal is to close a school "admission arrangements at the proposed alternative school" must be published, this consultation document only lists a number of schools and the number of free places, no individual school has the capacity to accept all of the children with several year groups being already oversubscribed. This section of the consultation document does not comply with the statutory code.

#### **Section 5.1**

**Point 1:** This is factually incorrect and cannot be the case when the standards at three out of four of the proposed alternatives have lower standards and the inclusion of additional pupils will increase the pupil/teacher ratio.

**Point 2:** as stated above the percentage gain would be barely noticeable and the county will have gone through this entire exercise and still not be compliant with the Government's requirements.

**Point 3:** We have demonstrated different ways to achieve this whilst retaining primary provision in Llanfynydd.

**Point 4:** as above

**Point 5:** as above

**Point 6:** this is a strange argument given that you are quoting a cost increase in the school transport budget of £16,500.

**Section 5.2** We strongly believe added to this list should be:

"closure of a well performing school"

**Section 5.3** We would like the following Disadvantages/risks added to the list:

Neighbouring schools will be at or over capacity,

A real alternative way of education lost as an option for the local area, many pupils relocate to Ysgol Llanfynydd due to issues at other schools.

Experienced teachers will potentially be lost from the education system with currently very few opportunities for redeployment. Governing bodies make staffing appointments based on ability of the candidates available against a staffing budget, it is difficult to see how the council can assist in this area.

Please do not underestimate what this would mean to a village like Llanfynydd, the community impact assessment answers some questions about the community use of the school. The questions, however, are structured in a way to only look at the impact from a certain angle. Being a small village there are not the wide variety of clubs and associations a larger village would have but that doesn't mean the school is not the heart of the community with pupils going out into the community regularly.

**Section 5.5** We fundamentally disagree with this statement. You are proposing making a small budget saving and a negligible impact on the surplus places target whilst destroying the heartbeat of local community, making staff redundancies which will potentially affect them and their families for years to come, splitting up peer groups and downgrading the standards of education in the local area.

**Section 6.9.** Whilst accepting that the data published is in line with the statutory codes guidelines, the crucial table that parents are interested in the space availability per year group. We have summarised this below.

<b>Ysgol Llanfynydd</b>						
<b>Nursey</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
6	3	5	3	4	4	6

<b>Parc Y Llan spare capacity</b>						
<b>Nursey</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
3	6	3	-2	0	3	3

<b>Number of children not able to go to PYL</b>						
3		2	5	4	1	3

<b>Hope capacity</b>						
<b>Nursey</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
0	3	0	1	1	0	2

<b>Abermoddu</b>						
<b>Nursey</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
2	8	-1	5	1	0	1

As you can see the proposal will mean peer groups will inevitably be split up impacting on children's education at a critical point in their life, we find this unacceptable. Flintshire admit they have done



no work to establish if sibling groupings can be kept together, we find this unacceptable. The critical year groups are Years 1, 3 and 4, there is not enough local capacity in Flintshire schools to take all of the children unless you include Wrexham's Bwlchwyn primary. Considering this school has very recently been in Estyn special measures then parental preference is not likely to select this school.

Section 6.11 Ysgol Llanfynydd has a strong tradition of supporting and nurturing children with ALN, the facilities at Llanfynydd have been upgraded in recent years to provide everything necessary to accommodate children with ALN.

Section 6.14 Given the implications of this consultation we find it unacceptable that the school is being judged on an Estyn report so out of date that an entire school generation has passed through the school since the last inspection. The school should have been inspected to provide an up to date assessment of where the school is at before such an important document was published. GWe assessments indicate the Estyn report would have been very favourable which would only have had a positive effect on the number of pupils. This section of the consultation document has no relevance to the current situation at Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Section 6.21 since the announcement of Mrs Knight leaving Ysgol Llanfynydd the Governors have used this opportunity to showcase how Ysgol Llanfynydd can work as a federated school with a shared head, the initial feedback is very positive from staff, parents and pupils. We strongly urge the cabinet to read our proposal to continue and enhance this federation before making a final decision.

Section 6.22 Ysgol Llanfynydd now we have a wraparound care proposal from Montessori mini villagers which we are currently implementing.

Section 7.2 GWe assessments in section 4.4 and section 6.20 of the consultation document state that this is not the case. Adding in pressure of higher pupil/teacher ratios and a significant number of displaced children entering a school, standards will drop not increase.

Section 7.7 One significant element of school organisation is over looked through this whole document – Consortium working. The Castell Alun Consortium benefits all of the member schools but especially the small schools and mitigates many, if not all, of the disadvantages small schools are labelled with. As detailed at the recent consultation meeting by one of our teachers the many disadvantages to being in a small school environment detailed in this report are not recognisable to the staff that work here.

Section 9 As with the capacity report and Estyn report the Governors are deeply concerned at the out of date nature of reports and information contained in the consultation document. Suitability issues are being based on a report seven years old and in the majority of cases, and where appropriate, have already been addressed. Again, surely, given the impact this document could have, an up to date assessment should have been made. We urge the officers and cabinet members to visit the school, hopefully at our open day this Friday, so we can talk through the suitability issues raised in this document.

Building bulletin 99 is quoted as the reference point for these summaries but this document is a non-statutory guidance for developers of new build school, the vast majority of it is irrelevant to a small village school in excess of 100 years old. The document also states that it is non-statutory.

Section 9.15 The school staff, Governors and parents in the building trade do not recognise any current issues with the roof. We have asked the council for more detail about this issue and it has not been forthcoming. The only information contained in the 2013 condition report indicated a few loose tiles and pointing all of which were addressed last year. Given that this accounts for 45% of

the total savings being made by closing Ysgol Llanfynydd we feel strongly that this saving should be removed from the calculation and a full reassessment made of the financial viability of closing the school.

**Section 10** The Governing body have provided a separate confidential document to cabinet discussing financial issues at Ysgol Llanfynydd.

**Section 12** We have acknowledged that retaining the Status Quo is not an option and the Governing body have provided a separate confidential document to cabinet discussing alternative proposals for Ysgol Llanfynydd.

**Section 12.3** In addition to the stated benefits of Option 2: federation, we would like to add the following points for consideration which we feel makes this the most viable option:

Enhanced opportunities for pupil activities – widens curriculum choice and options for students as schools come together to provide access to each other's courses and facilities, leading to improvements to the quality of learning for staff and pupils.

Enhanced opportunities for staff professional development,

Increased opportunity for middle management development,

Easier recruitment of staff, head teachers and governors with the necessary expertise,

Improved social opportunities for pupils,

Opportunities to maximise resources and professional expertise and achieve financial efficiencies from economies of scale,

Adds capacity and supports efficiency by providing an economy of scale for undertaking key activities,

Schools with strengths can contribute to the learning of others,

This is the way to drive standards up – not school closure.

**Option 3: Closure** fails to mention the following disadvantages which we believe are critical and why this option is not the most viable.

Standards at neighbouring schools are not as high as Llanfynydd according to GWe

No transition planning has been done with regards to pupils moving schools

Redundancy costs for staff have not been calculated and included in closure costing

Peer groups and sibling sets may need to be split due to low volume of spare places in certain year groups

Cost savings in excess of those published can be achieved by other means.

Taking these facts into account we believe that the council's assessment is wrong and Option 2: Federation should be the preferred option.

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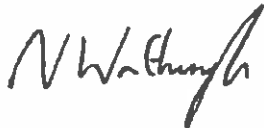
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### Conclusion

As we have set out above, the Governing body completely disagrees with the consultation proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd. We feel the document has set out to paint a picture of Ysgol Llanfynydd as a small crumbling school with dwindling numbers and an unsustainable economic outlook. This has mainly been achieved by using outdated reports and emphasising the negatives aspects of the school and ignoring the many positives.

I hope the our responses to a number of these points will enable the Cabinet to see a different picture of Ysgol Llanfynydd, we would stress however that the best way to appreciate this is by visiting our active, vibrant school. I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will be able to take this opportunity before deciding on Ysgol Llanfynydd's future.

The future for Ysgol Llanfynydd lies in federation with a neighbouring school a process the Governing Body embrace and look forward to working with Flintshire County Council to realise this and sustain an active, high achieving school in the village of Llanfynydd for future generations.



Neil Worthington

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Llanfynydd.





**Governors full response to the consultation proposal**  
Neil Worthington to 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

02/12/2015 16:00

1 attachment



Governors Consultation response.pdf

Kind Regards

Neil Worthington  
Director

Tel: 01978 750893 | E-Mail [neil.worthington@nw-solutions.co.uk](mailto:neil.worthington@nw-solutions.co.uk) | Web: [www.nw-solutions.co.uk](http://www.nw-solutions.co.uk)

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**Formal Consultation Document for proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd  
(Response from Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn)**

Natalie to 21stcenturyschools (Flintshire)

01/12/2015 13:39

Cc: plmail

Please find below the response to the Formal Consultation Document regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn are fully aware of the School Modernisation Process being undertaken by Flintshire County Council. We recognise the need for the Local Authority to make decisions that future proof the educational provision for all the young people in the County.

The rationale presented by the Local Authority in the current consultation document regrettably identifies that the current status of Ysgol Llanfynydd is untenable. The future projected pupil numbers highlight serious viability issues for the school's future. Pupil numbers have a huge impact on budget, staffing efficiencies and available resources. Whilst there are other local schools in the area that do have surplus places available, the recommendation for the pupils of Ysgol Llanfynydd to transfer to one of those schools is rationale.

Ysgol Parc Y Llan is already playing a key supporting role to Ysgol Llanfynydd during this most difficult time. our Governing Body agreed to our Headteacher taking on a care taking role as Headteacher at Ysgol Llanfynydd until July 2016.

Ysgol Parc Y Llan is a Category 1 school as identified within the consultation document and is the nearest English Medium school to Ysgol Llanfynydd with surplus places available. We would welcome any pupils wishing to transfer to our school should Ysgol Llanfynydd close. We are confident that in doing so they would continue to receive an excellent education and that the pupils and parents would adjust well, having had the benefit of meeting and working with our Headteacher.

The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan recognise that Ysgol Llanfynydd has been played an important contribution to the community of Llanfynydd and surrounding areas. We also understand the strength of feeling in the Ysgol Llanfynydd community and the concerns expressed by stakeholders.

However we believe that with full commitment and determination from all partners including Ysgol Parc Y Llan and other local schools we will be able to provide a positive future for all young people in Flintshire.

The Governors of Ysgol Parc Y Llan also recommend that should Ysgol Llanfynydd close in 2016; support from the LA with regards to transport arrangements should be provided. This would ensure that no families are financially disadvantaged as a consequence of the children having to travel to an alternative school.

Natalie Jones

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Parc Y Llan

(All correspondence should be directed via Ysgol Parc Y Llan)

Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Ffordd Y Llan, Treuddyn, CH7 4LN

Ysgol Parc Y Llan CP@flintshire.gov.uk



Bwlchgwyn C.P. School  
Brymbo Road  
Bwlchgwyn  
LL11 5UA  
Tel:01978-757743



Ysgol Bwlchgwyn  
Ffordd Brymbo  
Bwlchgwyn  
LL11 5UA  
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## Ysgol Gynradd Bwlchgwyn Bwlchgwyn School

'A caring and supportive community which strives to challenge and inspire!'

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e-mail/e-bost:mailbox@bwlchgwyn-pri.Wrexham.sch.uk

Mrs. S.L. Williams, NPQH  
Pennaeth Headteacher

School Modernisation Team,  
Flintshire County Council,  
County Hall,  
Mold.  
CH7 6ND

**Re: Formal Consultation regarding the proposal to close Llanfynydd Community School as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.**

I write on behalf of the Governing Body to express our sadness at the necessity for this consultation. As a body responsible for the running of a school community, we are fully aware of all the problems and constraints that have to be considered, not least ever shrinking budgets. However, we understand the reasons for the proposals and the necessity for such action.

We offer our support to all connected with Llanfynedd school at this time. Our pupils have been consulted through our school council and should the proposal be eventually passed, we will all warmly welcome any pupils and their parents who choose to join our school community.

Yours sincerely,

*Susan L Williams*

p.p. Bwlchgwyn Governing Bod







**Llanfynedd school proposals**

BWLCHGWYN Mailbox to 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

02/12/2015 12:29

Cc: "alisonrobinfisher@hotmail.co.uk",  
"paul.williams1440@btinternet.com"

1 attachment



Llanfynedd proposal.doc

Please find attached a response to the Llanfynedd consultation from the Governing Body of Bwlchgwyn School

Regards,

*Susan Williams*

Headteacher  
Bwlchgwyn C P School  
Brymbo Road  
Bwlchgwyn  
Wrexham  
LL11 5UA 01978 757743

.....  
This e-mail message and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or organisation to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this e-mail in error, any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of it is strictly prohibited and you are requested to contact the sender and delete the material from any computer. Opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to the official business of Wrexham County Borough Council shall be understood as neither given nor endorsed by it ..

.....  
Mae'r neges e-bost hon, ac unrhyw ffeil sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfnnachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Os nad chi yw'r derbynnydd priodol ond eich bod wedi derbyn y neges e-bost hon trwy gamgymeriad gwaherddir ei defnyddio, ei lledaenu, ei hanfon ymlaen, ei hargraffu a'i chopio a golynnir i chi gysylltu a'r sawl a'i hanfonodd a dileu'r deunydd o bob cyfrifiadur os gwelwch yn dda. Deallir nad yw Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam yn rhoi na cyn cymeradwyo barn, casgliadau a gwybodaeth arall sydd yn y neges hon nad yw'n ymwneud a'i fusnes swyddogol.  
.....



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**Governors response to consultation**

Head AbermordduCP to 21stCenturySchools  
Cc huw.keenan@hotmail.co.uk

24/11/2015 10:20

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History This message has been replied to.

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On Thursday 19th November the governing body of Abermorddu C.P. school met to discuss the Formal Consultation Document on the Proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

After careful consideration of the document, the governors are happy that Abermorddu school could meet the educational requirements of any pupils who may wish to attend Abermorddu school should the decision be made to close Llanfynydd school.

The governing body had no further comment to make.

Regards

Ian Roberts  
Headteacher

Huw Keenan  
Chair of Governors



Flintshire County Council Consultation on the Proposal to Close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31 August 2016

#31



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
Started: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 6:49:04 PM  
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 6:53:59 PM  
Time Spent: 00:04:55  
IP Address: 90.212.115.237

PAGE 1: Consultation Response Form

- Q1: Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd by 31 August 2016?** Yes
- Q2: Please tell us if you are responding as** Other,  
If Selected Other (please specify) Headteacher
- Q3: Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Llanfynydd?** Respondent skipped this question
- Q4: Please let us have your additional comments or views regarding the proposal. Please tell us why you feel this way.**  
I would hope that the county have a short and medium term plan in case local schools become over subscribed. Those schools will require support to manage this situation.
- Q5: Would you like to receive an e-mail link to the formal consultation report when it is published on the Flintshire County Council website?** No
- Q6: If you have answered yes to the above question please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date** Respondent skipped this question





## **Estyn response to the proposal by Flintshire County Council to close Ysgol Llanfynydd, an English medium community primary school as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government.

### **Introduction/Proposal**

- This is a consultation proposal by Flintshire County Council.
- The proposal is that Flintshire County Council close Ysgol Llanfynydd from 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference

### **Background**

- Ysgol Llanfynydd in a small English-medium primary school situated in the village of Llanfynydd, Flintshire.
- The school currently has 34 pupils on role, a decrease from 42 pupils in January 2015. Predictions indicate that over the next four years, pupil numbers are not set to rise. Capacity at the school is 80 pupils.
- The current individual school budget per pupil is £4,838. This is the highest of all primary schools in Flintshire.
- The Local Authority currently has 17.5% unfilled primary places, which is significantly above the national target of less than 10%. In January 2015, they published a 'Revised School Modernisation Strategy'. To assist with reducing surplus school places, proposals within this strategy include closing any primary school with less than 105 full time places.

### **Summary/ Conclusion**

It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all four alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.

The four local schools currently have 58 unfilled places between them with the potential for this to be increased to 63. This would be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanfynydd. Based on approved planning applications for new housing developments within the catchments are of the four schools, the proposers predict that an additional 15 primary places will be needed. These figures when added to the pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd, still demonstrate capacity within the existing four schools to manage this increased demand for school places.

The proposers have considered two alternative options:

- Maintaining the status quo

- Federating or amalgamating the school with another school

The proposer outlines the expected benefits and disadvantages of the two options appropriately. The proposal has also appropriately considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option against the key drivers of educational improvement, suitable buildings, unfilled places, diminishing resources and resilient school leadership.

The proposers have also recognised the potential impact of closure on the local community and have completed a community impact assessment. This has identified a number of possible areas where closure could have a negative impact on a small number of local families and the village community as a whole. For example, on long term provision for community groups

Based on this process, the proposal appropriately outlines the reasons for discounting alternative options and the reasons for their preferred option. The Local Authority believes that longer-term benefits for pupils outweigh any disadvantages

The proposer has suitably identified the relevant risks relating to the proposal and has outlined clearly how these risks will be managed. However, the proposer has not clearly identified how they will manage the risk of parents not being able to choose their preferred alternative school

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the impact of the proposal on pupils' travel arrangements and their ability to access the provision. The proposer has clearly identified that for 15 of the current 34 pupils attending Ysgol Llanfynydd, this is not their nearest school. They have predicted that 17 pupils who would have attended Ysgol Llanfynydd in September 2016 would be entitled to free transport to an alternative school. This would incur an annual cost of £16,150. The proposal has identified that for most pupils living in the Llanfynydd area, distance to school would increase but not in excess of Welsh Government guidelines. Routes to and from schools in the area have been considered as hazardous due to its rural location and limited safe walking routes through the village.

The proposer has completed a detailed separate equality and Welsh language impact assessment to consider the potential impact in respect of all areas of equality and Welsh language and the potential ways in which the impact can be limited and a positive impact can be promoted.

This assessment summarises that there are no obvious negative impacts on Welsh Language provision. Subject to parental preference, there is the option for pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd to access Welsh medium education at other Flintshire schools should the proposal to close the school go ahead.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal contains useful details about the four alternative schools concerned, including

- Judgements from most recent Estyn reports
- Current Welsh Government categorisation including Standards groups and capacity to improve
- Current level of support from the local authority
- Attendance levels over time
- Class organisation

Three of the four alternative schools are currently in Welsh Government's 'Standards Group 3' with one school in 'Standards Group 1'. All four schools are currently judged as 'yellow' effective schools that know the areas in which they need to improve schools. Their capacity to improve is categorised as good.

The proposer provides detailed information on each of the alternative school's capacity to provide a broad and balanced curriculum at both the Foundation Phase and key stage 2. It outlines judgements made in the most recent Estyn inspection reports and progress that each school has made in addressing their recommendations. The proposal judges that each school has the capacity to at least maintain current standards in terms of curriculum delivery.

The document also gives a detailed analysis of each school's most recent property building survey. These show that each school is in a similar satisfactory condition fit to effectively deliver the primary curriculum.

The proposer has undertaken a detailed equality impact assessment that carefully considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs and with mobility issues. Where available, comments from the most recent Estyn reports from each of the alternative providers, judges their provision for pupils with additional learners needs as good.

The proposer suitably recognises the potential additional challenge of change for many pupils and accurately considers how transition would be managed successfully these more vulnerable groups of learners.

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<b>Revised (October 2015) Anticipated Timetable for Ysgol Llanfynydd Statutory Proposals</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>School Terms</b>	<b>KEY MILESTONES</b>
16/6/2015	Summer 2015	Cabinet approval obtained to commence consultation
Start 14/5/2015 finish 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015	Preparation of Impact Assessments: Transport, Equality, Welsh Language, Buildings fit for purpose, Community
Start 14/5/2015 finish 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015	Preparation of Consultation document (including young person's version)
Start 21/10/2015 Finish 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	Consultation document published  Must be published on a school day  (42 days with 20 school days)
12/11/2015	Winter Term 2015	School Council Children's Consultation
23/11/2015	Winter Term 2015	Governors/Teachers and Support Staff Consultation Event
23/11/2015	Winter Term 2015	Parents/Carers/Guardian Consultation Event
Between 21/10/2015 and 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	School Council Children's Consultation with nearby affected Primary Schools
Between 21/10/2015 and 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	Meeting with Headteachers and Chair of Governors with nearby affected Primary Schools
Deadline 2/12/2015	Winter Term 2015	Consultation Ends
Deadline by 30/12/2015	Winter Term 2015	Consultation Report must be published within 3 months
19/1/2016	Winter Term 2016	Cabinet – Seeking Approval to go to next phase (Statutory Proposals)
Start 29/1/2016 Finish 26/2/2016	Spring Term 2016	Statutory Notice (28 days, with 15 school days)  Must be issued on a school day
Deadline 26/2/2016	Spring Term 2016	End of Objection Period

Appendix 4

Deadline 26/2/2016 – 24/3/2016	Spring Term 2016	Objection Report published within 28 days and with Cabinet within 35 days
19/4/2016	Spring Term 2016	Cabinet Decision
March – May 2016 (latest)	Spring Term 2016	Workforce Collective Consultation
May 2016	Spring Term 2016	Workforce Individual Consultation/Notice with Teachers/Staff
31/08/2016	Autumn 2016	Implementation of School Closure

**Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**

**School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Action 2013 – Ysgol Llanfynydd**

The comments and concerns raised by Members of the Committee focused on the following areas:-

- **Transport and traffic**

A number of concerns were expressed around the impact school closure would have on the increased volume of traffic at neighbouring schools, with an example given on traffic problems currently being experienced at Abermorddu School.

Questions were also asked around whether the Council would provide transport to pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd in the event of schools closure with a suggestion that the School Transport Task & Finish Group be made aware of any recommendation on transport from Cabinet, to ensure that when reviewing future school transport, no amendment be made to school transport eligibility for pupils where there has been a school closure.

***The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision confirmed that the school closure could result in less traffic if the cohort of pupils transferred to Ysgol Parc y Llan as transport could be provided. Modelling work on transport issues had been undertaken on the basis of pupils transferring to Ysgol Parc y Llan.***

***The Chief Officer for Education & Youth commented that the issues raised about parking problems at Abermorddu School were being considered by County Council colleagues in Streetscene and Transportation. He also confirmed that transport would be provided for the current cohort of pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd in the event of school closure, but explained that transport eligibility is based on the Authority where pupils live.***

- **Consultation process/documentation**

Concerns were raised around the consultation process, with comments made that all conclusions within the consultation document justified school closure and that the consultation documents did not measure the effect of school closure on the community and the lives of individuals.

Concern was also raised around the general process which was believed to be the first step in the Authority re-organising the whole excellent primary school network across Flintshire.

***The Chief Officer and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision provided information on the consultation process and the legal requirements which the Authority had to follow.***

***The Cabinet Member for Education responded to the comments and outlined the level of austerity faced by the Authority. He outlined the impact of current and future cuts to the level of funding received on education and other areas of public service.***

- **Alternative School capacity and transition arrangements**

Questions were asked around capacity at neighbouring Schools to ensure sibling/friend groups remained together in the event of a school closure and whether childcare provision was similar at neighbouring Schools.

Further information on future transition arrangements, in the event of school closure, was requested, especially for those vulnerable groups of learners with Additional Learning Needs.

***The Chief Officer outlined the importance of supporting all children through the transition of school organisational change before, during and after the process and referred to the provision of individual plans for pupils, especially for those vulnerable groups of learners with Additional Learning Needs, in the event of school closure and transfer to other schools.***

***The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision provided information on the childcare provision at neighbouring schools. He reported that Ysgol Llanfynydd did not offer 'wraparound' care and that the provision was similar at neighbouring schools.***

- **Federation**

A number of comments were made around the possibility of a federation, with questions being asked on whether enough time had been given to the school to explore the possibility of a federation.

***The Chief Officer for Education & Youth and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision confirmed that no neighbouring school was willing to form a federation with Ysgol Llanfynydd.***

A number of questions were raised around the school funding formula in light of the request from Ysgol Llanfynydd for a reduction in its school funding formula allocation. Concern was raised on the cost per pupil at Ysgol Llanfynydd which was higher than at the nearest secondary school. A suggestion was made that the Council look to review the school funding formula in view of these comments.



***The Chief Officer confirmed that the School Budget Forum continued to monitor the funding formula following review and implementation of current arrangements in 2013/14. He confirmed that the Forum could consider the submission from Ysgol Llanfynydd when updating the formula for the next financial year.***

Comments were also made around pupils who thrive in a small school environment and would be disadvantaged by the school closure. A suggestion was made that the Committee monitor the effect of re-organisation on pupils and schools in the future.

***The Chief Officer commented that the neighbouring schools which pupils would be transferred to in the event of school closure were also small rural schools. He also agreed, in the event of school closure, to provide a report to the Committee a year after implementation to monitor the effect of re-organisation to ensure learning for all is shared.***

The Committee also asked questions on the projected savings from school closure and how these would be re-invested. Questions were also asked around the projected cost of replacing the roof at Ysgol Llanfynydd and in the event of a community asset transfer of the building, who would meet this cost.

***The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision outlined the projected savings and commented that funding for pupils would 'follow' the pupil in the event of school closure. He also provided information on the projected cost of replacing the roof which had been provided by an independent contractor carrying out a condition survey.***

***The Chief Officer explained that the Authority would not determine the future use of a school building until it had become vacant. He added that discussions would need to take place, if the building was transferred, on funding for any necessary repairs and maintenance.***

A number of Members, raised concerns on the Welsh Government National Categorisation Model and that in the event of school closure, pupils would receive a similar standard of education at a neighbouring school.

***The Chief Officer and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision explained that it was the opinion of Estyn that the proposals would at least maintain the quality of learning for the pupils in the event of school closure.***

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the comments of the Committee be collated and presented to Cabinet at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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## MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	School Organisation – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Cabinet of the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to invite Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with a statutory proposal for school organisational change.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.
2	Cabinet is requested to consider comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the reports.
3	Cabinet is requested to determine the next steps for school organisational change for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS</b>
1.01	In June 2015, Cabinet determined that we enter into formal consultation on closure and other school organisation options for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain by September 2016.
1.02	<p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population has 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;</li> <li>• Small School Criteria – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for educational standards.</li> </ul>
1.03	The formal consultation period for Ysgol Maes Edwin commenced on Wednesday 21 October 2015 and ended on Wednesday 2 December 2015.
1.04	The Council has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.
1.05	Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.
1.06	<p>During the consultation responses from the pupils, community, staff, parents and carers have focused on the following concerns, in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impact on pupils/transition/friendship groups;</li> <li>• impact on community;</li> <li>• impact of housing developments in the area;</li> <li>• accuracy of data contained within the consultation documents;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capacity of other schools in the area to accommodate pupils;</li> <li>• admissions to other schools should Ysgol Maes Edwin close;</li> <li>• transport.</li> </ul>
1.07	Responses also focus on the strengths of the school, such as the family ethos, the condition of the building and the inclusive nature of the school.
1.08	As part of the consultation the views of children and young people have been sought. The pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin do not want their school to close. They have expressed concern that peer groups and siblings will be split up and that their emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration. Other nearby school councils consulted wanted to make Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils welcome and hoped to make new friends should the school close. (see Appendix 2 Consultation Report).
1.09	An alternative suggestion of federation has been suggested by a number of consultees, notably the governing body. They wish for Cabinet to use powers to promote a federation with another school or schools. The Governing Body of a maintained school can also promote a federation. The Governing body of Ysgol Maes Edwin has not been able to identify a willing partnering school or schools with which to pursue a federation. The prospect of developing a successful federation without a willing partner or partners is minimal.
1.10	Neighbouring schools have confirmed that they have not and will not be bringing forward a federation proposal with Ysgol Maes Edwin.
1.11	School organisation consultation documents are subject to rigorous compliance checks prior to their publication, which includes verifying information provided by the schools and national sources (see Appendix 1- Compliance Statement).
1.12	The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).
1.13	The Council has fully considered school capacity and potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.
1.14	Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.
1.15	The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.

1.16	The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.
1.17	It is the Council's view that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close. Estyn have commented <i>that 'The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.'</i>
1.18	Under current transport policy fewer than ten pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption they transfer to their nearest school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. This would be on the basis that the route to the alternative school from Flint Mountain would be considered to be hazardous due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.
1.19	At the time of writing the admissions team have approved fifteen applications from Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils wishing to transfer to other schools in line with the Council's Admissions Policy. A mini admissions process will be administered to assist families in transition to other school should Cabinet determine closure.
1.20	The community impact assessment has identified the impact of closure on a small number of local families and on the local community. The loss of the school would impact on a small number of community activities taking place and the range of community facilities within Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.
1.21	The Council has no plans for the school site should the school close. In line with established practice, future usage of the school site will only be determined following confirmation that the school site is no longer required for educational purposes.
1.22	Estyn has provided its statutory response to the consultation. It is Estyn's view that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. They noted that consultation documentation appropriately set out the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.
1.23	Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 6 January 2016 to consider the outcomes from consultation. The recommendations of the committee to Cabinet were:  (i) That the process be suspended for two months to allow the opportunity for federation to be reviewed and (ii) that comments be collated and

	presented to Cabinet.  Comments from individual scrutiny members are included in Appendix 5.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>														
2.01	There is sufficient team capacity to prepare the detailed transition plans for students.														
2.02	Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Maes Edwin, including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.														
2.03	The estimated net saving that could be achieved if the proposal to close the Ysgol Maes Edwin goes ahead, is as follows:- <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Saving/Costs</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Formula Funding Saving</td> <td>£106,606 pa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Costs</td> <td>-£9,120 pa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catering Saving</td> <td>£5,000 pa</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Net Saving</b></td> <td><b>£102,486 pa</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backlog Maintenance Saving</td> <td>£129,694 (5 year cycle estimate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Saving/Costs	Amount	Formula Funding Saving	£106,606 pa	Transport Costs	-£9,120 pa	Catering Saving	£5,000 pa	<b>Net Saving</b>	<b>£102,486 pa</b>	Backlog Maintenance Saving	£129,694 (5 year cycle estimate)		
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Catering Saving	£5,000 pa														
<b>Net Saving</b>	<b>£102,486 pa</b>														
Backlog Maintenance Saving	£129,694 (5 year cycle estimate)														
2.04	The estimated annual costs of transport as a result of the proposal are £9,120. However, actual transport costs can only be confirmed once all families have chosen their preferred school.														

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	In addition to the consultation undertaken in line with the school Organisation Code, consultation has also been undertaken with the Council's Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3.02	If the Cabinet decision is to proceed, the Council will publish a Statutory Notice providing a 28 day notice period for objections. 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.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation of business plans and manage risks in close detail. Reports are made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking, performance

	reporting and evaluation.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Compliance statement Appendix 2 – Consultation report Appendix 3 – Estyn response Appendix 4 – Statutory proposal anticipated timeline Appendix 5 – Comments raised by Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	All responses from the consultation period (and responses received before the consultation period) are available in the members' library.  Consultation documentation links:  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Home.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Home.aspx</a>  <b>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning Provision</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 761209</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk">Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>PLASC</b> – The Welsh Government Pupil Level Annual School Census is mandatory with returns for all sectors required every January including nursery, primary, middle, secondary and special. Returns are required every January.  <b>School Organisation Code</b> – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.  The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code  <a href="http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf">http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf</a>



**Estyn** - Estyn is the education and training inspectorate for Wales. Estyn is responsible for inspecting primary and secondary schools and nursery schools maintained by, or receive funding, from local authorities.

**Federation** – The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation.

The Welsh Government have brought in new regulations around federation of maintained schools in Wales. The Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 22 May 2014 gives effect to Council's powers to federate schools. (School governors already have powers to federate by choice under provisions introduced in 2010). These powers have now been consolidated into the 2014 Regulations.

Estyn's definition of small school - Is a school of 100 or less.

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## **Compliance Statement in Relation to the Current School Proposals**

### **Introduction: School Organisation:**

The School Organisation Code imposes requirements and provides guidelines in respect of all school organisation proposals in Wales.

For all of the current school organisation proposals the School Modernisation Team have planned the consultations, decision making and statutory notices in line with what the Code requires.

### **Consultation Process Timescales:**

#### **RAG Status: GREEN**

The Schools Modernisation Team are required to ensure that timescales are adhered to in relation to school organisation proposals.

The timescale and process for consultation, decision making and statutory notice for the current school proposals have been checked and verified with Flintshire County Council Legal Team and through external verification through the Welsh Government Officers.

### **Welsh Government Consultation Documentation Checklist.**

#### **RAG status: GREEN**

In the case of all school organisation proposals, the consultation document **must** contain certain information in line with School Organisation Code, July 2013 (Document number: 006/2016).

A RAG checklist has been produced by Welsh Government School Governance & Organisation Branch for the current school organisation proposals. The RAG checklist document follows a colour coding system in order to highlight any missing information or areas which Welsh Government felt could have been dealt with more thoroughly.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant proposals have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

### **Flintshire County Council Consultee Checklist:**

#### **RAG status: GREEN**

When bringing forward statutory proposals the School Organisation Code provides a full list of consultees that the proposer should consult with during the statutory process. An internal checklist has been produced by the School Modernisation Team to assess if the required statutory consultees have been identified.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant consultee checklist have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

## Verification of Data in the Consultation Document:

**RAG status: GREEN**

The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:

- School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)
- Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.
- National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.
- GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.
- The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.
- Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.
- Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics
- Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales
- Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.
- Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.
- Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.
- Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis
- School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools
- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.

- School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DfE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.
- School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.
- Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41
- Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.

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# CONSULTATION REPORT

To the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

DECEMBER 2015

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposer (the Council) to publish a consultation report. In this document the proposer is required to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Respond to these by means of clarification.
- Set out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

1.2 This report should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation relating to the proposal.

## 2.0 The Proposal and Consultation

2.1 On the Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with a future report to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The Consultation period commenced on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ended on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

2.3 In accordance with the code, the consultation documents were published on Flintshire County Council's website on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015, and a link to the consultation documents was provided to stakeholders. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix A**.

2.4 A special version of the consultation document, for primary school children, was published on the Flintshire County Council website and a hard copy provided to all pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with a copy to the School Council at Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. Both versions of the consultation documents can be found in the school modernisation section of Flintshire County Council website using the following link:-

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Ysgol-Maes-Edwin-Flint-Mountain.aspx>

2.5 Hard copies (5) of the consultation documents were delivered to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain; Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint; and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Additional hard copies were also

available on request and were either posted or collected from County Hall, Mold.

- 2.6 A postbox was also made available at Ysgol Maes Edwin for consultation responses to be posted and collected by a member of the School Modernisation Team.
- 2.7 The Council produced a response document (standard response form) to assist and encourage people to give their views. This formed part of the consultation document and was also published on the Council's website. The children and young people's version of the consultation document contained a simpler response form. The consultation response form was converted into an online survey. Links to the survey were also published on the website.
- 2.8 All consultees, received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document and supplementary documents on the first day of the consultation (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015).
- 2.9 Documents were produced in both Welsh and English.

### **3.0 Consultation events/meetings**

- 3.1 Whilst not a requirement under the Code, the Council held separate consultation meetings on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain with:

#### **Teachers and support staff and governing body of Ysgol Maes Edwin**

Officers from Flintshire County Council attended these meetings. Officers informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.

An additional meeting was held with the Governing Body of Ysgol Maes Edwin on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **Parents/carers/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin**

The Parents/Carers/Guardians meeting took place at Ysgol Maes Edwin. Each Parent/Carer/Guardian received a letter containing the date, time, and location asking them to register their attendance for the event.

The consultation event allowed for parents/carers/guardians to meet with Council representatives and ask questions or raise issues which were pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.

You can read a summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

3.2 The Governors of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain requested that the Council did not meet with the School Council of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. The Governors felt that the pupils had already submitted their views on the proposed closure of the school in letter format. The Governing Body confirmed via correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 that they were satisfied that the pupils have been able to submit their views with regard proposed school closure. They were firmly of the view that it was not in the children's best interests to experience the anxiety and upset all over again by completing the children's and young person's version of the consultation document.

3.3 Consultation events were also arranged with the school council at Cornist C.P. School and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. The events were facilitated by the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner whose role included engaging and consulting with pupils. A member of the School Modernisation Team was also present at the School Council meetings. Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint chose to facilitate their own meeting with the school council to discuss the proposal.

The Governors letter from and findings of the School Council meetings are set out in **Appendix C.**

3.4 The School Modernisation Team met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the nearby affected schools. (Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint; Cornist C.P. School, Flint and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop).

A record of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors meetings are set out in **Appendix D.**

#### 4.0 **Consultation responses**

4.1 In total 197 responses were received during the consultation period. These included a response from Estyn in the form of a report. A number of responses were received on electronic response forms and letters.

4.2 The table below show the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms	53
Children & Young People's Response Forms	5
Letters and E-mails	56
Letters and E-mails – Children and Young People	83
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>197</b>

## 4.3 The number of contacts made pre, post consultation are listed below

<u>Method of Contact</u>	<u>Pre Consultation</u>	<u>During Consultation</u>	<u>Post Consultation</u>	<u>Total Number of Contacts Received</u>
Consultation Response Forms (Online)	0	53	0	53
Letters and E-mails	15	31	0	46
School Governors Responses	0	3	0	3
Children and Young Peoples Response Forms	0	5	0	5
Letters and E-mails – Children and Young People	80	0	0	80
School Council Responses	0	3	0	3
Union Response	0	1	0	1
Estyn Response	0	1	0	1
AM and MP Response	4	1	0	5
<b>Total number of Contacts</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197</b>

## 4.4 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within correspondence received from Adults highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on Pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the current pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration.	30
2	Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin	The school has many positives, it's a family school, it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teachers and staff. The school has lots of additional activities/clubs/trips.	57
3	Impact on Community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community and has been there for 103 years.	13
4	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The	13

		information is out of date. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and incorrect.	
5	Parental Choice	Parental Choice has been taken away	11
6	Alternative suggestions: Federation for the school	The school should be able to explore Federation.	8
7	Housing Development i.e Croes Atti Development	Local housing developments in the local area have not been fully taken into consideration	8
8	Family connections with the school	Request that siblings should be able to attend this school. Family connections with the school and a number of families attended the school historically.	5
9	Childcare	No transport for pupils to attend extra-curricular activities.	5
10	Condition of building	DDA money spent on School	4
11	Consultation Process	Have correct procedures been followed?	2
12	Other schools are full	Nearby schools have reached their Admission Number is certain year groups	4
13	Traffic and Transport	Additional traffic has not been taken into consideration	1
14	Comments supporting the proposal	Supportive of the proposal. There is clear rationale to support the proposal	1

4.5 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the Children and Young People's correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on Pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the current pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up, emotional welfare has not been taken into consideration.	117

2	Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin	The school has many positives, it's a family school, it's a lovely community school. The school is in a lovely building. The building is DDA compliant. The school has lovely supportive teachers and staff. The school has lots of additional activities/clubs/trips.	78
3	Impact on the Community	Closing the school down would significantly affect the local community. The school is at the heart of the community and has been there for 103 years.	8
4	Consultation Document	The information in the consultation document is incorrect. The information is out of date. The Estyn report for the school is old. The document is biased and negative. The information for the roof repairs seems high and incorrect.	4

\* Respondents were able to state more than one reason. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents

4.6 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the Children and Young People's correspondence received from School Councils highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Alternative suggestions	Build an extension on Ysgol Maes Edwin so more pupils can attend	6
		Fundraising event for Maes Edwin to extend their school	3
		Knock the school down and build something else	3
		Close the school, redesign and open it again	10
2	Impact on other schools	More pupils to go to Ysgol Maes Edwin from schools which are full	4
3	Impact on Pupils	Emotional welfare	13
		Losing Friends	7
		Bullying	8
		Where pupils would go to school	3
4		More people supporting our school	3

	Comments supporting the proposal	Make new friends	31
5	Uniforms	Would have to buy new uniforms	2
6	Impact on Teachers and Support Staff	Teachers would lose their jobs	4
7	Community	What would happen to the building	1
8	Transport	Buses run through the village and it takes a long time because of the roads	1
		How would they get to their new school	1

4.7 The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in **Appendix E.**

## 5.0 Response forms and correspondence

5.1 The standard response form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the Proposal;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to the school;
- what influenced their views on the Proposal and any negative or positive comments they had;
- whether or not they would send their child(ren) to the proposed alternative schools if the proposal was implemented; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the standard response form is set out in **Appendix F.**

5.3 On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were responding as a pupil, parent, carer, governor, teacher, support staff, local resident or other. Details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix F.**

## 6.0 Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the proposal and the Councils' response to them are set out below. A full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G.**

Estyn Comment	Comments which require response
The proposer has provided a clear rationale when compared with the status quo in relation to finance,	N/A

surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.	
The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal which link well to the stated purpose of rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the Flint Mountain, Flint and Northop area.	N/A
The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.	N/A
The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin on the staff currently employed at the school, the end of English medium primary provision in the village of Flint Mountain and the increase in travel time for a few pupils who live in this village.	N/A
The local authority has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federating Ysgol Maes Edwin with another local school. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.	N/A
The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in reduced travel for most pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the proposer recognises that the travel time would increase for a few pupils living in Flint Mountain, but this would not be in excess of the pupil travel guidelines.	N/A
The proposal has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places in 2015 for schools in the area.	N/A
The proposal appears to have taken appropriate account of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language and the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in accordance with parental choice.	N/A
The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Owen Jones. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and each school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all four schools is clear and compares appropriately with local, national and family of schools averages. However, the proposer has not	Whilst not a specific requirement of the School Organisation Code, in future all consultation reports will include comparison of performance of n-FSM and e-FSM pupils.



commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.	
The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal would not impact unfavourably on the current standards and provision at Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist C.P. School and Ysgol Owen Jones.	N/A
The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.	N/A

## 7.0 Responses from Members of Parliament

In total 5 responses were received pre-consultation period and during the consultation period Members of the Parliament. The table below show the methods Members of the Parliament used to respond to the consultation:

### Breakdown of Responses from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament

No	Response Type	Response from Members of Parliament
		MPs
1	Consultation Response Form	0
2	Letters and Emails	5
Totals		5

The correspondence from the Members of Parliament and the authority responses can be viewed in [Appendix H](#).

## 8.0 Responses from Governors

In total 3 responses were received during the consultation period from governors. The table below show the methods governors used to respond to the consultation:

### Breakdown of Responses from Governors

No	Response Type	Amount of Governors received
1	Consultation Response Form	0
2	Letters and Emails	3
Totals		0

The correspondence from governors can be viewed in [Appendix I.](#)

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# **APPENDIX A**

**Consultation Document (Adult and Childrens); Transport Assessment,  
Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact  
Assessment Recipient List**

<b>No</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Number of Recipient List</b>
1	Maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposal	20
2	Any other local authority likely to be affected Denbighshire County Council – School Modernisation Conwy County Council – School Modernisation Wrexham County Borough Council – School Modernisation	3
3	The Church in Wales	1
	Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	1
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop	11
	School Governing body for Cornist CP School, Flint	11
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/Pupils/School Council of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain	150
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint	546
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop	157
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Cornist CP School, Flint	383
6	The Welsh Ministers, AMs and MPs	7
7	Estyn	1
8	Teaching and Staff trade unions	17
9	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service – Consortium - GWE	1
10	Regional Transport Consortium	4
11	Police and crime commissioner	1
12	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is subject to the proposal	3
13	The local communities first partnership	1
14	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent provider	1
15	In the case of proposal affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People Partnership	1
16	URDD	1
17	Welsh Government Schools Management	4
18	Local Members	8
19	Equality and Welsh Language	2
20	Local High School – Headteacher and Chair of Governor	2
21	Local Health Authority	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1360</b>

# **APPENDIX B**

**YSGOL MAES EDWIN, FLINT MOUNTAIN TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF CONSULTATION EVENT, 11 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**

**Flintshire County Council attendees**

Ian Budd, Chief Officer – Education and Youth, Councillor Chris Bithell – Executive Member for Education and Youth, Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Provision and Planning, Claire Homard, Senior Manager School Improvement, Steve Gow, Human Resources Business Partner, Brian Rozier, Human Resources Business Partner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Sarah Thomas, Project Officer – School Modernisation

**Ysgol Maes Edwin attendees**

John Plunkett, Headteacher, Kay Baker, Deputy Headteacher (Foundation Phase Teacher, Rhian Hindley, Teacher, Kelly Cumston, Teacher, Sharon Thorold, Teaching Assistant, Kathryn Aveyard, 1:1 Support, Denise Sides, N.N.E.B+, Rosie Pritchard, 1:1 Support, Lucy Pugh, 1:1 Support, Jessica Kyle, 1:1 Support, Jenny Collins, 1:1 Support, Avril Price, Caretaker/Cleaner, Breakfast Club, Debbie Taylor, Secretary

John Plunkett, Headteacher welcomed Flintshire County Council Officers to the meeting and provided housekeeping points then passed the meeting on to Ian Budd, Chief Officer – Education and Youth.

Ian Budd thanked the Teachers/Support Staff for attending the meeting and Flintshire County Council Officers introduced themselves to the meeting.

Ian Budd provided the format of the meeting.

- Short Presentation
- Questions and Answers;
- Make points
- Human Resources Business Partners would be available for individual discussions following the meeting if required.

Jennie Williams and Sarah Thomas will be noting all the questions and answers and points raised during the meeting, this information will be included in the consultation pack provided to Cabinet Members.

Ian Budd agreed to share a draft version of the minutes with the School.

Ian Budd gave a short presentation.

Damian Hughes advised that the Formal Consultation Period runs from (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015).

The Consultation Documents have been assessed by Welsh Government officials and meet the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

It is anticipated that following the closure of the Consultation Period on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 a Consultation Report which summarises the key themes will be taken to Cabinet in January 2016. Additionally all responses received will be provided to the Cabinet to assist their decision making, also included will be the pre-consultation correspondence.

If Cabinet agree to proceed with the Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain a Statutory Notice will be published for 28 days. During this time, people may formally object or agree to the Proposal. Responses for this period will then be taken to Cabinet in the form of an objection report for a final decision in April 2016.

You can respond to the consultation by either:

- Placing your response in the School Modernisation postbox at Ysgol Maes Edwin
- Complete the on-line questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/53G2H6J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53G2H6J)
- 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](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)

Q	KB	<b>Are you aware that 46.5% of full time pupils came from other schools?</b>
A	DH	Flintshire County Council's Admissions Team would be aware of the pupil trends.
Q	KB	<b>Of the 46.5% - 77% came from larger schools in Flint. What makes you think parents/carers/guardians who have moved their child from Flint want to return to Flint where they have been dissatisfied with the Quality of Education/Bullying and have chosen to send their child to a smaller school.</b>
A	DH	It is a relevant point that parents/carers/guardians will have selected Ysgol Maes Edwin for a particular reason.
Q		<b>One of the Advantages in the Transport Impact Assessment refers to Pupils being able to walk to school. parents/carers/guardians put a lot of effort into choosing a school. The Local Authority cannot direct parents/carers/guardians to an alternative school if they wanted they could choose another school.</b>
A	DH	Parents and guardians can express a preference for any school. In modelling the Council have to make certain assumptions, we have made assumptions in the document based on the nearest school.
C		<b>There is only 38 places in Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop that is not enough. Ysgol Owen Jones is still a small school</b>

Q	JP	<b>There are 12 primary schools smaller than Ysgol Maes Edwin. What is the future for those smaller (under 105/120 pupils) schools in Flintshire? Are they under threat?</b>
A	IB	All Headteachers will be aware of the School Modernisation Strategy. No reviews of schools can be commissioned without agreement from the Local Authority's Cabinet.
Q	JP	<b>Will there be small schools in Flintshire?</b>
A	IB	Yes
A	DH	School Modernisation will be consider the bigger picture across Flintshire schools based on a continuing programme. The Council we are recommending that Ysgol Maes Edwin is not required in the current education portfolio as there unfilled places within schools within the area.
Q		<b>What do you expect to do with those pupils who have left the larger schools?</b>
A	IB	If Cabinet agree to proceed with the Proposal, the Authority will work with colleagues and individual families on transition arrangements.
Q	KB	<b>Do you know we have 3 new pupils?</b>
A	DH	Yes
Q	KB	<b>Looking in the future there has been very little planning for the pupils generated from housing developments i.e. Croes Atti. What provision has been made for these pupils?</b>
A	DH	Housing pupil yield formula is based on 0.24 pupils per dwelling. This is based on census information collated by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC). The formula does not take account of the pace of the building works; parental preference and whether the pupils are already attending schools in the area. Based on the modelling work carried the Council feels that the existing schools in the areas are able to cope with the potential pupil yield from the proposed housing developments. This is highlighted in the consultation document.
C	JP	<b>Personal view is that it would be foolish to apply for positions in other schools in Flintshire with less than 100 pupils</b>
A	CH	The School Modernisation Policy and financial challenges facing us that schools would be concerned that they could go into review in the future.
Q		<b>Why are other schools in Flintshire which are 2/3 empty not under review?</b>
A	DH	Cabinet can only agree to a review if the recommendation is put forward to them
Q	JC	<b>Is there a way in which we can keep the school open in a different way?</b>
A	DH	Yes, if you can provide a valid option which is sustainable we will present this proposal to Cabinet.
Q	DT	<b>Why have you spent £200,000 on building works during the Summer?</b>



A	DH	We cannot pre-determine the decision. The school has had physical adaptations to meet the needs of pupil/s with disabilities. Financial investment made in carrying out these adaptations ensures that no pupils are discriminated against or disadvantaged by the buildings in which they occupy. Flintshire County Council is duty bound by law under the Equality Act to address the needs of pupils with a disability.
Q	KB	<b>Does Ysgol Owen Jones have showering facilities?</b>
A	DH	I would need to confirm this, but if a pupil at the school required physical adaptations to meet the needs of their disabilities. Flintshire County Council is duty bound by law under the Equality Act to address the needs of pupils with a disability. Flintshire County Council has an Equality Strategy Group who meet and discuss the needs of pupils.
Q	DT	<b>Can Welsh Government determine what schools close?</b>
A	IB	The Welsh Government delegated the decision to Local Authorities. Welsh Government only make a decision if it affects Post 16 Education.
Q		<b>Are you going to increase the Admission Number at Ysgol Owen Jones and Cornist C.P. School?</b>
A		There will be no change to the Admission Number
C	DS	<b>Emotional comment made by Teacher of 37 years at Ysgol Maes Edwin. The school is a family and the pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin benefit from this family. The advantages of this school are like no other and the nurturing the pupils have. Other schools might have high statistics/pupil numbers and financial aspects. This all sounds so final and it hurts.</b>
C		<b>I live in Cheshire and I would not want to work anywhere else as we are a family.</b>
A	IB	Thanked them for their emotional stories and the difference they have made to pupils and families and advised that these would be included in the report to Cabinet
Q	DT	<b>What is going to happen to this building?</b>
A	DH	Should the proposal be implemented Ysgol Maes Edwin (building and site) would be declared surplus to Education and transferred to the Property Asset Team at Flintshire County Council. The Council could consider transferring the school asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.
C	JC	<b>In the disadvantages to pupils the only negative impact on pupils is they may lose friendship groups. I find this shocking!</b>
C	DH	This is the Authority's view. It is important to seek the views of the children and young people during the Consultation period. Estyn also provide a response to the Consultation documents.
Q	JP	<b>How many schools is it going to take to close?</b>

A	IB	We are in a level of austerity – a level that we have not seen before. 5 years ago. There is no one answer.
Q	JP	<b>Leader of the Council looking to the public to find the answers</b>
A	IB	There are other consultation events taking place within Flintshire with the Community. You can view these events on the Flintshire County Council website. <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk">www.flintshire.gov.uk</a>
Q	JC	<b>Are we able to speak with you during the Consultation? Can this process be stopped and delayed?</b>
A	DH	Yes. If you are able to provide a sustainable option with business plan.
C		<b>Children and Young Peoples Consultation – Ysgol Maes Edwin felt that the pupils who receive 1 to 1 support are never going to understand the consultation as they have difficulties communicating. Governors have drafted a response to the Authority and asked for the letters provided pre-consultation.</b>
A	DH	The Children and Young People's consultation would be completed by specialist officers.



**YSGOL MAES EDWIN FLINT MOUNTAIN. GOVERNOR CONSULTATION EVENT,  
11 November 2015, 5.00pm**

**Council attendees:**

Cllr Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Jeanette Rock, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas; Kim Brookes

**Governor attendees:**

John Plunkett; Gareth Jones; Jenny Morgan; Keith Taylor; Sue Williams; Denise Sides; Kay Baker; Terry Renshaw; Vicky Perfect

IB welcomed governors and commented on the thoughtful contributions received from the staff at their meeting earlier. He stated that such a process is not entered into lightly by the Local Authority that Officers are sensitive to emotions of all and will make time to deal with them;

Minutes and any points made during this meeting will be made and shared with all and Cabinet Members;

IB made a short power point presentation which can be made available.

**Questions and Answer session**

**Q: Big schools have more staff but they cannot always provide personal support that this schools offers. This small school is successful, big schools are not the answer I urge to you please consider this, there is an examples including my daughter who has special needs, where they have grown in this school. There are specific children that come to these schools for a reason. English Authorities went down the route of getting rid of small schools, I urge Flintshire not to.**

A: CH heads of big schools would also say they do a good job.

A:IB: Estyn provides a statement on the educational quality and provision and support of vulnerable learners. There is assurance on the quality of provision in schools.

A: JR: vulnerable learners have benefitted from the inclusive nature of schools within Flintshire and vulnerable pupils do go successfully to bigger schools. We cannot blanketly say that big schools don't provide support to vulnerable learners.

**Q: We celebrate the differences in welsh education system and from personal experience my family agonised over finding the right school for my daughter as it could affect the rest of her life.**

A: Whether it is a small or large school issue there is a need for personalised support for individual learners. If changes are made in the area each family will be provided with the support they need.

A: IB: School organisational change this a core responsibility of the Local Authority and is a sensitive and emotive issue. Places for those pupils that are affected by school organisation change will be carefully planned and provided for with our Admissions Officer and Inclusion Support Officers.

**Q: If 10% surplus places being considered by the School Organisation code, why not those schools with 61% surplus places? No space for my 2 daughters who will have to travel further.**

**A: DH:** There is an on-going process and all schools would need to be considered. In school reorganisation there are different factors to consider which underpin decisions – demographic/geographic/ need for capital investment. Practically we cannot review all schools in one go there has to be a phased approach.

In the next phase of school reviews, there will need to be a deliberation on which ones require capital investment. The pace of change for school organisation change depends on the area and this will be unpalatable for school communities. School modernisation programmes in response to unfilled places in England happened some time ago. Wales doesn't have Academies.

**CB:** Historically there has been a subsidy provided to small schools and the Local Authority was not exercised historically to deal with this.

**IB:** Other Council services have also felt the financial austerity and some have been decimated as, education services cannot be continued to be protected and pupil teacher ratios going up.

**Q: What about parents who want to send their children to a small school. Can small schools exist without a federation?**

**A: IB** Small schools can and will become unsustainable given the future austerity and 10 -15% cuts in funding. Governors of schools will need to consider what their schools will look like with such cuts. Less school sites mean less staffing costs. The Local Authority will model for both large and small schools. The model of schools will mean that leadership costs and shared costs through reducing the schools sites and also reducing staff costs through federation may happen

**Q: As governors we heard about it in the press which was grossly unfair.**

**A: IB:** There was a careful and sensitive cascade of information to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors prior to the announcement. This happened due to the timing of the reports being made public this would have happened in advance of any media coverage, and required careful and sensitive handling.

**Q: In the consultation document, the criteria and information is jumping all over the place – can you just provide a plain English version?**

**A: DH:** The consultation document has been written in order to meet the legal requirements under the School Organisation Code, although the document has lots of information and it could be an onerous read this is necessary to ensure all the facts about the school available.

**IB:** There is also a Children and Young People's version of the document available.

**Q: Do you think there is an acceptable distance of travel by pupils?**

**A: DH:** There is the Wales Government Learner Measure which sets out the criteria for acceptable travel time for pupils to travel from their home address to their school. As most of the current school demographic is based Flint based, the view is that there are unfilled places in the area that are within acceptable distances to travel.

**Q: I live opposite the Gwynedd School and seen too much going on there, so I don't want to send my children there, so I will have to travel further.**

A: DH: The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that should the school close there are enough spaces in other schools to accommodate these children, it is our view that there are enough places in the system should the school close, it cannot take into consideration every parents preference and where a parent expresses a preference for a school place.

**Q: Does the support to families include emotional support and Early Years support. Children have already been moved from Flint schools, so how will this be dealt with?**

A: IB needs a coherent and consistent approach and the positive goodwill of parents and pupils to work through individual transition plans.

CH: The transition work will include this school, school staff, and the receiving school and the local authority will provide a higher level of support as necessary for these young people learners and will tailor their support.

JR: If the learners through a service level agreement have a statement of need, then the school community and receiving school would need to review their individual needs and plan accordingly, young people are more resilient and are individuals, there will be a role for the school to work with us to identify those needs.

**Q: Are the unfilled places figures up to date?**

A: DH: Yes the unfilled places were up to date at time of writing. Ysgol Northop Owen Jones is full in certain year groups.

IB stated that if governors needed a further meeting then that could be facilitated  
Further answers to questions may be addressed in the Parent/Carer/Guardians meeting.

**Continuation of Governors meeting which took place on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 5.00 p.m. at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**

**Q: Parents/Carers/Guardians/Staff/Teachers are worried, upset and angry and the message from the parents is that they want to stay together as a family. The parents are not wanting to look around at other nearby schools, as they don't want the big schools**

IB noted the point

**Q: I have attended courses with the other nearby schools and they are say they are full apart from one.**

CH: Data sourced from the Sept 2015 Stat Returns, this figures are always moving. Parents wishing to express an interest in transferring will need to contact the Admissions Team who have an up to date database.

**Q: If there is no space in Year 4 but is space in Year 2 and 1. Would they get in on the sibling rule?**

CH: Not automatically but they could go to appeal and this would be considered by an independent panel

**Q: Why don't the Councillors know about the £93k spent on the school in the Summer?**

A: Councillors are aware of the DDA spend. We cannot pre-determine the decision and we have to meet the needs of the current pupils.

**Q: Confused on process – Why was this school chosen?**

**A: The proposal meets the trigger points of the School's Modernisation Strategy**

**Q: Federation Options – One Headteacher on Board would our framework need to be in by the 2<sup>nd</sup> December?**

**A: You will need to provide as much detail as possible that the proposal is sufficient.**

**Q: In light of recent activities, Governors have resigned and there are very few willing to stand up and become Governors**

**A: It was suggested the School contact Kim Brookes, Governance to discuss in further detail**

## YSGOL MAES EDWIN, FLINT MOUNTAIN - PARENT/CARER/GUARDIANS

CONSULTATION EVENT , 11 November 2015, 18.30pm

### Council attendees:

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd; Damian Hughes, Claire Homard; Jeanette Rock, Gill Yates, Neal Cockerton (Independent Chair), Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas, Kim Brookes, Paula Vogt

IB welcomed parents, carers and guardians to the meeting noting their concerns and anxieties. It was stated that the review was to ensure that their concerns can be aired. He confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and shared with school and with decision makers. It is a public record and made available to all. All views will be shared with Cabinet members and these will be taken into account in their considerations.

There will be a Questions and Answer session after a short power point presentation, the presentation drew attention to council prioritisation of funding for learners and safeguarding of the vulnerable; £52m reduction in public services over next 3 years; a priority is trying to manage rises in pupil teacher ratios; with funding challenge ahead for the community to participate in; a challenge for small schools and how they could be organised in the future as they have to manage diminishing resources; the admissions process will assist families with their preferences; pupils with additional learning needs will be supported through transition arrangements with this school and receiving schools.

Parent referenced the national admissions regulations, Flintshire's policy and how parents/carers/guardians can apply for a pupil space. Each school has an admission Number (A year group number limit but in limited circumstances a right of appeal to an independent panel; link to Flintshire's School Transport policy on the web; pupils have entitlement to free school transport if they live 2 miles from their nearest appropriate school.

IB stated that options for families would be worked through on an individual basis; the meeting was an initial consultation process to identify the issues; the indicative timeline was responses by 2 December 2015 with report back to Council Cabinet in January which will include copy of all correspondence from school community along with identification of the issues raised and council responses. The Cabinet will then decide to issue either a statutory proposal to close or not to continue. There will be a need to publish objections received to a statutory notice. Views and objections can be submitted to the council in a variety of ways.

### Questions and Answers :

The Chair asked the attendees to note some ground rules to help meeting flow; to avoid interrupting when another person talking; to avoid distracting side conversations and to respect each other's views.

**Q: If being amber is an issue can this be improved with the team. Kids are thriving and we are at full capacity.**

**A: CH:** The main driver for the Ysgol Maes Edwin review is not about standards at this school and that is on the record it had a good report from Estyn. This national model of school categorisation is based on a number of factors including foundation phase outcomes. The raw data is on Mylocalschool website. Difficulty is in a small school low numbers affect performance categorisation even though there is good pupil progress. Wales Government prioritise data profile of school and take three years' worth of data including literacy, numeracy and attendance. It is not ideal but it is the system we have to work with. The second criteria which is determined by the Authority and GwE our regional school improvement service. The school has a grade B which is good but the matrix as



determined by the Wales Government gives the overall colour categorisation so 4 for data and B for school improvement will be an amber colour to show support needed which the school can access from the regional service.

**Q: Why doesn't Flintshire recognise dyslexia?**

**A: JR:** we adhere to the guidance from the British Psychological Society which determines that a test on one day is not how we determine if a young person has dyslexia. The assessment we use is if a child's assessment shows a sustained level of targeted support by the school. There is a concern with Wales Government model of measuring those with additional learning needs.

**Q: Do children with autism affect the figures?**

**Q: If children with additional learning needs affect figures why don't you take them out?**

**A: CH:** We have to work with Wales Government Policies, and figures therefore Estyn reports are independent and important as they can give an in-depth report.

**A: IB** stated that Estyn are a statutory consultee and give offer a response to the proposals, this will be made public.

**Q: What is to say that your numbers are wrong?**

**A: CH:** Performance data has been checked based on information submitted by the school to the local authority and appear on 'Mylocalschool' website

**A: DH:** we use capacity figures which are a standard national form, and the capacity assessment has been signed by the school as confirmation, unfilled places are derived from the capacity form against pupil numbers obtained by the schools official returns in January and September.

**Q: Will this increase the Pupil Teacher Ratio in other schools. If are child has autism they will not cope in other large groups. What will happen when 600 houses are built in Oakenholt?**

**A: IB:** One way to manage rising Pupil Teacher Ratio going is through school re-organisation. Pupil led funding keeps the Pupil Teacher Ratio down and re-organisation can take out costs of buildings, administration and leadership.

**A: DH** on page 14 potential future developments we use a formula to predict. Pace of development will be down to a number of factors, so it is difficult to predict when potential housing developments will be built through. We use census information provided by Conwy CBC to derive a formula, this is then applied. What it can't predict is the pace of housing development, parental preference and whether pupils in new housing are already in the local Education system. Therefore we apply maximum figures. Based on these figures the Authority is of the view that the current school network can cope with additional housing developments in the area. Other factors are, reducing pupil projections and declining birth rate.

**Q: I drive past two schools to send my child here. What is parental choice?**

**A: DH** apologies it is parental preference. It is the Local Authority's it is our statutory duty to manage school places, demographics inform the Council and Ysgol Maes Edwin in not required in our local schools estate.

**A: GY** it is parental preference not a right to choose. If there is a place in a school then parents can express a preference up to the Admission Number. If a place is not available, then parents and guardians are advised to pick a second preference.

**Q: I would not send my child to those schools. Does a child have a right to a good education? There is an in-humane pressure for parents, pupils and staff.**

**A: IB:** we are clear it is a sensitive and emotive time and there needs to be a delicate balance in working through issues for staff and families. Wales Government recognise this and hence try to speed up the process for the Authority.

**Q: Why are we here? Are we the only amber school? Other schools meet the "trigger" points**

**A: CH:** you are compared with like schools on 'Mylocalschool' website ([www.mylocalschool.com](http://www.mylocalschool.com))

**Q: What number of schools are we looking at?**

A: CllrB: We need to deal with surplus places in primary and secondary. We have not chosen to do this before as it is difficult but we can no longer ignore it because of the dire financial circumstances affects all pupils. There are circa 2,000 surplus pupil places across Flintshire with the Primary sector and Welsh Government are putting increasing pressure upon Local Authority's to reduce them.

A: IB: we have reviewed schools in previous years and these are in Cabinet papers. Cabinet cannot have a closed mind and this community needs to look at how you can resiliently address 10% 15% or 30% budget reductions in coming years and Cabinet will look at those plans.

Q: Saltney Ferry School is worse than us.

A: CH: Saltney Ferry School is now out of Estyn Category and have made good progress.

A: IB: there was an area review in Saltney. Any review has to be resilient for the long term.

Q: Flintshire County Council have a statutory obligation to improve standards for pupils in the school – how will this be improved and provide for pupils at this school as other schools not have enough places

A: CH: we have to show where there is comparable or better provision in the document.

A: IB: Councillors have to be satisfied that there is sufficient places / alternative provision within the area.

A: GY: there are enough places in the system but we don't know what preferences parents will have. I can work with each parent to look at their preferences and transport support.

Q: If schools are full why are there diminishing resources?

A: IB: for a statutory notice to be issued Councillors have to be assured there are places for each child.

Q: Why is Flint Mountain not deemed to be part of Flint?

A: IB: Cabinet members can't take decisions unless they are clear there are suitable alternative places. For many families alternative schools are closer than Flint Mountain

Q: Data sets are out of date

A: DH: the date sets used at the time of writing to Cabinet in June 2015 were PLASC January 2015. They are a snapshot at a moment in time. We have acknowledged they cause uncertainty and we work in partnership with school to maintain as much surety as we can.

A: IB: consultation document contains as required in the Code. Reporting to decision makers will identify the data source, date and will be contextualised.

Q: I took my child from another local school after years of bullying and received no response from you Mr Budd. All teachers in this school can identify them individually which won't happen in big schools as they are taught in corridors. Up here they have time for them. My child is known to all staff.

A: IB: every parent/carer has put thought into decision to make for their child and heartening to hear. Correspondence with the authority is responded to within ten days as policy. The authority has limited powers with individual school complaints. Estyn will provide an independent report to the decision makers. For me the child should be safe and secure wherever they are placed.

A: CH: I must defend heads of large schools who work hard and they know their staff. Some of our biggest schools have fantastic teachers and staff and know their pupils.

A: Cllr B: Small schools have a subsidy and your children benefit from that but they are being supported by the other schools and the schools budget forum wish to create a more level funding programme. We need to do right by all our children.

Q: Can you give me a cost of what the school modernisation project has cost the taxpayer? Can you come back to me with those figures?

A: Management of School Places is a Statutory core responsibility of the Local Authority. There is no additional costs associated with the Ysgol Maes Edwin review as officers are working within their core responsibilities.

Q: There are four options for primary schools in Flint, but only one option for Flint Mountain

<p>A: DH: looking at demographics small number of pupils come from the locality. Schools have been protected until now from major cuts and that can no longer happen.</p>
<p><b>Q: Why close the school and spend £90k on the building?</b></p>
<p>A: IB: we cannot predetermine an outcome and therefore todays money on today's pupils and access for pupils with disability</p>
<p><b>Q: The education standards I take issue with CH statement that other schools in Flint are "better" on standardisation. I am going to rely on Estyn report on this school. Children with autism/dyslexia are not indicated on the statistics. That's why we come to school, that's what's gets me out of bed in the morning, to make a difference to these children. I am unhappy with the data and wasted a few hours with Officers who did not deal with my concerns. I did request that the data in the pack be updated but the actual numbers did not go in as they didn't fit your agenda. We wanted data to show the journey.</b></p>
<p>A: DH: We use data supplied by the school. Our projections methodology is used by other authorities and object that we have wasted time.</p>
<p><b>Q: We would like to make clear to Cabinet that the predicted data shows a decline. We don't know whose data was used. Is this made up as parents we say this is far off the mark.</b></p>
<p>A: DH: we use a three year average of intake. If you derive more numbers in September it is a live model and we will change predictions. Logical assumptions are made for financial modelling as funding follows pupils and we have no way of determining parental preference.</p>
<p><b>Q: I wrote to Cabinet members and had no replies form individuals only a cut and pasted answer. Why was the school targeted?</b></p>
<p>A: Cllr B: there are surplus places and not serving the locality.</p>
<p>A: IB: when I answer the questions I have given personal answers but I am disappointed as review on this school is a cabinet decision and decisions are a public record.</p>
<p><b>Q: Tell me which of the five criteria apply. Why are you closing us?</b></p>
<p>A: IB: 16 June report of Cabinet made it clear. It is open to you to make representation and to make alternative resilient case. You need a resilient future plan and hear clearly the views of children and young people. It is a requirement that the governing body has to facilitate consultation with at least the school Council. We have skilled officers that can work with the school council. Children have written to the authority before the consultation began and these will be taken to cabinet.</p>
<p><b>Q: We don't want children to be further consulted.</b></p>
<p>A: IB: there has to be a sensitive way of dealing with the legal requirement</p>
<p><b>C: You don't understand and care about the kids. Children were sat up each night for a week crying about the school going to close. This schools has done fantastic and you are all really disappointing.</b></p>
<p><b>Q: I am from the Flint Mountain Community Association. I accept the authority has to look at options. What is role of local community in responding to this? Only a small percentage of Flint Mountain residents send their pupils to this schools. I feel report tone is written to close and not a balanced report of advantages and disadvantages which emphasise decision to close school. Are there enough question marks about the data? The number of developments in this community could bring pupils to the school. We are addressing future of the community and working with the school as the community changes. Development in Northop and we are dynamic. Will houses be built when school closes?</b></p>
<p>A: DH: There is an expectation that you respond to the consultation document. The document is weighty as we have to follow the Code. Councillors have not made any decision on the site. There is the issue of legal ownership of the site. Other housing developments are at outline planning only. Council cannot wait to see if there are housing developments in 15 years. There is no requirement for us to meet but must widely communicate but we welcome the opportunity to meet.</p>
<p><b>Q: If you are not going to build on the land then why close the school</b></p>

A: Cllr B: if proposals go through it will be passed to the Community Assets section who will decide what to do with it.

C. **If you closed another school you could sell land and make money. This would make more financial sense.**

**Q: Report is negative and your mind is made up. Can you not sure where surplus places are.**

A: DH: We cannot do a global review at one time; it causes uncertainty in communities and we acknowledge that. We have an onward programme of modernisation and have to manage the work programme as Cabinet have to deal with decision making relating to cuts in all parts of the authority.

**Q: There are other schools worse than us.**

A: DH: It is not that simple as some require major capital investment to facilitate school organisational change as they are the only school in the area for example and Flintshire needs to be able to secure the money. Maes Edwin is in the first tranche of reorganisation as no capital investment is needed to facilitate school organisational change as there are other schools in the area which can accommodate children.

A: IB: All decisions relating to school modernisation are complex and not easy to make for Cabinet.

A: Cllr B: We understand your concerns

**Q: What about future developments as additional housing are going to be filled with people with children. If there are over 600 houses in the next 2 -3 years where will they go to school?**

A: DH: We have already answered this

**Q: Where are the Projections from on this housing yield?**

A: DH: in the document we show no anticipated timeline on the build but if all houses were built now they would fit into our school estate without Maes Edwin

A: Cllr B: some children could be secondary children or go to a catholic or welsh school

**Q: Is the consultation open to residents? How are residents to respond? How do they know? We have done our own thing to inform them.**

A: IB: there has been significant media interest, and publicity locally

A: DH: required consultee groups have been informed which includes the Community Association and the website. Hard copies of documentation have been provided at the school and further copies can be provided upon request.

**Q: Can the process be lengthened? We would only have five months to find another school is that acceptable?**

A: IB: it is not lengthy I agree but can be delivered and need to weigh it up against uncertainty for the school. It is not a fixed timetable and for example additional investigations/consultation to consider any alternative proposals but forward

**Q: Parents do not agree that five months is long enough to find another schools. Will Teaching Assistant support follow if needed?**

A: IB: it is an acceptable length of time against the balance of anxiety and uncertainty. There can be drop in sessions for parents with vulnerable pupils to work on transition and every effort made to negotiate continuity of staffing where possible.

**Q: How many Schools have gone through a review and remained open in Flintshire?**

A: Argoed High School, Saltney Review – Saltney Ferry C.P.

**Q: We don't trust you, you have already made your mind up**

A: IB: we can provide more information as per our roles under the Code

**Q: Where are you planning to put my children. You will see me in court**

A: GY: You can contact me individually as I cannot discuss individuals cases here

**Q: Looks like you have made your decision and leave the children who need support in random schools without support**

**Q: What happens to brothers and sisters who go to different schools and split them up?**

**Q: My child was at and was crying and nobody has done anything about it. Which schools has most empty spaces?**

**A: DH: Flint, Gwynedd**

**A: IB: Governors and Leaders of school want you to stay here and not jump ship as various outcomes can come from a review**

**Q: Can the report influence the Cabinet**

**A: IB: Cllrs need to be confident that sufficient places are available in the area. Not only is it that the consultation report goes to Cabinet but included is Estyn and their comments on education in the area. As parents you have individual decisions to make and as JP said earlier tonight he would rather have Estyn's view**

**Q: Who provides the alternatives?**

**A: IB: any consultees can come up with resilience plans and options to manage the budget reductions ahead for example federation with other schools; joint structures. Cabinet can commission an extension to consider alternatives put forward but this does extend period of uncertainty**

**Q: If unfilled places go down to 10%. Do you get extra funding from the Wales Government?**

**A: IB: revenue funding is via a formula based on pupil numbers therefore nothing to do with surplus places. Capital investment is for new build and refurbishment and is subject to a business case. From 2018 onwards the authority can bid subject to successful business case by case. New school in Holywell is significantly smaller than the previous school.**

**A: IB was requested to put this in writing.**

**Q: School Categorisation is 4 which the Leader of the Council does not understand, so can a summary be included to help decision makers understand the school categorisation system.**

**PA: IB: Mylocalschool has a guide for parents**

# **APPENDIX C**

Ysgol Maes Edwin  
Lon y Ysgol  
Mynydd y Fflint  
Sir y Fflint. CH6 5QR  
Rhif ffon: 01352 761331  
e-bost:  
fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk



J.C. Plunkett  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher

Ysgol Maes Edwin  
School Lane  
Flint Mountain  
Flintshire. CH6 5QR  
Tel: 01352 761331  
e-mail:  
[fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Damian,

**Re: Ysgol Maes Edwin Consultation Document – Children’s version**

Following the meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November with yourself and Cllr Chris Bithell regarding the Children’s version of the Consultation document the Governing body wish to make the following statement:

The pupils of Ysgol Maes Edwin have already submitted their views on the proposed closure of our school in letter format. The Governing Body are satisfied that the pupils have been able to submit their views with regard proposed school closure. We are firmly of the view that it is not in the children’s best interests to experience the anxiety and upset all over again by completing the Children’s version of the Consultation Document.

We trust that our wishes will be respected on this matter as part of the consultation and that the responses from pupils received in letter format will be accepted as their responses to the proposed school closure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Williams', with the initials 'PP' written below it.

Mrs S Williams  
Chair of Governors



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Lon y Ysgol  
Mynydd y Fflint  
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[fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk)



Ysgol Maes Edwin  
School Lane  
Flint Mountain  
Flintshire. CH6 5QR  
Tel: 01352 761331  
e-mail:  
[fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk)



J.C. Plunkett  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher

30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear School Modernisation Team,

**Re: Consultation with School Council**

The governing body of Ysgol Maes Edwin would like to confirm that the original children's written responses to the proposed school closure will stand as their responses to this process.

The children have therefore been consulted and responded accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

K Taylor  
Acting Chair of Governors





Your Ref Eich Cyl

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax/Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) **this has to be done by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely



Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner



Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)

## **APPENDIX C**

### **School Council Findings**

#### **Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop – School Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

##### **Attendees**

Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop School Council, Claire Broad, Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Representative from Ysgol Owen Jones

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this children and young persons consultation was for the Authority to speak with the children in Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like Flintshire County Council to hear.

The Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the proposal.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

## Ysgol Owen Jones School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Pupils
Sad	1
Mixed emotions	1
Ok	1
I don't mind	5

A vote was also held for the above question:

Responses	Number of Pupils
Thumbs Up (happy)	1
Thumbs in the middle (would not mind)	6
Thumbs down (sad)	1

2. How would you feel about new pupils starting at Ysgol Owen Jones? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Hopes	Number of Pupils
Happiness (that new pupils would feel happy and current pupils would feel happy)	4
Hope that new pupils would fit in / be friends	2
Hope that nice people would come to YOJ	1
I don't mind	1
Fears	Number of Pupils
Fears of Bullying	4
Fears that new pupils would not be nice	4

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
Build an extension	2
More pupils to go to Ysgol Maes Edwin	1

**This question was also discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

- Could build an extension and make their school bigger
- Could make their classrooms bigger so more children can go
- Could knock their school down and build a new one
- Could they modernise the school like we did with the library
- They could advertise for more pupils

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

- No further comments made

Q1. How would you feel if ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

I would feel OK but sad  
happy for them because  
they have a new chance

HOPES

FEARS



10/20/2019  
Normal  
5/11/15

# Any Improvements / Other Suggestions to the Proposal?

I would like to see it extend

I would like people would

I would like to see it extend

## **APPENDIX C**

### **School Council Findings**

#### **Cornist C.P. School, Flint – School Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

##### **Attendees**

Cornist C.P. School Council, Claire Broad, Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner, Jennie Williams, Project Officer – School Modernisation, Representative from Cornist C.P. School

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this children and young persons consultation was for the Authority to speak with the children in Cornist C.P. School, Flint with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like Flintshire County Council to hear.

The Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the proposal.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.



## Cornist Park CP School Council Consultation

### Summary

1. How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Concern for pupils at Ysgol Maes Edwin losing their friends	3
Concern for teachers at Ysgol Maes Edwin losing their jobs	2
Concern for where Ysgol Maes Edwin pupils would go	2
Sad face / Disappointed face / Confused face	4
Other:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You don't really need a school there as there are lots of other schools that have better quality</li> <li>• If people moved schools they would have to buy more uniforms which costs a bit of money</li> <li>• The children wouldn't have an education!</li> <li>• It could take a while to find a new school</li> </ul>	1  1  1  1

2. How would you feel about making new friends? Below are the responses as described on the post it notes:

Responses	Number of Responses
Ok	1
Don't mind	1
Worried	2
Nice	1
Make everyone feel welcome	3
Other:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There might not be enough room in our school because were nearly full</li> </ul>	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children might really love their school and might feel they don't fit in</li> </ul>	1

**3. Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead? This question was discussed verbally and some of the suggestions were:**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
They could do a fundraising event for Maes Edwin to extend their school and playground to make it bigger for them	2
They could put a big banner up and welcome everyone to raise money and anyone could go to the school	1

**4. Would you like to say anything else?**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>
What would happen to the building if it closed	1
The buses run to the village and take a long time to get through because of the roads	1
It wouldn't be good for parents because they would need to buy new uniforms	1
How would they get to their new school	1
What would happen to their teachers	2
I would wish them all the best	1
I would know how they would feel making new friends	1

Cornist 26.11.15.

Q1 How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close?



If it was to close some schools might not have enough room for more pupils.

You don't really need a school there because there are lots of other schools that have better facilities.



If people were to be closed they would have to find another school to go to.



Children need to be able to have school and might feel that way

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

# Cornist 26.11.15

## Q1 How do you feel about making new friends?

There might not be enough room in our school because we're nearly full.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.

It would be nice to see some new faces especially if their school had been shut down.



Your Ref Eich Cyt

Our Ref Ein Cyf

Date Dyddiad 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Ask for Gofynner am Jennie Williams

Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704015

Fax Ffacs

Dear School Council

Thank you for meeting with us on the morning of November 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 to talk about the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin.

We were really interested to hear your opinions and you raised some interesting points for the Council to consider. Enclosed is a summary of the main themes that were discussed for you to keep.

During the session you were provided with booklets about the proposal. They can be completed if you think of anything else you would like to say about Ysgol Maes Edwin or if any other pupils in your classes raise any important points.

Please return them to: the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) this has to be done **by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

Yours sincerely

Claire Broad  
Healthy Schools Lead Practitioner

Jennie Williams  
Project Officer – School Modernisation

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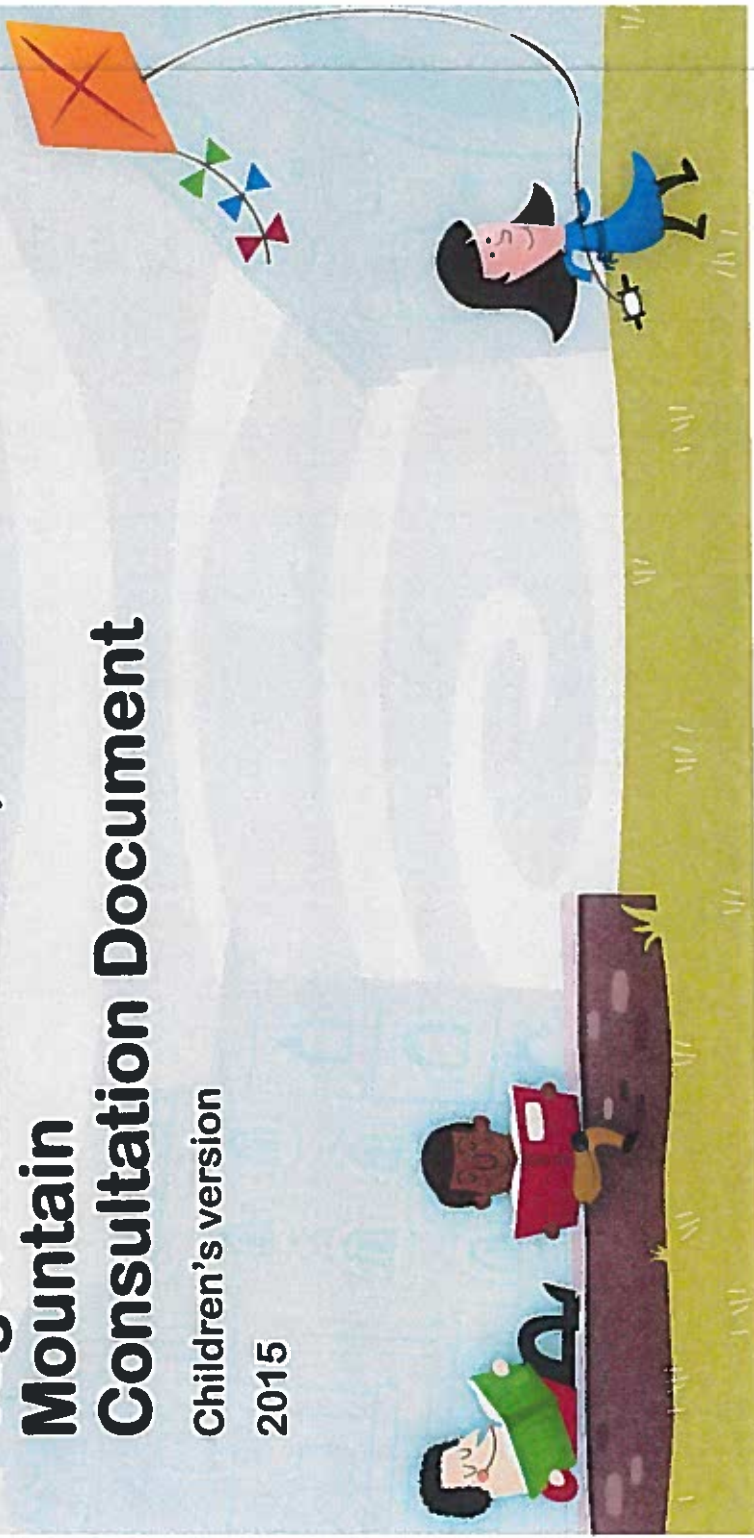


## School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 05/11/15	Number of Children present: 22
1. Badges	They make people realise we are school council. They no to come to us when they are stuck. We get nice comments about them.
2. Questions for survey on Hwb+	<p>How could we make the school better?            What new after school clubs shall we have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rugby</li> <li>- Drama</li> <li>- Athletics</li> <li>- Girls football and many more.</li> </ul>
3. Trip to County Hall	Ask questions to the Chair person. We will decide on questions next week and make a list.
4. Ysgol Maes Edwin	<p>How do we feel if Maes Edwin were to close?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Happy for more children in Ysgol Gwynedd.</li> <li>- Excited</li> <li>- New Friends</li> <li>- New games and ideas</li> <li>- They could turn the school into something fun for everyone like a sports club.</li> </ul>
5.	
6.	

# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Consultation Document

Children's version  
2015



# Who are we?

Flintshire County Council are responsible for all the schools in our area.

We are part of a team that work for the Council to support schools.





# Our Aims

- To give all children the best chance to learn in excellent schools in our area.
- To have safe and strong school buildings.
- To make sure money for children and schools in our area is spent in a fair way.
- To give everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard and listened to, in decisions that affect them.



# Changes

**It is not always possible for every school to stay as they are and sometimes this means the Council needs to make some important changes.**

**Changes can help to give everyone the best chance to learn, in the best possible school.**



# What does this mean?

This could mean that Ysgol Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# What would change?

If you were to go to a different school, your classroom would change and you would have a new teacher. You would also have a new school uniform.



# How long do things take?

September 201

January 2016

December 2015

October 2015

1. People tell us what they think.



2. We collect all the responses and tell everyone what the main comments are.

3. The Council will have a meeting to decide what to do. We will then let everyone know what the decision is.

4. Any changes agreed will start from this date.



# Want to find out more?

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# What do you think?

It is very important that we talk to lots of different people about this idea, especially children. Your opinion is important to us.

In this booklet you can write down anything you want to tell us and any ideas you may have.



# Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Poppy 9/4

Alishia 7/3

KATHYN 10/16

Kitty 10/16

Please write your answers in the box.





# How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

I would feel Happy  
Because I would meet  
new friends  
Sad for the other children  
but happy for new friends  
I would feel excited for the  
new children if they were  
to come to this school.  
I'll be happy because  
I'll get to meet new  
friends



Please tell us what you think  
by writing your answers in  
the box.



## Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

Find an area and build a new building. I think they could extend it and make it better. keep it closed for a couple of weeks.

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



## Would you like to say anything else?

If it did close and more  
children came to our school  
we will make sure . . . . .

- feel welcome
- help them
- make them feel loved
- help them around school
- make them feel not alone

==

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

Please post your completed booklet to us by **Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept anything you send us after this date.

**Address: Schools Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND.**

Or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)



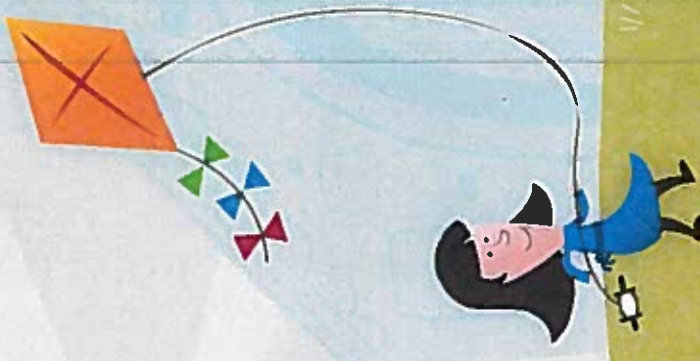


**Thank you**



# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Consultation Document

Children's version  
2015



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**It is not always possible for every school to stay as they are and sometimes this means the Council needs to make some important changes.**

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# What does this mean?

This could mean that Ysgol Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# What would change?

If you were to go to a different school, your classroom would change and you would have a new teacher. You would also have a new school uniform.



# How long do things take?

September 2015

January 2016

December 2015

October 2015

1. People tell us what they think.



2. We collect all the responses and tell everyone what the main comments are.

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Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Ysgol Gwynedd

8, 6, 10, years old

Please write your answers in the box.





## How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

Happy, excited, Shy,  
Nervous, More people  
supporting our school.

Please tell us what you think  
by writing your answers in  
the box.



## Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

We would like it to be knocked down and built in to something else.

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



# Would you like to say anything else?

if it did cure old  
people <sup>cure</sup> we would be  
very <sup>Happy</sup> and  
welcoming.

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

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# How long do things take?

October 2015      December 2015      January 2016      September 2016

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# What do you think?

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In this booklet you can write down anything you want to tell us and any ideas you may have.



# Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Ysgol Gwynedd      Aduie wrtho  
 Ben Nwllan 10  
 ZLC Anna      yr 10  
 Charlie Thomas  
 JJ      Lloyds Williams

Please write your answers in the box.





## How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

we would be excited because  
there would be new kids and a  
chance to make new friends.

Please tell us what you think  
by writing your answers in  
the box.



# Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

they could close it and they  
could refer us or refer us  
to a shop or school then  
open it again.

Please tell us what you think  
by writing your answers in  
the box.



## Would you like to say anything else?

18 Ysgol Maes Edwina  
we would give them a  
warm welcome and make  
them feel safe

Please write your answers in the box.



# What Happens Next?

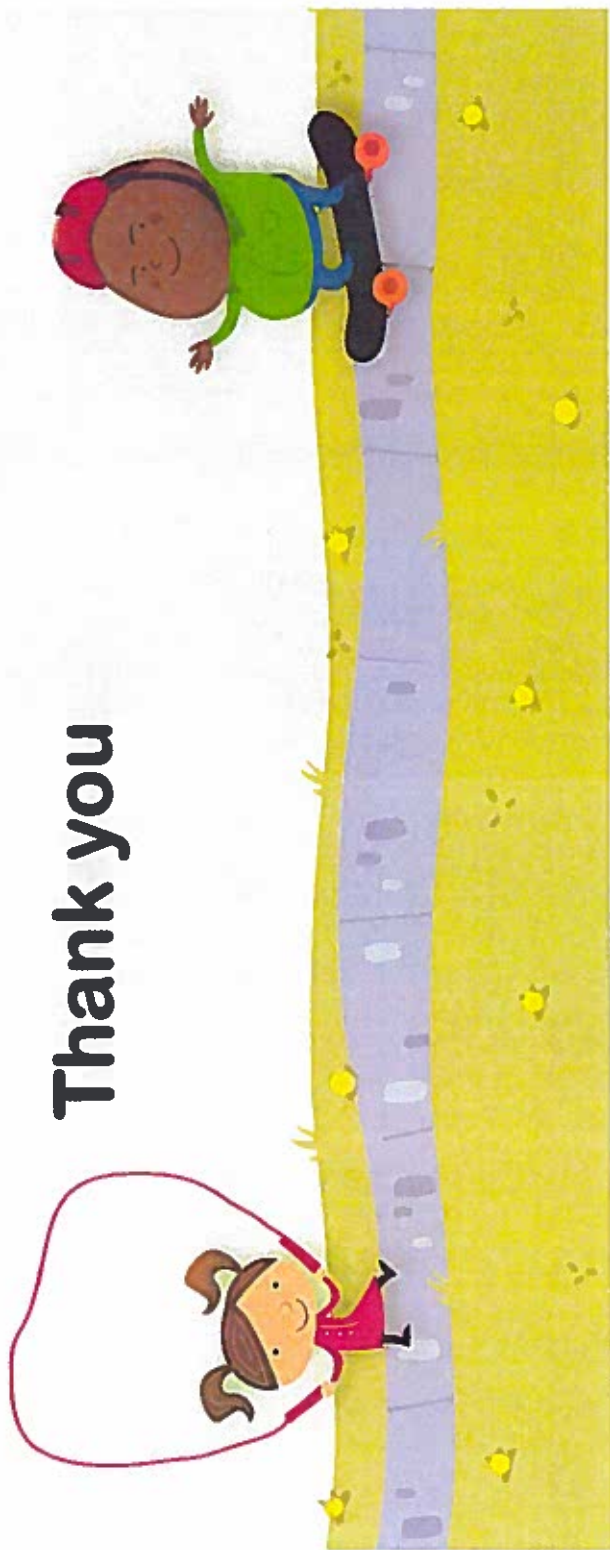
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Thank you

# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Mynydd y Fflint Dogfen Ymgynghori

Fersiwn i'r Plant  
2015



# Pwy ydym ni?

Cyngor Sir y Fflint sydd yn gyfrifol am  
yr holl ysgolion yn ein hardal.

Rydym yn rhan o dîm sy'n gweithio i'r  
Cyngor i gefnogi ysgolion.





# Ein Nodau

- Rhoi'r cyfle gorau i bob plentyn ddysgu mewn ysgolion ardderchog yn ein hardal.
- Sicrhau adeiladau ysgol diogel a chryf.
- Sicrhau bod arian ar gyfer plant ac ysgolion yn ein hardal yn cael ei wario mewn ffordd deg.
- Rhoi llais i bawb a sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu clywed os bydd penderfyniadau yn effeithio arnynt.



# Newidiadau

Nid oes modd i bob ysgol aros fel ag y mae bob amser, ac weithiau mae hyn yn golygu bod rhaid i'r Cyngor wneud newidiadau pwysig iawn.

Gall newidiadau helpu i roi'r cyfle gorau i bawb ddysgu, yn yr ysgol gorau posibl.



# Beth mae hyn yn ei olygu?

Gall hyn olygu y bydd Ysgol Maes  
Edwin yn cau yn y dyfodol.

Petai Ysgol Maes Edwin yn cau, fe  
fyddi di'n mynd i ysgol wahanol ger  
dy gartref yn Sir y Fflint.






# Beth fyddai'n newid?

Petai ti'n mynd i ysgol wahanol, fe fyddai dy ddosbarth yn newid ac fe fyddai gennyt ti athro newydd. Fe fyddai gennyt ti wisg ysgol newydd hefyd.



# Pa mor hir pethau'n cymryd?

Hydref 2015	Rhagfyr 2015	Ionawr 2016	Medi 2016
<p>1. Pobl yn dweud eu barn wrthym.</p> 	<p>2. Rydym yn casglu'r holl ymatebion ac yn dweud wrth bawb beth yw'r prif sylwadau.</p>	<p>3. Bydd y Cyngor yn cynnal cyfarfod i benderfynu beth i'w wneud. Yna byddwn yn gadael i bawb wybod beth yw'r penderfyniad.</p> 	<p>4. Bydd unrhyw newid y cytunir arno yn cychwyn o'r dyddiad hwn.</p> 

# Eisiau gwybod mwy?

Os wyt ti eisiau dysgu mwy, mae gwybodaeth mewn dogfen lawer mwy ar y rhyngwrwd i rieni, athrawon ac aelodau o gymuned eich ysgol. Mewngofnodwch i:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)



# Beth yw eich barn chi?

Mae'n bwysig iawn ein bod yn siarad gyda llawer o bobl wahanol am y syniad hwn, yn enwedig plant. Mae eich barn yn bwysig i ni.

Yn y llyfryn hwn, gelli ysgrifennu unrhyw beth rwyf yn dymuno ei ddweud wrthym ac unrhyw syniadau sydd gennyt ti.



# I ba ysgol wyt ti'n mynd, a beth yw dy oedran?

Ysgol Glwynedd

Megan England Yr2

harvey giffings yr2

leo foyler yr2

leah harts yr0

Rho dy atebion yn y bocs.





# Sut fyddet ti'n teimlo pe bai Ysgol Maes Edwin yn cau?

We would feel very  
sad but happy at  
the same time because  
some students would  
be coming to our  
school.

Rho wybod i ni beth yw dy  
farn drwy ysgrifennu dy  
atebion yn y boccs.



# Oes unrhyw beth arall yr hoffet ti ei weld yn digwydd yn hytrach na'r hyn yr ydym ni yn ei gynllunio?

They could close it and then make it better and design it better and then open it again

Rho wybod i ni beth yw dy farn drwy ysgrifennu dy atebion yn y bocs.



## Oes arnat ti eisiau dweud unrhyw beth arall?

IF the school  
CLOSE we could  
make sure we are  
are very very friendly  
and make them welcome.

Rho dy atebion yn y bocs.



# Beth sy'n digwydd nesaf?

Postia dy lyfryn wedi'i lenwi atom erbyn dydd Mercher, 2 Rhagfyr 2015. Yn anffodus, ni fydd gennym hawl i dderbyn unrhyw beth y byddi di'n ei anfon atom ar ôl y dyddiad yma.

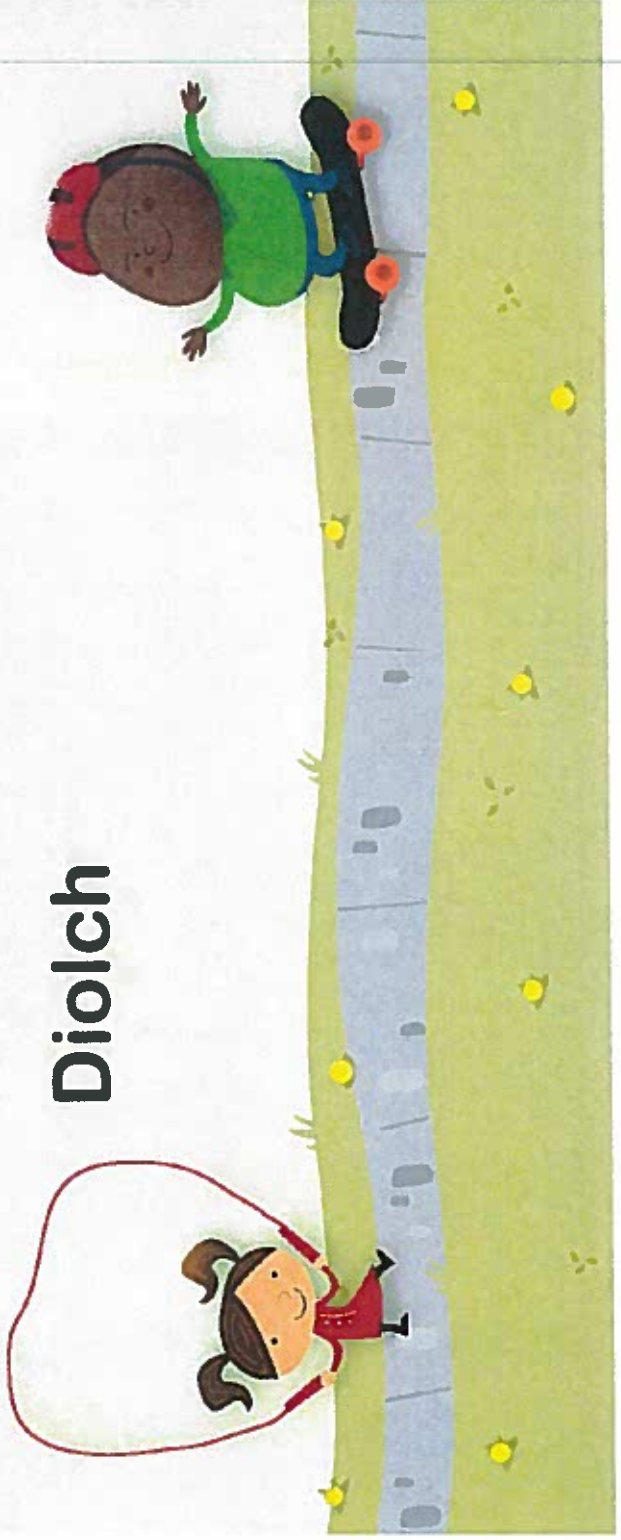
**Cyfeiriad:** Tîm Moderneiddio  
Ysgolion, Addysg a Ieuencid, Cyngor  
Sir y Fflint, Neuadd y Sir, Yr  
Wyddgrug, Sir y Fflint CH7 6ND.

Neu gelli anfon dy sylwadau  
ar neges e-bost:

[21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)



# Diolch





# Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Consultation Document

Children's version  
2015



# Who are we?

Flintshire County Council are responsible for all the schools in our area.

We are part of a team that work for the Council to support schools.





# Our Aims

- To give all children the best chance to learn in excellent schools in our area.
- To have safe and strong school buildings.
- To make sure money for children and schools in our area is spent in a fair way.
- To give everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard and listened to, in decisions that affect them.



# Changes

It is not always possible for every school to stay as they are and sometimes this means the Council needs to make some important changes.

Changes can help to give everyone the best chance to learn, in the best possible school.



# What does this mean?

This could mean that Ysgol Maes Edwin may close in the future.

If Ysgol Maes Edwin was to close, you would go to a different school near to your home address in Flintshire.



# What would change?

If you were to go to a different school, your classroom would change and you would have a new teacher. You would also have a new school uniform.



# How long do things take?

October 2015

1. People tell us what they think.



December 2015

2. We collect all the responses and tell everyone what the main comments are.

January 2016

3. The Council will have a meeting to decide what to do. We will then let everyone know what the decision is.

September 2016

4. Any changes agreed will start from this date.



# Want to find out more?

If you want to find out more, there is information in a much bigger document on the internet for parents, teachers and members of your school community. Log on to:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)



# What do you think?

It is very important that we talk to lots of different people about this idea, especially children. Your opinion is important to us.

In this booklet you can write down anything you want to tell us and any ideas you may have.



# Which school do you go to now and how old are you?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi = yr 2

Harta = yr 3

Connor = yr 5

Haidiwa = yr 6

Please write your answers in the box.





# How would you feel if Ysgol Maes Edwin were to close?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi = ~~Sad~~ = excited

Marfa = excited =

Connor = ~~Sad~~ = Happy

Habibou = Happy

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



# Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?

Ysgol Gwynedd

Levi =

Harta = Kids

Connor =

Habiba = Clubs

Please tell us what you think by writing your answers in the box.



# Would you like to say anything else?

Ysgol Gwynedd

If the school does ~~close~~ closed  
down and some people come to  
our school we will try our best  
to welcome them to our  
school.



Please write your answers in the box.

# What Happens Next?

Please post your completed booklet to us by Wednesday, 2nd December 2015. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept anything you send us after this date.

**Address: Schools Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND.**

Or you can Email your comments to: [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk)





**Thank you**



# **APPENDIX D**

**Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**  
**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 4.00 p.m. in Blue Room, County Hall, Mold**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
Sarah Thomas, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
Jeremy Griffiths, Headteacher, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint  
Nicola Thomas, Headteacher, Cornist C.P. School, Flint  
Mr K Pugh, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint  
Mrs D Fearnhead, Chair of Governors, Cornist C.P. School, Flint

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he would be meeting the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the other affected school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop on Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> November 2015), as they were unable to make this date.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>School Modernisation</u></b></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a></p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li> <li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul> <p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	



4. **Consultation Documents**

The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at [www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation) or hard copies are available on request by either emailing [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) or telephoning 01352 704134.

The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)

ST asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint and Cornist C.P School for confirmation on the follows:

- The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents.
- 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school.
- The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link.

Gwynedd C.P. School, Flint confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via the School's



7.	<p><b><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></b></p> <p>Chair of Governors at Cornist C.P. School expressed concern that the school (as of today) is currently full to capacity in all year groups and class sizes may get bigger.</p> <p>DH advised that the Admissions arrangements would be dealt with in line with Flintshire County Council's School Admissions Policy.</p>	
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**Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**  
**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**  
**Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors**  
**Thursday, 5th November 2015 at 3.30 p.m. at School Library, Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop**

**Present:-**

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision  
 Sarah Thomas, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer  
 Jamie Tennant, Headteacher, Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop  
 Mark Albiston, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Owen, Northop

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he had met already met with the Headteachers and Chair of Governors of the other affected school Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint and Cornist C.P. School on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 4.00 p.m. in County Hall, Mold.</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>School Modernisation</u></b></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a></p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces</li> <li>• Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul> <p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	

4.	<p><b><u>Consultation Documents</u></b></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain (English Medium, Community School) as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation">www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</a> or hard copies are available on request by either emailing <a href="mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk">21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk</a> or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>ST asked the Headteachers of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop for confirmation on the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 14.17, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents.</li> <li>• 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school.</li> <li>• The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link.</li> </ul> <p>Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link via an A5 hard</p>	
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	<p>copy note advising of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop confirmed that Claire Broad and Jennie Williams had met with the School Council of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Revised Timeline</u></b></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the revised (October 2015) anticipated Timetable Statutory Proposals Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></b></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></b></p> <p>The Headteacher expressed concern that the school has reached the Admission Number in some year groups and due to the layout of the internal classrooms</p> <p>Future housing developments in the area</p> <p>Suitability Grade for the School</p>	



# **APPENDIX E**



## APPENDIX E

### Summary of Issues and Responses

#### Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential new housing in area</li> <li>• Application to change use of land in the area from agricultural to building</li> <li>• Croes Atti Development</li> <li>• Expanding residential area</li> <li>• New housing has created younger families</li> <li>• Expected rise in number of school pupil due to housing development</li> <li>• Authority have approved new housing developments in the area</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</b></p> <p><b>Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work based on national census data from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.</b></p> <p><b>The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.</b></p> <p><b>The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</b></p> <p><b>It is the Council's view that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close. Estyn have commented that;</b></p> <p><b><i>'The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.'</i></b></p>

## Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School land should only be used for a school</li> <li>• School/Community must do more to attract more pupils</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Central hub of village</li> <li>• No amenities left in village</li> <li>• School used for clubs/night classes</li> <li>• Essential to the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and the Council acknowledges that where a school closure is proposed it will have some impact on the local community, although the community use of the school is relatively low.</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council will work with schools and community to mitigate issues where possible.</b></p> <p><b>The Council have no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</b></p> <p><b>Legal Land ownership issues are still being investigated, it has been noted that some of the site at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is part of the Bryn Edwin Trust. Dependant on the formalisation of such matters, the Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</b></p>

## Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Pupils mix well together</li> <li>• Pupil Teacher Ratio</li> <li>• Family atmosphere</li> <li>• Growth in pupil numbers</li> <li>• Successful Clubs/Trips</li> <li>• Good Estyn Report</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Unique Values</li> <li>• Education Standards</li> <li>• Happy children</li> <li>• Lots of pupils with Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>• Good Staff and Teachers</li> <li>• Amazing school</li> </ul>	<p><b>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Maes Edwin are noted.</b></p> <p><b>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</b></p>

## Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils already transferred from other schools</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Unable to get into other nearby schools because they are full</li> <li>• Increased travel times to school</li> <li>• Don't want to attend larger schools</li> <li>• Loss of Friendship</li> <li>• Want to be with their siblings</li> <li>• Want get the further support they require</li> <li>• Overcrowded classrooms</li> <li>• Won't get the same standard of education</li> <li>• Disruption to their education</li> </ul>	<p><b>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter journey time to school for pupils who reside in the Flint area</li> <li>• A marginally longer route to school for less than 10 pupils who live in the Flint Mountain area</li> <li>• A new school uniform</li> <li>• New teachers and support staff</li> <li>• New learning environment</li> <li>• Friendship groups may be affected, however new friendships may be formed.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Council will take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).</b></p> <p><b>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</b></p> <p><b>Under current transport policy fewer than ten pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption they transfer to their nearest school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. This would be on the basis that the route to the alternative school from Flint Mountain would be considered to be hazardous due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</b></p> <p><b>A mini admissions process will be administered to assist families in transition to other school should cabinet determine closure.</b></p>

## Condition of Building

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent spend on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) works and maintenance</li> <li>• New classroom and library built in 2000</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council cannot predetermine an outcome to the proposal and therefore work on the principal of spending today's money is spent on today's pupils.</b></p> <p>The condition surveys are carried out by independent surveyors, commissioned by the Council. They survey schools on a five year cycle in line with national guidance and provide the Council with maintenance priorities. The work to repair the roof was identified as a priority, therefore urgent repair work was programmed accordingly.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a legal duty to consider the Equalities Act, therefore work was completed at the school to facilitate the needs of a pupil.</p>

## Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of date figures used in document</li> <li>• Document is biased</li> <li>• Doesn't consider Housing Development</li> <li>• Data is incorrect</li> </ul>	<p><b>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)</li> <li>•Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.</li> <li>•National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.</li> <li>•GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.</li> <li>•The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.</li> <li>•Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns</li> </ul>

to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.

- Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics

- Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales

- Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.

- Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.

- Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.

- Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis

- School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools

- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading

	<p>provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DffE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.</li> <li>•School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.</li> <li>•Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41</li> <li>•Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.</li> </ul>
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### Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process caused stress and upset</li> <li>• Unfairly targeted</li> </ul>	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the process around school organisational change can be unsettling for pupils, staff and the school community.</p> <p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population has 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within</li> </ul>

	<p>the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small School Criteria</b> – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for educational standards.</li> </ul>
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### Alternative Proposals

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is perfect for a primary education PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) which is needed within Flintshire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suggestion noted</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council has no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as to the school's future is determined.</b></p>

## APPENDIX E

### Summary of Issues and Responses

#### Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential new housing in area</li> <li>• Application to change use of land in the area from agricultural to building</li> <li>• Croes Atti Development</li> <li>• Expanding residential area</li> <li>• New housing has created younger families</li> <li>• Expected rise in number of school pupil due to housing development</li> <li>• Authority have approved new housing developments in the area</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</b></p> <p><b>Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work based on national census data from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.</b></p> <p><b>The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.</b></p> <p><b>The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</b></p> <p><b>It is the Council's view that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close. Estyn have commented that;</b></p> <p><b><i>'The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.'</i></b></p>



## Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School land should only be used for a school</li> <li>• School/Community must do more to attract more pupils</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Central hub of village</li> <li>• No amenities left in village</li> <li>• School used for clubs/night classes</li> <li>• Essential to the community</li> </ul>	<p><b>A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and the Council acknowledges that where a school closure is proposed it will have some impact on the local community, although the community use of the school is relatively low.</b></p> <p><b>However, the Council will work with schools and community to mitigate issues where possible.</b></p> <p><b>The Council have no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</b></p> <p><b>Legal Land ownership issues are still being investigated, it has been noted that some of the site at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is part of the Bryn Edwin Trust. Dependant on the formalisation of such matters, the Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</b></p>

## Strengths of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class sizes</li> <li>• Pupils mix well together</li> <li>• Pupil Teacher Ratio</li> <li>• Family atmosphere</li> <li>• Growth in pupil numbers</li> <li>• Successful Clubs/Trips</li> <li>• Good Estyn Report</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Unique Values</li> <li>• Education Standards</li> <li>• Happy children</li> <li>• Lots of pupils with Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>• Good Staff and Teachers</li> <li>• Amazing school</li> </ul>	<p><b>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Maes Edwin are noted.</b></p> <p><b>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</b></p>

## Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils already transferred from other schools</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Unable to get into other nearby schools because they are full</li> <li>• Increased travel times to school</li> <li>• Don't want to attend larger schools</li> <li>• Loss of Friendship</li> <li>• Want to be with their siblings</li> <li>• Want get the further support they require</li> <li>• Overcrowded classrooms</li> <li>• Won't get the same standard of education</li> <li>• Disruption to their education</li> </ul>	<p><b>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shorter journey time to school for pupils who reside in the Flint area</b></li> <li>• <b>A marginally longer route to school for less than 10 pupils who live in the Flint Mountain area</b></li> <li>• <b>A new school uniform</b></li> <li>• <b>New teachers and support staff</b></li> <li>• <b>New learning environment</b></li> <li>• <b>Friendship groups may be affected, however new friendships may be formed.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Council will take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).</b></p> <p><b>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</b></p> <p><b>Under current transport policy fewer than ten pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption they transfer to their nearest school Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. This would be on the basis that the route to the alternative school from Flint Mountain would be considered to be hazardous due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village.</b></p> <p><b>A mini admissions process will be administered to assist families in transition to other school should cabinet determine closure.</b></p>

### Condition of Building

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent spend on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) works and maintenance</li> <li>• New classroom and library built in 2000</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Council cannot predetermine an outcome to the proposal and therefore work on the principal of spending today's money is spent on today's pupils.</b></p> <p>The condition surveys are carried out by independent surveyors, commissioned by the Council. They survey schools on a five year cycle in line with national guidance and provide the Council with maintenance priorities. The work to repair the roof was identified as a priority, therefore urgent repair work was programmed accordingly.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a legal duty to consider the Equalities Act, therefore work was completed at the school to facilitate the needs of a pupil.</p>

### Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of date figures used in document</li> <li>• Document is biased</li> <li>• Doesn't consider Housing Development</li> <li>• Data is incorrect</li> </ul>	<p><b>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)</li> <li>•Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.</li> <li>•National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.</li> <li>•GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.</li> <li>•The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.</li> <li>•Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns</li> </ul>

to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.

- Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics

- Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales

- Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.

- Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.

- Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.

- Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis

- School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools

- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading

	<p>provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DffE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.</li> <li>•School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.</li> <li>•Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41</li> <li>•Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.</li> </ul>
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### Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process caused stress and upset</li> <li>• Unfairly targeted</li> </ul>	<p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the process around school organisational change can be unsettling for pupils, staff and the school community.</p> <p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain as at January 2015 (PLASC) had 66 full time pupils with unfilled places of 13.16%. As of September 2015 the school population has 55 full time pupils with unfilled places at 27.63%;</li> <li>• Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within</li> </ul>

	<p>the school's portfolio) - 83.63% of pupils attending Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain are not attending their local school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small School Criteria</b> – The School population and capacity of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, and</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4, on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being the lowest for educational standards.</li> </ul>
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### Alternative Proposals

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is perfect for a primary education PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) which is needed within Flintshire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suggestion noted</b></p> <p>However, the Council has no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as to the school's future is determined.</p>

# **APPENDIX F**

## Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

**Question 1** Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	1	1.9%
No	52	98.1%
	53	

**Question 2** Please tell us if you are responding as:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	3	5.7%
Parent/Carer	19	35.8%
Governor	3	5.7%
Teacher	2	3.8%
Support Staff	2	3.8%
Local Resident	25	47.2%
Other	7	13.2%
Skipped Question	0	0%
	61*	

\* Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

**Comment:** The majority of respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils, parents, carers, guardians) were against the proposal.

**Question 3** Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Flint Mountain?

Alternative Suggestion	Total	Percentage
Federation	11	30.5%
Use the school as a community hub	5	13.8%
There is no need to change	5	13.8%
Close schools that better fit the criteria	3	8.3%
None	2	6%
Pupil numbers are growing leave the school alone	2	6%
Make Chief Executive and Flintshire County Council Officers redundant and redirect the money to Ysgol Maes Edwin	1	2.7%
Sustainable education provision in Flint Mountain can only be achieved by keeping Ysgol Maes Edwin open.	1	2.7%
Mothball school and re-open as pupil numbers increase	1	2.7%



<b>No surplus places need addressing for the benefit of all pupils across Flintshire</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Don't use incorrect data</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Nowhere within walking distance</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Selected unjustly</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>Fill it to capacity</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Comment:** Of the 53 responded, 36 answered the question and 17 skipped the question. The majority of people who responded said that they would like to see Federation with another school as an alternative.

**Question 4** Additional comments or views regarding the proposal.

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in **Appendix E**.

# **APPENDIX G**

## **Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain, with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

### **Introduction**

The proposal is by Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

### **Summary**

The proposal is part of Flintshire County Council's School Modernisation Strategy, which aims to ensure that there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.

The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal which link well to the stated purpose and rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the Flint Mountain, Flint and Northop area.

The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.

The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin on the staff currently employed at the school, the end of English medium primary provision in the village of Flint Mountain and the increase in travel time for a few pupils who live in this village.

The local authority has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federating Ysgol Maes Edwin with another local school. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in reduced travel for most pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the proposer recognises that the travel time would increase for a few pupils living in Flint Mountain, but this would not be in excess of the pupil travel guidelines.

The proposer has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places in 2015 for schools in the area.

The proposal appears to have taken appropriate account of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in accordance with parental choice.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and each school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all four schools is clear and compares appropriately with local, national and family of schools averages. However, the proposer has not commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.

With the exception of Ysgol Owen Jones, Estyn inspected the other three schools between January 2014 and February 2015. The judgements for the current performance and prospects for improvement were judged as good for these three schools. Estyn inspected Ysgol Owen Jones in May 2010 and judged six out of the

seven key questions as grade 2, with one being judged as grade 1. The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. Under the system, schools will be in one of four standards groups (1 to 4), with schools in standards group 1 demonstrating very good overall performance and those in standards group 4 demonstrating the greatest need for improved performance. Ysgol Maes Edwin is currently in standards group 4, Ysgol Gwynedd in standards group 2 and both Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones in standards group 1.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal would not impact unfavourably on the current standards and provision at Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones.

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.

# **APPENDIX H**

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NF

30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Ysgol Maes Edwin**

I have been approached by sixteen constituents, who are concerned, with regard to the possible closure of the above school. The points raised are as follows:

***Size of the School***

I understand there are currently approximately 73 children at Ysgol Maes Edwin School. I would be grateful for your assessment of the average numbers of children at the School over the last five years.

It is anticipated that, by the time the Croes Atti development is complete, there will be a greatly increased demand for schooling, with many of the Croes Atti families living closer to Ysgol Maes Edwin than any other school. I would welcome the County Council's plans for growth capacity, particularly given that both Cornist School and Ysgol Owen Jones are both currently full. The potential loss of the Welsh medium Ysgol Mornant would also be expected to impact on the demand for schooling in Flint.

I would also welcome your understanding of the number of children between the ages of four and eleven in 2011, and how that compares to the anticipated figures for 2020 (given the housing development in the town).

***Quality of Education***

My constituents have shared with me their personal experiences of the very high standard of teaching afforded to their children who have special needs and care challenges.

***Child Care Pressures***

Concerns have also been raised, regarding child care pressures, whereby grandparents and other family members live nearby the school, and drop off and collect children, on behalf of their parents, who live outside the catchment area.

Finally, I would be grateful for your understanding of the level of expenditure at Ysgol Maes Edwin over the last five years, and what the current annual running costs are. In addition, if children were placed elsewhere, what would be the anticipated cost?

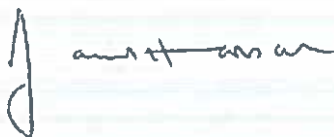
I would be grateful if the above concerns can be considered, as part of the consultation process, which ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.

I visited the primary school on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, and an additional point was put to me, with regard to the possibility of federation with Maes Edwin being federated with another primary school. The Head Teacher, Governors and PTA are currently looking at this, as an active possibility, but I would welcome the County Council allowing time for potential partners to be explored.

The School is currently examining potential partnerships with a number of adjacent schools, and it is important that the County Council gives proper consideration to any option that is brought forward.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written in a cursive style.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**



**Ian Budd**  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP  
Constituency Office  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Eich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DHYM  
Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015  
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

### **School Organisation Proposals**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. Apologies for the delay in responding to your correspondence.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain has yet to start formally but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

You have my assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will already be aware that we will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting Impact Assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities and of course Language.

I can confirm that the constituents' correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NR

17<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

I have been approached by a number of concerned constituents, with regard to the proposed closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin.

My constituents, all parents of children at the School, have raised numerous concerns with me, namely:

***Size of the School***

I understand there are currently approximately 73 children at Ysgol Maes Edwin School. I would be grateful for your assessment of the average numbers of children at the School over the last five years.

It is anticipated that, by the time the Croes Atti development is complete, there will be a greatly increased demand for schooling, with many of the Croes Atti families living closer to Ysgol Maes Edwin than any other school. I would welcome the County Council's plans for growth capacity, particularly given that both Cornist School and Ysgol Owen Jones are both currently full. The potential loss of the Welsh medium Ysgol Mornant would also be expected to impact on the demand for schooling in Flint.

I would also welcome your understanding of the number of children between the ages of four and eleven in 2011, and how that compares to the anticipated figures for 2020 (given the housing development in the town).

***Quality of Education***

My constituents have shared with me their personal experiences of the very high standard of teaching afforded to their children who have special needs and care challenges.

*Child Care Pressures*

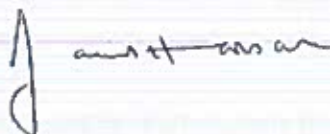
I would also be grateful to know what assessment has been made of child care pressures, whereby grandparents and other family members live nearby the school, and drop off and collect children, on behalf of their parents, who live outside the catchment area.

Finally, I would be grateful for your understanding of the level of expenditure at Ysgol Maes Edwin over the last five years, and what the current annual running costs are. In addition, if children were placed elsewhere, what would be the anticipated cost?

I would be grateful for your review of the above, and look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest opportunity, so that I may respond to my constituents accordingly.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP  
Constituency Office  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Eich Cyt DH/BB-fcc/ed/s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DAFM  
Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015  
Ask for Gofyner am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffôn

Dear Mr Hanson,

**Ysgol Meas Edwin, Flint Mountain – School Organisation Proposal**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. Apologies for the delay in responding.

I trust that you have already received correspondence from me dated \* about Ysgol Maes Edwin.

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Rt Hon David Hanson MP  
Constituency Office  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Eich Cyf DH/HR.fcc.ed.s  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf DH/L200816  
Date/Dyddiad 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Ask for Gofynner am Damian Hughes  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704135  
Fax/Ffôn

Dear Mr Hanson,

**RE: Steve and Jenny Lewis, Ashlea, Northop Road, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5QG**

I refer to your constituents concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest with Councillors on the overview and scrutiny committee whom are also members of school Governing bodies.

As you will be aware all councillors must comply with the national code of conduct for local government the code provides that LEA governors are able to vote on proposals which do not relate solely to their own school. All governors are therefore able to vote on proposals to reorganise other schools even though there may be a knock on impact on their own.

That provision in the code recognises the fact that almost all our councillors are also governors. That relationship strengthens the bond between the council and schools and also provides the councillors with insight. It is therefore important that councillors are able to act in both roles. There is also the practical point that if we were to disbar all governors then hardly any councillors would be able to sit on the scrutiny committee.

I hope this clarifies but please come back to me should your require any further information.

Yours Sincerely

Chief Officer - Education and Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND  
[www.sirymflint.gov.uk](http://www.sirymflint.gov.uk)





Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NR

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

**RE: Steve and Jenny Lewis, Ashlea, Northop Road, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5QG**

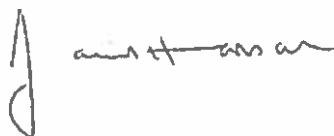
I have been approached by the above named constituents, who have raised a concern with me.

My constituents, whose children attend Ysgol Maes Edwin, are aware that Councillors on the Scrutiny Committee for School Closures are also Governors of local primary schools that may be impacted by additional pupils. They feel strongly that there is a potential conflict of interest.

I understand you are currently looking at this, and I would be grateful for any views you have on guidance given.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a vertical line that serves as a placeholder for a signature.

**David Hanson MP**  
**Delyn**



**Ian Budd**  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



**David Hanson MP**  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ffich Cyl **DH/HR.fcc.ed.s**  
Our Ref/Fin Cyf **IB/AD/1506 012104**  
Date/Dyddiad **29 July 2015**  
Ask for Gofynner am **Ian Budd**  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union **01352 704190**  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson MP,

### **School Modernisation - Flintshire County Council**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19th June 2015, requesting an update.

Cabinet on 16th June resolved to agree the actions identified within the report presented. We are now planning to review provision with pupils, governors and staff and parents and careers within the following communities:

- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain;
- Ysgol Llanfynydd; and
- Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

Consultation is planned for the Autumn Term in 2015. Communities will be encouraged to express their views on the proposals and are able to offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views received during consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in order that they may consider the views of the communities in their decision making. This will be in the form of the required consultation report.

You have our assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

As part of the process we will be required to report on capacity issues within our school estate and education standards. We will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as community, transport, equalities and language.

Additionally, Cabinet have also agreed, six monthly reviews for:

- Nercwys VA school; and the
- Lixwm, Rhos Helyg and Brynford area.

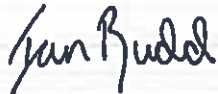
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Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



In these areas, officers will work with the governors of the schools to form options for future education delivery in the area/schools. The intention is that recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in January 2016.

Should you have any queries, we are more than willing to meet to talk through the programme and any issues you may have in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'd'.

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP  
Constituency Office  
64 Chester Street  
Flint  
Flintshire  
CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Ich Cyt DH/BB-fcc/ed/dj  
Our Ref/Iin Cyf IB/AD  
Date/Dyddiad 9 July 2015  
Ask for/Gofynnwr am Ian Budd  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190  
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

**Ysgol Meas Edwin, Flint Mountain – School Organisation Proposal**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain has yet to start formally but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

You have my assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will already be aware that we will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting Impact Assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities and Language.

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND  
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[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)





Our Ref: DH/BB – fcc/ed/dj

02<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

Mr C Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NB

Dear Mr Everett

**Re: Proposed closure of Flint Mountain School**

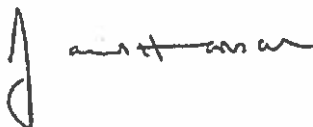
I have been contacted by concerned parents regarding the proposed closure of the above school.

I would be grateful if you could advise the position on this matter, in order that I may advise my constituents accordingly.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

David Hanson MP  
Delyn







Member of Parliament for Delyn


HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 5064

Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett  
Chief Executive  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire CH7 6NR

19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

FLINTSHIRE  
24 JUN 2015

**RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation**

Thank you for the copy of the School Modernisation Report, from Damian Hughes, which was to be presented to the Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

I have been approached by a number of constituents, with regard to the above matter. Please find attached copy correspondence. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

In the meantime, I would welcome an update on this matter, now that the cabinet meeting has taken place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP  
Delyn





**ROBBINS, Helen**

**From:** Neil Griffiths <nwg@ukmcltd.com>  
**Sent:** 11 June 2015 22:22  
**To:** HANSON, David  
**Subject:** Save Our School - Ysgol Maes Edwin Flint Mountain  
**Attachments:** 161023.pdf

Dear David,

I am a resident of Flint Mountain and a local business owner. It has recently come to light that there is a possibility of the local council closing Flint Mountain school, Ysgol Maes Edwin. Can I ask what support you or your colleagues may be able to offer to keep this excellent, albeit small, 102-year old school open? Brief details are attached.

Kind regards,

Neil Griffiths BEng MSc CEng FIMarEST



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E: [nwg@ukmcltd.com](mailto:nwg@ukmcltd.com)

[www.ukmcltd.com](http://www.ukmcltd.com)

Skype: UKMCLtd



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Ysgol Maes Edwin  
Lon y Ysgol  
Mynydd y Fflint  
Sir y Fflint. CH6 5QR  
Rhif ffon: 01352 761331  
e-bost:  
fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk



Ysgol Maes Edwin  
School Lane  
Flint Mountain  
Flintshire. CH6 5QR  
Tel: 01352 761331  
e-mail:  
[fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:fmmail@maesedwin.flintshire.sch.uk)



J.C. Plunkett  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher

9th June 2015

Dear Parents,

**Re: Flintshire County Council's - School Modernisation Programme**

Please find attached a letter from Flintshire County Council regarding their **proposed plans for the future of our school**. **Currently, no decision has been made** and therefore we intend to be proactive about securing the long term future of our school. We need you to share your thoughts at one of the meetings below.

In order to engage with as many parents as possible we will be holding two meetings. We would like to invite you to a meeting in our school hall on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** at either **3.30pm** or **5.00pm** to discuss the content of the letter.

For parents wishing to attend either meeting, we will provide a 'free of charge' hour of supervision for their children either from 3.30-4.30pm or 5.00pm-6.00pm.

This is a crucial meeting about the future of our school and we would urge you to make every effort to attend one of the meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Plunkett  
Headteacher





Ian Budd  
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)  
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Parents/Carers  
C/o Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

Ask for/Gofynner am

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

9<sup>th</sup> June 2015

School Modernisation  
Team

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

### School Modernisation Programme

I am writing to advise you that a recommendation will be made to Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, which may affect you. The proposal is that the Council enters into a period of Statutory Consultation about the future of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from September 2016.

As part of this process you will be given an opportunity to express your views. A consultation report will be developed with the school and made available to you to provide feedback during the Autumn term. Meetings will also be held at the school for parents and carers and other stakeholders during the early autumn.

The report to Cabinet will be available on the Council's website after 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (<http://tinyurl.com/ort8bm5>) and paper copies of the report can be viewed at the School from 12 noon from Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

More information will be provided as the Council and school work through this process. Information will be provided through your school and on the County Council website.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Budd  
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i chi gyswrtu yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg





**ROBBINS, Helen**

---

**From:** GarethR2006@aol.com  
**Sent:** 10 June 2015 15:42  
**To:** HANSON, David  
**Subject:** (no subject)

just read the[ sepp blatter ] flintshire council are destroying fine village primary schools on your patch and on your watch why? do they want to put incinerators on the sites ?



• Georgie Davies-Jones

Hi I'm a mum from flint mountain school and have been aware of a proposed closure of the school, flint mountain have been amazing with my children since I moved them to this school as the other school wasn't working. This school has done amazing things for my children and many other children.this school spotted my daughters difficulties and within a couple of weeks has put stuff in place they bend over backwards to help the children and all the children are so happy here please if there is anything you can help our school with all parents and staff would be fully grateful, we don't want to lose this amazing school I really don't know where my daughter would be now without this school our kids needs this school from georgie



21:20

David Hanson

I'm not aware of the proposal but I'll look into--ill be in touch soon



21:21

Georgie Davies-Jones

Thank you we just found out today and are absolutely gutted it's an amazing school that can't go

Sent from Messenger



# **APPENDIX I**

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**Consultation response document on behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol Maes Edwin .**

**The responses below deal directly with the paragraphs mentioned in the Consultation Report and should be read in conjunction.**

4.2 Pupil numbers did reach 72 and we initially have lost pupils due to the consultation. Recently we have though now 5 new pupils join despite the consultation period..

There will never be enough children in Flint Mountain to justify on its own the “right” to have a school. Currently children travel to Northop School purely to suit care arrangements and conversely children travel to Flint Mountain to be near Grandparent’s and other such carers.

With the recent use of an additional classroom the school now has the capacity to include the minimum number of children required. We are sure that without the uncertainty surrounding the school we could achieve the numbers required in the next couple of years.

The school has been in a low category for a number of years now, but is finally starting to improve. It’s a shame now that we have started this improvement that the closure has been proposed.

4.3 With the talent on the governing board now we see the opportunity to improve to the standards expected of a school in Flintshire. We acknowledge that this has not always been the case.

4.4 Whilst we recognise the comparisons in the document it does not indicate the fact that there are a number of schools in Flintshire that perform worse.

4.5 Clearly with the number of pupils that travel to the school from outside the village, having the right schools in the right location has not worked for the schools our pupils have left.

4.6 please see above

4.7 This data is not relevant. The area the children travel from does nothing to discredit Maes Edwin but only emphasise the problems in Flint schools.

4.8 This does not take into consideration that children may come to this school as Grandparents and other carers may live in the village. A good bit of data that only goes to show that this school is worth travelling to!

4.9 An interesting piece of data, but as pointed out by the council reps in our meetings this data was only valid on the date the report was produced. Unfortunately this does not guarantee there will sufficient places available for our children in the “right areas” at the necessary time. If Parental preference indicates the need for small schools will this be available? Are the schools mentioned currently full? We believe they may be! It is noted that there were 34 other schools in Flintshire with greater unfulfilled places. Can the council guarantee that siblings will remain together? We are already hearing of cases were this cannot be guaranteed.

4.10 A good piece of data that shows the increase in numbers at Maes Edwin, and does beg the question why the school didn’t close in 2012? The actual data at the time of the proposal was 73.

The school population actually grew from 17 to 73 in 7 years. The data really doesn't emphasize this enough. No other school in Flintshire has grown to this extent. This growth was not forecasted by the council and is purely down to the success of the school.

4.11 Worthless data as there is no way the graph reflects previous increases and shows that the council cannot predict the number of pupils.

4.12 The council could not have predicted the increase in numbers in recent years therefore this data is completely unreliable and should not have been presented. Despite the consultation process it must be noted that 5 new pupils have joined the school.

4.13 Birth rates are only a percentage of the contribution to the school numbers. Numbers for people moving into the area have not been considered nor has the national increase in birth-rate that has been occurring. We have a well-attended, successful pre-school bringing young children into the school. The data does not capture this.

We have brothers and sister of the current pupils at the school that were likely to attend, as they are from outside the area the data does not capture this either.

4.14 Though this is a true statement, this becomes irrelevant due to the points made above.

4.15 True. But has parental demand been considered as this school is clearly in demand from outside the village. Over 50% of children have transferred from large schools, these children benefit from the ethos of a small school and would prefer not to return to large schools.

4.16 If this is the case then please provide the evidence that closing this school will provide this.

4.17 There is no mention of the change of use application for the land that the school is adjacent too from agriculture to building! This must just be an oversight. The last sentences confirm the real reason why this school has been selected. The Welsh government money will be used to build a new school that the council cannot afford. Demand will push the vacancy rate below 10% and require the building of a new school.

4.18 An un quantifiable risk and is just hearsay. If this was the case £93k would not have been spent on shower and changing facilities in the school last summer. These facilities will need to be provided in any new school and would probably cost another £93k

4.19. Closing Maes Edwin appears to have a very minimum impact on costs as it is such a small school. There must be better options that will have a bigger impact.

4.20 please see above.

5.1.1 With the number of pupils moved to this school for this reason, it is hard to justify this statement.

5.1.2 True but insignificant in number to justify the upset and disruption caused to the children.

5.1.3 Please see above

---

5.1.4 Will depend if capacity is still available where parental preference dictates. Can siblings be kept together? We are not sure they can.

5.1.5 Please see 5.1.2

5.1.6 The statement cannot be proven so is irrelevant.

5.2 All true statements

5.3 No mention of any risk to the quality of education provided to the pupils. This should surely be the most important factor!

5.4 No comment

5.5 Too much guess work and inaccurate data to justify this statement to be considered accurate and worthy of considering.

5.6 please see comments related to sections 2 & 3

5.7 please see comments related to section 12

5.8 see section 12

5.9 No comment

5.10 No comment except we doubt these people will walk to school.

5.11 No comment

6.1 No comment

6.2 please see 4.3

6.3 It must be noted a large proportion of our pupils have moved from this school!

6.4 Cornist does not currently have enough spaces so this data is irrelevant.

6.5 Do they have spaces in the years required?

6.6 A good bit of Data that shows good increase for our school. Thankyou.

6.7 No comment

6.8 forecasts does not reflect the current trend of pupils moving to the school

6.9 With the missing data from previous years we are not sure what this data is telling us.

6.10 Not detrimental to Maes Edwin in any way.

6.11 No comment

6.12 The school is making progress in all these areas since the last inspection.

6.13 No comment



6.14 No comment

6.15 No comment

6.16 The deteriorating data in the 7 year olds category is dragged down by the increase in children with special needs.

6.17 There is an improvement in school performance that will reflect in higher scores in the medium term and increased performance in the longer term.

6.18 No comment

6.19 Little dragons have been introduced since the report date and has proven to be very successful.

7.1 No comment

7.2 It is difficult to argue with the data except that it does not cater for the children that have left other schools to come to Maes Edwin.

7.3 Please see 7.2

7.4 Please See 7.2

7.5 No comment.

7.6 As pupil numbers have increased the mixed age group classes have reduced and performance has improved. This was a significant moment in our road to improvement.

7.7 The quality of staff has improved in recent years and the future with this staff looks very bright.

8.1 No comment.

8.2 No comment.

9.0 No comment

9.1 No comment

9.2 No comment

9.3 No comment

9.4 No comment

9.5 No comment

9.6 Shows Maes Edwin in good condition and as good as other schools. With the £93k spent recently the school is in the best condition since the 2008 reports used for this comparison.

9.7 No comment

9.8 The £93k spent has fixed the issues raised in this report. The school is now in a good condition for the Pupils and staff.

---

9.9 No comments as the data is too old

9.10 This data is too old to be used.

9.11 This data is too old to be used.

9.12 No comment.

9.13-9.16 highlights 1 school is concerning with the amount of money required to be spent. Does this indicate 2 schools have been neglected?

9.17 No comment

9.18 No comment.

9.19 The funding cannot be better used elsewhere as the council claims £50 million has been taken away!

9.20 As the council points out, capacity changes every day therefore it remains to be seen if adequate capacity will be available at the necessary time.

10.1 agreed

10.2 No comment

10.3 No comment.

10.4 This can be improved upon and will be if given the chance.

10.5 This goes to prove that closing this school does not save any significant costs.

10.6 These efficiencies are easily achieved once targeted and we have the potential in the school now to succeed.

10.7 This data is based on declining numbers so is not relevant

10.8 This would not be a concern to the governing body who would look forward to the challenge of achieving it.

10.9 This data is based on trying to predict what schools pupils will choose to go to. This does not take into consideration the schools pupils have left to come to Maes Edwin. They obviously would not want to go back.

10.10 Very hard to predict this as the Parental preference has not been determined and there will clearly work to do to keep the schools in the condition required .

10.11 Agreed

10.12 Please see 10.9.

10.13 Agreed

10.14 Not a huge amount of money if you are trying to save £50 million!

10.15 Just a statement not any facts.

11. Are we sure the council have no plans for the land? The land has been changed from Agriculture to Building.

12.1 Though these categories are correct and sensible, closing Maes Edwin does little to improve any of these.

12.2 Please see 12.1

12.3 Again closing Maes Edwin does little to achieve these goals.

Federation should be considered as the most favourable option. The very little money saved by closing the school would not be worth the upset and torment caused to the Children, staff and parents. There can be significant savings created by a good Federation model. Maes Edwin Governing body are currently in discussion with schools about Federation Options.

13. Agreed

14.1 agreed

14.2 agreed

14.3 agreed

14.4 agreed

14. 5 agreed.

14.6 Except for the 1 to 1 requirements of pupils.

14.7 We would suggest the Governing body may cease as soon as closure is announced. The abuse taken by the governing body to date has been unacceptable. Though the governing body takes some responsibility for the school falling in so many categories the council has been involved longer and should take the responsibilities of closing the school, moving the pupils and making staff redundant.

15.1 This does not take into consideration the Physiological effect on the children.

15.2 After discussions with council officers it is doubtful that the council has the resources to meet this commitment.

15.3 Please see 15.2.

16.1 Please see 15.2

16.2 Agreed.

16.3 Please see 15.2

16.4 Please see 15.2

16.5 Facts Thankyou

16.6 Statements only

16.7 Agreed.

17. Agreed

18.1 agreed

18.2 agreed

18.3 agreed.

19.0 agreed.

Conclusions

It is in the Council's interest, in order to make a viable case for diminishing resources, to predict low pupil numbers from future housing developments. Please.....

Consider our quadrupled numbers

Consider that we have already had children from the new Oakenhalt Estate

Consider the proposed building land in Flint Mountain.

Consider the popularity of our school.

Consider the value added we have given ALL our children.

Consider the younger siblings from outside the village.

Resilient School Leadership

Estyn 2014 – School's current performance – good.

Estyn 2014- School's prospects for improvement – good

Estyn 2014- *'the headteacher and deputy headteacher provide strong leadership and a clear direction for the school.'*

Estyn 2014- *'they have the support of a committed staff and an effective Governing Body'*

Improvement capacity B (A-D A being the highest)

GwE – Self Evaluation is thorough and accurate.

Can we afford to lose this school ?

Suitable Buildings

Ysgol Maes Edwin Suitability score – B Condition B

There have been new shower facilities built summer 2015 (Approx £93,000) to cater for our children with severe medical needs.

There has been a new staffroom and office built summer 2015

A new classroom and library were built in approx 2000.

Viable and Sustainable Options to Secure the Future of Maes Edwin CP School.

Whilst above we dispute and argue the data and information in the consultation report and oppose closure , We, the Governing Body of Flint Mountain realise that the County Council is facing a huge task to save a large amount of money.

Therefore please give us the opportunity to Federate with a local school.

We feel that the option of Federating with a local school is a viable and sustainable option. It may not save as much money as closing the school ( it is always an unpopular decision to close schools with children, parents, councillors, local community and the general electorate) however it would be a long term strategy which could be adopted by many other schools in the County.

Federation is a compromise and a huge opportunity for progress.

It shows vision.

It would plan for the pupils from future developments in Flint Mountain, Oakenhalt etc.

It would be a success model for other schools under 240 pupils in Flintshire

It had successfully worked in Wrexham and Denbighshire.

The Welsh Government is endorsing Federation between schools and therefore we would have the WG support and backing.

It would enable the Federated schools to have numbers above 210pupils.

It would have the backing of all stakeholders.

With a shared headteacher, a head's salary will be saved.

The cost per pupil will reduce.

There will be a high quality learning and working environment as expertise/resources etc will be shared.

Skills/Responsibilities could be shared therefore reduce costs eg 1 ALNCO , 1 PE specialist etc.

Children would have access to a wider range of specialists

Above all it would be the best option for the children !

We are currently in negotiations with Northop Hall and have already had our first meeting. The Chair of Governors and Head teacher are due to visit our school and are enthusiastic and Energised by the possibility of Federation. Having met the Head I was inspired and impressed by the potential that we have together.

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The Governing Body of Maes Edwin would like the opportunity to develop a proposal with Northop Hall and submit to Officers in due course.

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to the consultation document and hope that you do consider our request to Federate. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss this response and further discussions of Federation.

Keith Taylor

Acting Chair of Governors.



**RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT  
ACHIEVE RESPECT**

**Ysgol Owen Jones  
Llaneurgain  
Yr Wyddgrug  
Flintshire  
CH7 6AU  
Ffon : (01352) 840255**



**Ysgol Owen Jones  
Northop  
Mold  
Flintshire  
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**YSGOL OWEN JONES**

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Jamie Tennant B.Ed (Hons) N.P.Q.H.  
Pennaeth  
Headteacher*

1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

**Proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain**

Dear Mr Budd,

In response to the above consultation, the Governors of Ysgol Owen Jones have met to discuss the formal consultation document and their response as a Governing body.

Firstly, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to express our support to the Governors, Staff, Parents and Children of Ysgol Maes Edwin in these difficult circumstances and would like to offer the support of Ysgol Owen Jones in helping to secure appropriate places for those children impacted, should the proposal be accepted.

The Governing body has reviewed in detail the proposal put forward by Flintshire County Council in the context of recent trends within the school, in particular pupil numbers and capacity to accommodate additional pupils.

Over recent years, Ysgol Owen Jones has grown progressively, from 83 pupils (PLASC FTE Jan 13) to its current headcount of 118.5 pupils (FTE Nov 15) and the Governors and staff have worked to provide increased teaching and support staff across year groups. The school has also enjoyed a period of stability within its teaching and leadership team during this time. During this period, the school and its staff have worked hard to retain a family ethos and closeness as a school community.

The school is able to provide access to this stable environment for the children and families of Ysgol Maes Edwin across a number of year groups where there are available places. The governors however would like to ensure, with the Flintshire County Council, that appropriate support and facilities are in place to accommodate any significant increase in pupil numbers from the current level.

We will be in touch again when these discussions have been held.

Should you want to discuss the contents of this response in more detail please contact either Mark Albiston (Chair of Governors) or Jamie Tennant (Head Teacher) directly.

Yours sincerely

Mark Albiston  
Chair of Governors









Head Teacher / Prif Athrawes:  
Mrs N Thomas B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

CORNIST PARK SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY  
RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF  
YSGOL MAES - EDWIN FLINT MOUNTAIN  
2015/16

To whom it may concern,

As the Governing Body of Cornist Park School, we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process.

We would like at the outset to make it very clear that the view point we have arrived at has been a carefully considered one, which has been difficult to arrive at.

We fully appreciate that the effects of closing any school are numerous and far reaching. We recognise the benefits that small schools such as Ysgol Maes Edwin offer communities, pupils and parents, who have made the decision for their children to be educated in a small village school setting. We also support the view that parents should have a varied choice of school settings when deciding what educational setting is best for their own children. We have also tried to carefully consider and take into account the probable opinions and view points of the pupils, parents, governors and staff of Ysgol Maes Edwin, who we must remember are of course, our colleagues, and how they must view this emotive proposal. We considered the possible effects that closure would have on each of these groups, both individually and collectively, and also the possible effects on the other local schools in the area if closure were to be agreed. As the Governing Body here at Cornist Park, we do not feel that at this time, we can provide a strong enough substantiated argument against the proposals laid out before us.

Before deciding on our viewpoint, we discussed and considered the following points as presented

1. Falling numbers on roll at the school
2. The fact that there are across Flintshire as a whole 17%, unfilled primary places
3. The number of available places in the primary sector in the immediate local area, which would cover the number of places required by the pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin
4. The available places in local schools would seem to offer a choice of setting if closure were to go ahead, ie larger schools such as Ysgol Gwynedd and at smaller school settings such as Ysgol Owen Jones. (At present Cornist Park is unable to offer any places as we are at our pupil capacity as of today)







Head Teacher / Prif Athrawes:  
Mrs N Thomas B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

5. The data which demonstrates that the vast majority of the pupils in attendance at the school are NOT from the village but the wider Flint area, with an additional percentage drawn from further afield, leaving the percentage of pupils from Flint Mountain village itself as minimal
6. The reality that across Flintshire we are facing unprecedented cuts to Educational funding, therefore for economical reasons we discussed the need to ensure that pupil funding per head becomes more consistent across all schools and that, consideration must be given to the long term viability of small schools and the impact of doing so on the long term budgets of other schools.
7. The data which demonstrates the current performance standards and capacity for future improvement at Ysgol Maes Edwin, against similar data of the other local schools
8. That the intake of possible additional pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin would not adversely effect the delivery of the curriculum at the other local schools
9. That the Suitability Summaries of the possible affected schools, do not give rise to concerns which would have significant impact on pupil progress, standards, health and safety or well being.

Taking the above into account, it has been difficult for us as a Governing body at Cornist Park School to argue the case presented.

Where as we can see the clearly laid out 'advantages' to closure, we also appreciate the 'disadvantages' that closure will bring to all of those who would be personally affected if such a decision was to be made. We would therefore extend our very best wishes to all of those involved in this process and hope that whatever the outcome, that in time, agreement will be reached on the decision made.

Kindest Regards  
The Governing Body of Cornist Park School





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## **Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain, with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

### **Introduction**

The proposal is by Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

### **Summary**

The proposal is part of Flintshire County Council's School Modernisation Strategy, which aims to ensure that there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

### **Description and benefits**

The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning.

The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal which link well to the stated purpose and rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the Flint Mountain, Flint and Northop area.

The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources; a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network; at least maintaining the current standards and the quality of education in the area; and the reduction in travel to school for the majority of pupils should they choose their local school.

The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin on the staff currently employed at the school, the end of English medium primary provision in the village of Flint Mountain and the increase in travel time for a few pupils who live in this village.

The local authority has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federating Ysgol Maes Edwin with another local school. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in reduced travel for most pupils currently attending Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the proposer recognises that the travel time would increase for a few pupils living in Flint Mountain, but this would not be in excess of the pupil travel guidelines.

The proposer has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places in 2015 for schools in the area.

The proposal appears to have taken appropriate account of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in accordance with parental choice.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and each school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all four schools is clear and compares appropriately with local, national and family of schools averages. However, the proposer has not commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.

With the exception of Ysgol Owen Jones, Estyn inspected the other three schools between January 2014 and February 2015. The judgements for the current performance and prospects for improvement were judged as good for these three schools. Estyn inspected Ysgol Owen Jones in May 2010 and judged six out of the



seven key questions as grade 2, with one being judged as grade 1. The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. Under the system, schools will be in one of four standards groups (1 to 4), with schools in standards group 1 demonstrating very good overall performance and those in standards group 4 demonstrating the greatest need for improved performance. Ysgol Maes Edwin is currently in standards group 4, Ysgol Gwynedd in standards group 2 and both Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones in standards group 1.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal would not impact unfavourably on the current standards and provision at Ysgol Gwynedd, Cornist Community Primary School and Ysgol Owen Jones.

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.

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<b>Revised (October 2015) Anticipated Timetable for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Statutory Proposals</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>School Terms</b>	<b>KEY MILESTONES</b>
16/6/2015	Summer 2015	Cabinet approval obtained to commence consultation
Start 14/5/2015 finish 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015	Preparation of Impact Assessments: Transport, Equality, Welsh Language, Buildings fit for purpose, Community
Start 14/5/2015 finish 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015	Preparation of Consultation document (including young person's version)
Start 21/10/2015 Finish 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	Consultation document published  Must be published on a school day  (42 days with 20 school days)
	Winter Term 2015	Alternative School Council Children's Consultation Confirmed by Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain Governors (11/11/2015)
23/11/2015	Winter Term 2015	Governors/Teachers and Support Staff Consultation Event
23/11/2015	Winter Term 2015	Parents/Carers/Guardian Consultation Event
Between 21/10/2015 and 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	School Council Children's Consultation with nearby affected Primary Schools
Between 21/10/2015 and 2/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015	Meeting with Headteachers and Chair of Governors with nearby affected Primary Schools
Deadline 2/12/2015	Winter Term 2015	Consultation Ends
Deadline by 30/12/2015	Winter Term 2015	Consultation Report must be published within 3 months
19/1/2016	Winter Term 2016	Cabinet – Seeking Approval to go to next phase (Statutory Proposals)
Start 29/1/2016 Finish 26/2/2016	Spring Term 2016	Statutory Notice (28 days, with 15 school days)  Must be issued on a school day
Deadline 26/2/2016	Spring Term 2016	End of Objection Period

Appendix 4

Deadline 26/2/2016 – 24/3/2016	Spring Term 2016	Objection Report published within 28 days and with Cabinet within 35 days
19/4/2016	Spring Term 2016	Cabinet Decision
March – May 2016 (latest)	Spring Term 2016	Workforce Collective Consultation
May 2016	Spring Term 2016	Workforce Individual Consultation/Notice with Teachers/Staff
31/08/2016	Autumn 2016	Implementation of School Closure

**Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**

**School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Action 2013 – Ysgol Maes Edwin**

The comments and concerns raised by Members of the Committee focused on the following areas:-

- **Federation**

A number of comments were made around the possibility of a federation, with questions being asked on whether enough time had been given to the school to explore the possibility of a federation, the savings which could be achieved through federation and whether the departure of the Headteacher had impacted the ability to progress with a federation.

*The Chief Officer for Education & Youth and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision explained that it had been confirmed that no neighbouring school was willing to form a federation with Ysgol Maes Edwin. The departure of the Headteacher therefore had no impact on the ability of local schools to progress with a federation.*

*When asked, the officers confirmed that delaying a decision by two months to implement a proposal would significantly prolong uncertainty for families and the wider school community, as implementation would no longer be possible for the commencement of the 2016-17 academic year.*

- **Alternative School Capacity and the impact of Housing Developments**

A number of comments were made around capacity at neighbouring Schools, with question being asked on whether certain year groups within Ysgol Owen Jones were full, the capacity at neighbouring Schools to ensure sibling/friend groups remained together in the event of a school closure and whether childcare provision was similar at neighbouring Schools.

Concerns were also raised around the impact the Croes Atti Housing Development would have on pupil numbers in Flint and whether closing a school in Flint would have negative impact on school places in the future.

*The Chief Officer and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision confirmed that there was sufficient capacity in the local schools network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin in the event of closure. The Committee was also informed that capacity was being closely monitored.*

***Some year groups at Ysgol Owen Jones were full but the Committee was informed of options available to headteachers to alter class structures at the beginning of each academic year.***

- **Transition Arrangements**

Further information on future transition arrangements, in the event of school closure, was requested, especially for those vulnerable groups of learners with Additional Learning Needs.

***The Chief Officer outlined the importance of supporting all children through the transition of school organisational change before, during and after the process and referred to the provision of individual plans for pupils, especially for those vulnerable groups of learners with Additional Learning Needs, in the event of school closure and transfer to other schools.***

- **Consultation process/documentation**

Concerns were raised around the consultation process, with comments made that all conclusions within the consultation document justified school closure and that the consultation documents did not measure the effect of school closure on the community and the lives of individuals.

Concern was also raised around the general process which was believed to be the first step in the Authority re-organising the whole excellent primary school network across Flintshire.

***The Chief Officer and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision reported on the Authority's statutory responsibility to manage the supply of school places. Information on the consultation process, which was a legal requirement, was also provided to the Committee.***

***The Cabinet Member for Education responded to the comments and outlined the level of austerity faced by the Authority and the current and future cuts to the level of funding received which had resulted in maximum savings being achieved in other service areas.***

Comments were also made around the improved school pupil numbers since 2008 and the benefits to pupils of attending a small school. Concern was also raised around the Council's Policy on parental choice which it was felt was being used against Ysgol Maes Edwin as part of the School Modernisation Strategy criteria. It was felt that there was a danger that pupils who attended Ysgol Maes Edwin would have to move back to a school they had previously left because of a number of personal reasons.

The Committee also asked questions on the projected savings from school closure and how these would be re-invested.

***The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision outlined the projected savings and commented that funding for pupils would 'follow' the pupil in the event of school closure.***

A number of Members, raised concerns on the Welsh Government National Categorisation Model, with a request that the Authority proceed with caution, that in the event of school closure, pupils would receive a similar standard of education at a neighbouring school. Concerns were also raised over the Authority's responsibility around the standard of education and school building at Ysgol Maes Edwin.

***The Chief Officer and Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision explained that it was the opinion of Estyn that the proposals would at least maintain the quality of learning for the pupils in the event of school closure.***

The Committee also suggested that consideration be given, in the event of school closure, to financially assisting parents with the cost of new school uniforms.

***The Chief Officer agreed to give consideration to this suggestion as part of the planned transition arrangements.***

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that the process be suspended for two months to allow the opportunity for federation to be reviewed; and
- (b) That the comments of the Committee be collated and presented to Cabinet at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

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## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Strategic Housing and Regeneration Project (SHARP)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet approval to progress the next key stages of the Council's Strategic Housing And Regeneration Programme (SHARP) and sets out proposals to develop the former Custom House School site, Connah's Quay.

The regeneration of the site will see the development of 12 Council homes which will enhance the housing opportunities available to local people living in Connah's Quay.

This report provides an update on the mobilisation works undertaken to date in readiness to commence the construction of the scheme in February 2016, providing a rationale for the recommended funding model along with proposed timeframe for delivery.

The report identifies standard scheme development assumptions which subject to approval will be utilised to assess the viability of individual schemes against costs.

The report also outline proposals for future sites and Community Benefits which will be delivered as part of the overall SHARP.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet approve the development of 12 new Council homes on Custom House School site, Connah's Quay at a total cost of £1,548,936.
2	Cabinet approve the standard scheme development assumptions as identified in 1.20.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING NEXT KEY STAGES OF THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROGRAMME (SHARP)</b>
1.01	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
1.02	At Cabinet in September 2014, approval was given to undertake a major procurement process to appoint a development partner, with the aim of developing 500 new homes (council housing and affordable housing) at a range of sites across the county, alongside commissioning a range of linked regeneration initiatives and community benefits. The Programme will run for an initial period of 5 years. The Programme is overseen by a Partnership Board whose decisions are subject to approval by Cabinet.
1.03	<p>The Commissioning Objectives (as approved by Cabinet in September 2014) are detailed below and illustrated in Appendix 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the Programme in a manner responsive to local needs and priorities;</li> <li>• Quality of Housing which conforms to at least local planning level 3;</li> <li>• A funding model which provides the initial capital investment for the Developments through borrowing; lease back; buy back options or other arrangements to be recouped through increased income from rents;</li> <li>• Value for money facilitated by competitive pricing; robust and transparent costings supported by open book accounting<sup>1</sup>; performance reporting and monitoring;</li> <li>• Workforce and training initiatives;</li> <li>• Environmental protection and improvements;</li> <li>• Development of sub-contracting and supply chain opportunities including transparency of opportunities and award procedures including advertisement through Sell2Wales;</li> <li>• Increased social capital through engagement and consultation with the community.</li> </ul>
1.04	In June 2015 following an extensive procurement exercise, Wates Living Space were appointed as the Council's preferred Development partner for the next five years.
	<b>Considerations</b>
1.05	<b>Custom House School - Site Context</b>
1.06	The site is located in the west of Connah's Quay on the B5126 named Mold Road. The site is within a predominately residential area. The site is currently vacant and was most recently occupied by Custom House Lane Junior School which has been demolished due to the building of the new Ysgol Cae Nant school to provide the services of Custom House Lane Junior School and Dee Road Infants School.
1.07	<b>Design and Lay out</b>

1.08	Appendix 2 shows there will be 12 two storey houses on the site arranged into 2 terraced blocks and 3 semi-detached blocks. 8 units will be 2 bedroom properties identified as Type 1. Four units are 3 bedroom properties identified as Type 2. The site is 0.2 hectares and with 12 properties proposed on the site, maximises the use of land available.
1.09	Properties and land associated with each property will be designed to comply with Secured by Design guidelines and the Council's "Flintshire House Standard". The standard will inform the design and specification of all the new housing delivered through the SHARP and form a benchmark to ensure consistent, good quality of internal layout, and fixtures and fittings, high standards of energy efficiency and external appearance in keeping with local circumstance, low maintenance product specifications, adequate parking and a public realm designed to promote cohesive and inclusive communities.
1.10	A working group of Cabinet Members, Officers and tenants worked together during 2015 to develop the Flintshire House Standard which has been approved by Cabinet. This standard was developed following rigorous review of industry building standards, Housing Association scheme development standards for Social Housing grant, and Lifetime Homes Standards. Visits were made to new build schemes to see new projects in development and discussion and advice took place with development experts.
1.11	The council wanted its own distinctive standard which would provide a high quality living environment with adequate storage and living space, which was attractive and affordable in use and which could be adapted to suit changing needs during a family life course. The full standard is attached at Appendix 4.
1.12	Appendix 3 shows that the primary design development of the scheme's appearance has been driven by the appearance of the former Custom House School when in existence. It is proposed that materials will respect the predominant materials within the surrounding area which are facing brick and fibre cement slate. Other materials and features that are proposed will be contrasting blue facing brickwork features and courses that imitate features that existed on the original school, natural stone cills / heads and stone detailing such as date-stones and features recovered from the school.
1.13	Following planning approval on the 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2015, it is proposed that the build for the scheme will commence February 2016, with a projected completion in February 2017.
1.14	<b>Custom House School, Connah's Quay - Build Costs</b>
1.15	Appendix 5 provides detail on scheme costs and financial assumptions. Total scheme build costs are £1,548,936. This is made up of two elements; scheme build costs of £1,496,972, which provide for a 50 year pay back and additional investment costs of £51,964. These have arisen for a number of reasons; £c6k relates to additional costs to meet the

	councils quality specification for parking and kitchens, £3k party wall works, £c6k as a result of changes to Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015 and the remainder relates to additional cost for drainage and foundations due to the development being brownfield and specific requirements needed to deal with waste/water management.
1.16	As part of the Wates tender the Flint scheme was used as a model to compare the different bidders costs. These were used as a benchmark for assessing the costs of the Custom House scheme (and will be for others), and assurance has been provided by the councils Quantity Surveyor that the scheme meets the councils' design specification and provides best value for the council.
1.17	This development site is on council fund land which will be acquired by the HRA.
1.18	<b>Funding Options</b>
1.19	Various funding solutions has been explored for the new Council homes to be built. These solutions range from private borrowing; lease back; buy back options or Council borrowing which will be then recouped through rental incomes (which are predicted through robust models making agreed allowances for voids; maintenance costs; rental income levels (including CPI etc.).
1.20	For public-finance routes, the Council's position is strong given the voluntary agreement for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) self-financing. This option offers routes to long-term debt which remain good value for money for the council. Alongside completion of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) for the existing stock, the Council has been successful in securing an additional allocation of borrowing headroom for a HRA new build programme (£14,757m) and the HRA is likely to generate further revenue and borrowing headroom during the life of this programme.
1.21	With this in mind, it is considered appropriate for prudential borrowing to be utilised by the Council (as the preferred option) for the provision of new Council Housing within the Programme. Whilst this approach will be reviewed on a site by site basis, this option is cost effective and considered appropriate for the Custom House School scheme as the Council properties will remain in the ownership of the Council and the anticipated level of expenditure is sustainable within the context of HRA self-financing.
1.22	Now that councils are starting to build new homes it would be beneficial (and appropriate) for them to have access to grant and loan funding to support new development in the same way that Housing Associations do. Work is underway with Welsh Government to consider and develop proposals for this.
1.23	Standard Development scheme assumptions have been developed and are described below. These make allowances for voids; maintenance costs; rental income levels (including CPI etc.) and will be used to assess all potential new build development schemes to determine scheme

	feasibility and viability with a minimum requirement for all Cabinet approved schemes to pay back the scheme costs within 50 years.
1.24	<p>Following rigorous bench marking, the following assumptions are recommended for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management costs - £400 per annum</li> <li>• Maintenance Costs - Year 1 - £100 (defects liability should cover anything apart from gas servicing) Years 2/3 - £200, yr 4+ £400</li> <li>• Major repairs - 0.8%, deferred to 5 year</li> <li>• Voids/bad debts - 2.5%</li> </ul>
1.25	It is proposed to review the Development Scheme Assumptions periodically to ensure these remain prudent. For major regeneration schemes or schemes on difficult brownfield sites, some additional scheme grant or scheme investment may be needed to support full scheme by scheme cost recovery in 50 years. This could be in the form of Social Housing Grant, Housing Finance Grant, commuted sums, or additional capital support from HRA/NEW Homes as appropriate.
1.26	<b>Future SHARP Schemes</b>
1.27	SHARP housing schemes at The Walks, Flint and Maes y Meilion, Leeswood will be presented to Cabinet in February 2016 for approval.
1.28	Detailed financial appraisal work on The Walks scheme is currently being jointly being undertaken with Wates Living Space. This work has taken longer than originally estimated due to Archaeology Wales interest in The Walks site. In addition the Design Commission for Wales has, at the request of the council, reviewed the Walks scheme, which has added a few weeks delay in finalising the scheme, but also provides increased confidence in a scheme in a major town centre location ahead of Planning Committee consideration. It is anticipated that the construction of the scheme will begin in Spring 2016 subject to all necessary approvals.
1.29	<b>Community Benefits</b>
1.30	An integral element of the SHARP is to support the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Council's Regeneration Strategy: 'a competitive Flintshire; sustainable communities and the creation of employment and skills' (including working with disadvantaged and targeted groups and social businesses; the development of supply chain opportunities (including for small and medium enterprises; local employment; education and training initiatives). the terms of the SHARP, Wates have contractualised performance measures and targets they must achieve in the delivery of these community benefits.
1.31	Wates will also employ Social Enterprises as part of the supply chain who

	can provide services such as cleaning, printing, signage and recruitment services. At least two Social Enterprises will be used during the course of the SHARP.
1.32	Another element of the approach adopted has been to engage with local SMEs at a recent “Meet the Buyer” event held at St David’s Park Hotel, Ewloe for local subcontractors. An estimated £40M worth of sub-contracting work packages are set to be awarded to local firms through the programme This has been highly successful with a number of local contractors now registered with Wates to be considered for contractual opportunities for the SHARP.
1.33	A Project Board, chaired by the Chief Officer for Community and Enterprise along with representation from Cabinet, Coleg Cambria, Contractor Partners and other key local stakeholders is also working to develop plans for the creation of a Training Academy to ensure that sustainable and meaningful apprenticeship opportunities are created for young people to not only work on the SHARP, but also other major Council construction programmes including the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) which will see the Council spending £107 million over six years to bring its 7,200 Council homes up to the WHQS.
1.34	Through this partnership approach it is envisaged that an estimated 20 apprenticeships could be created each year.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	£14,757m borrowing approval is available for a council house building programme. Each scheme will require individual cabinet approval and each scheme will be assessed against the scheme development criteria identified in 1.20 of this report. The process for doing this will provide for total scheme costs plus financing costs and management costs to be offset against rental income over 50 years.
2.02	Scheme costs and financial analysis are attached at Appendix 5. This shows total scheme costs of £1,548,936 and how the scheme performs against scheme development assumptions identified in paragraph 1.20. The scheme achieves pay back in year 50 with additional investment costs of £51, 964, which are required due to the nature of the site, the council’s quality standard and changes to CDM regulations.
2.03	The scheme has been assessed as providing best value for the council by qualified cost control staff.
2.04	The scheme requires acquisition of a council fund site by the HRA and this can be achieved in a cost neutral manner.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
-------------	---------------------------------------------

3.01	There has been community consultation throughout Flintshire County Council for the site. The proposed scheme was subject to a further community consultation on Monday 5th October at St David's Institute from 2pm till 7pm.
3.02	For the event Halliday Clark provided 8 information boards on the proposal. The consultation was attended by officers from Flintshire County Council, Halliday Clark Architects and Wates Living Space. A register was taken with 16 names signed. Consultation comments were submitted along with the presentation and register as part of this application. Planning approval was granted on 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The Operational Risk Register is in place for the SHARP Housing Programme which is regularly updated in relation to emerging and changing risks. This is in addition to Project specific Risks and Strategic Risks.
4.02	The SHARP team continues to develop a framework for managing risk and opportunities the programme generates. Further work is on-going in order to improve the robustness in risk identification and management as part of the new CAMMS system which will contain Development Framework procedures.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – SHARP Commissioning Objectives  Appendix 2 – Site Layout Plan Custom House School site, Connah's Quay  Appendix 3 – Architectural Drawing of Custom House School site, Connah's Quay  Appendix 4 - Flintshire House Standard  Appendix 5- Scheme Financial Analysis

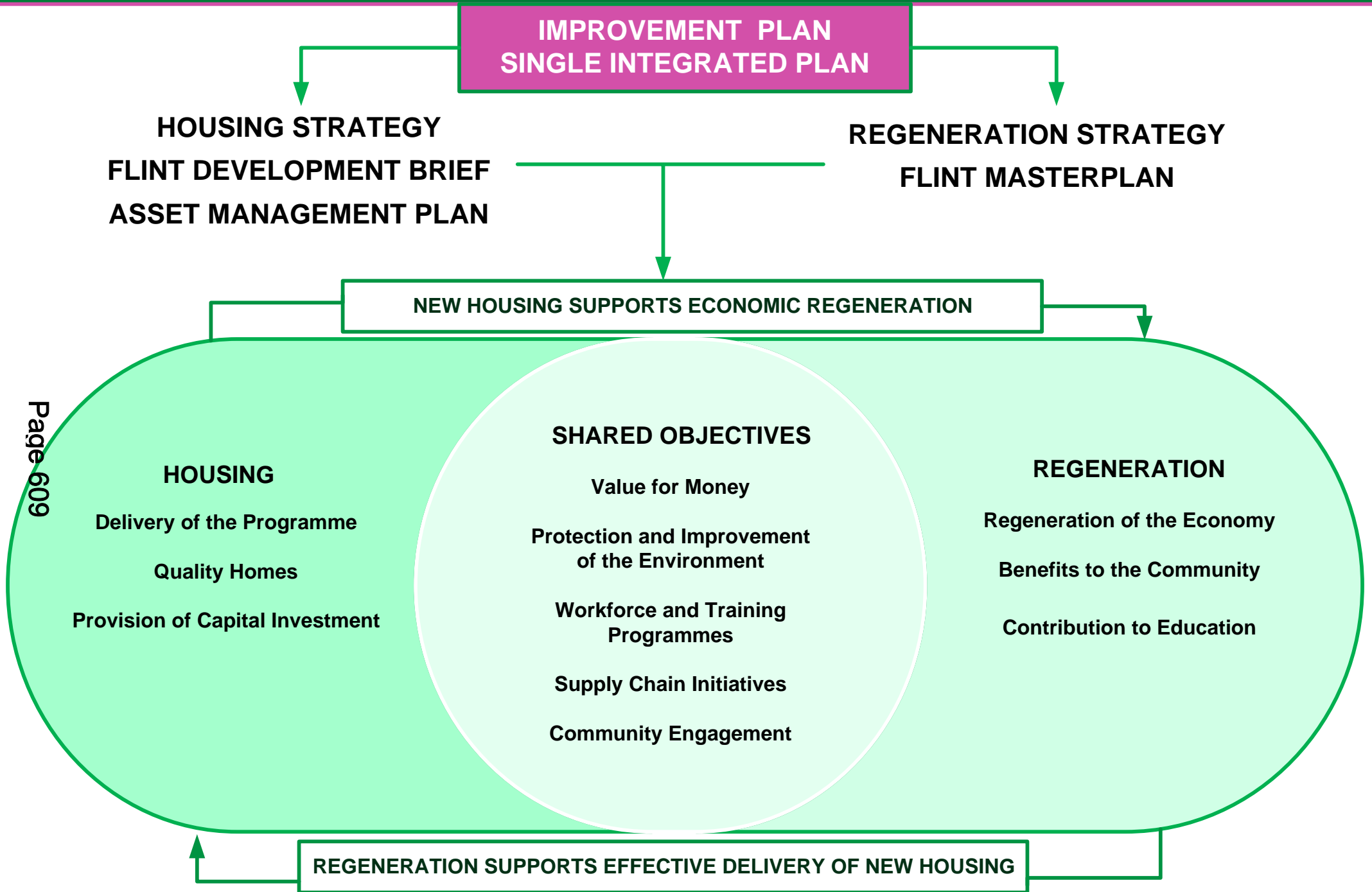
<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Office: Clare Budden</b> <b>Job Title: Chief Officer Community and Enterprise</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 703800</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk">clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
-------------	--------------------------

7.01	<p><b>Strategic Housing And Regeneration Programme (SHARP)</b> – Flintshire County Council House Building Programme which will build 500 new homes (200 Council) and 300 (affordable)</p> <p><b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)</b> - Flintshire County Council will be spending £111 million over six years on a major refurbishment and maintenance programme of works bring its 7,200 Council homes up to the Welsh Government’s Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) new properties across the Council during the next five years.</p> <p><b>Standard Development Scheme Assumptions</b> - agreed allowances for voids; maintenance costs; rental income levels (including CPI etc.) and will be used to assess all potential future development schemes to determine scheme feasibility and viability.</p> <p><b>Community Benefits</b> – the SHARP has contractualised Community Benefits which must be delivered as part of the programme. The Council sees an important outcome of the programme is the promotion of quality of life for Flintshire residents through improved employment, training and education opportunities.</p> <p><b>Meet the Buyer</b> – Event organised by the Council and Wates Living Space to engage with local SMEs to maximize local supply chain opportunities with Flintshire.</p>



# COMMISSIONING OBJECTIVES



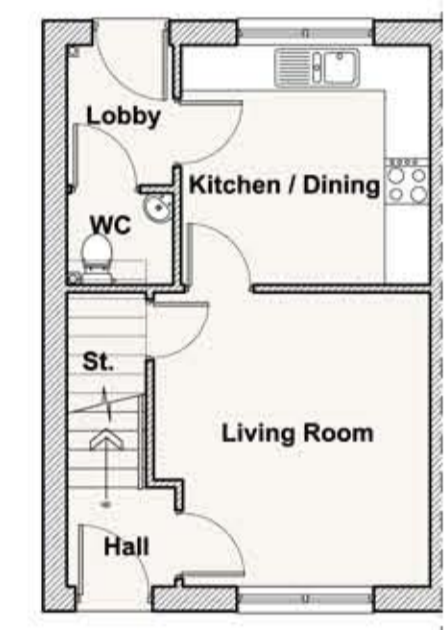
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Proposed Site Layout

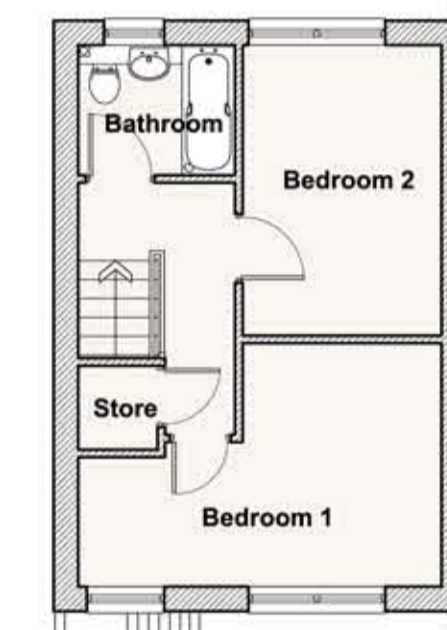


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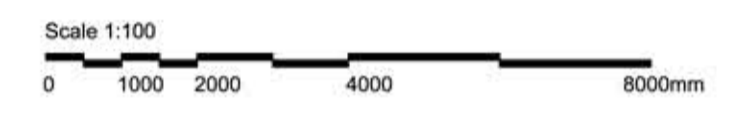


Ground Floor Layout

Type 1



First Floor Layout

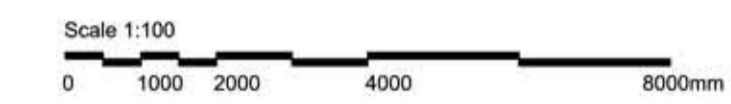


Ground Floor Layout

Type 2



First Floor Layout



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NOTES

**NOTES:**  
 DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWING.  
**SITE 1 AREA** - 2451m<sup>2</sup>  
 - 0.2 Hectares  
 - 0.6 Acres  
**HOUSING**  
 Type 1 - 2 BED 69m<sup>2</sup> / 742ft<sup>2</sup> 8 No.  
 Type 2 - 3 BED 85m<sup>2</sup> / 915ft<sup>2</sup> 4 No.

Document for illustration purposes only

K - 29.09.15	SE	DCH
ROAD POSITION ALTERED TO ENGINEERS DRAWING AND PLOTS 4 & 5 MOVED AWAY FROM THE BOUNDARY WALL		
J - 25.09.15	SJ	DCH
Site Layout amendments to accommodate highways requirements		
i - 09.09.15	SJ	DCH
ENTRANCE FENCE MOVED & REFUSE AREA ADDED		
H - 09.09.15	SE	DCH
ELEVATION OMITTED		
G - 03.09.15	SJ	DCH
EXTRA FENCES, SIDE GATES & ANNOTATION		
F - 02.09.15	SJ	DCH
GENERAL AMENDS - EXTRA PARKING		
E - 17.08.2015	SE	DCH
EXTRA CAR PARKING		
D - 5.08.2015	SE	DCH
GENERAL AMENDMENTS		
C - 15.07.2015	SE	
NUMBER OF HOUSES REDUCED		
B - 15.07.2015	SE	
HOUSE TYPE NUMBERS ALTERED		
A - 09.07.2015	SE	
SITE REDUCED IN SIZE		
- SEPTEMBER 2015	SE	DCH
INITIAL ISSUE		
REVISION - DATE		DRWN /CHKD

**FOR APPROVAL**

CUSTOM HOUSE SCHOOL  
 CONNAH'S QUAY

FOR  
 WATES LIVING SPACE

PROPOSED SITE PLAN & LAYOUTS

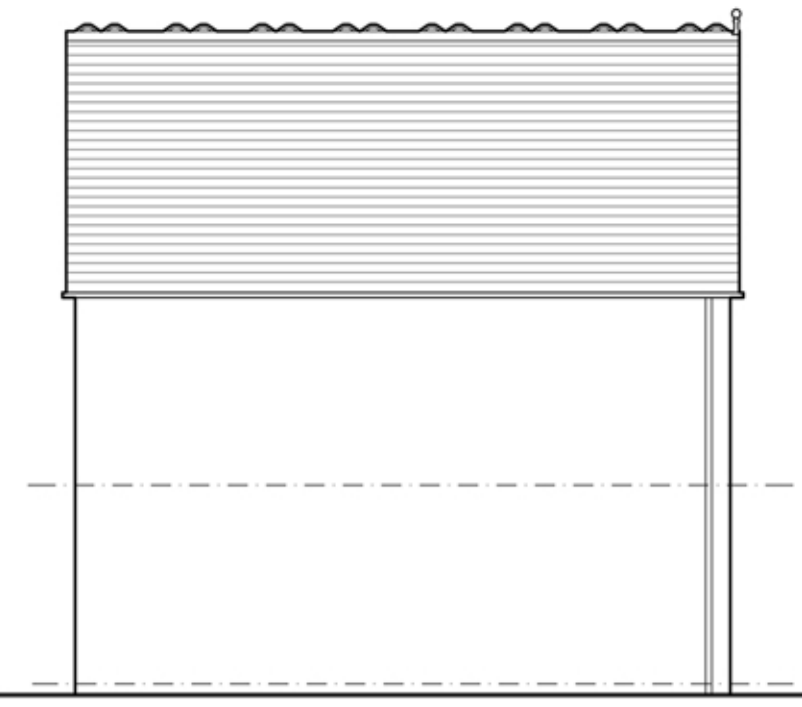
Scale 1:100 & 1:200 @ A1

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Dwg. No. 671.09 (-) 001 CH Rev. K

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Side Elevation



Mold Road Rear Elevation



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NOTES



Mews Court Front Elevation

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- SEPTEMBER 2015	SE	DCH
INITIAL ISSUE		
REVISION - DATE		DRWN/CHKD

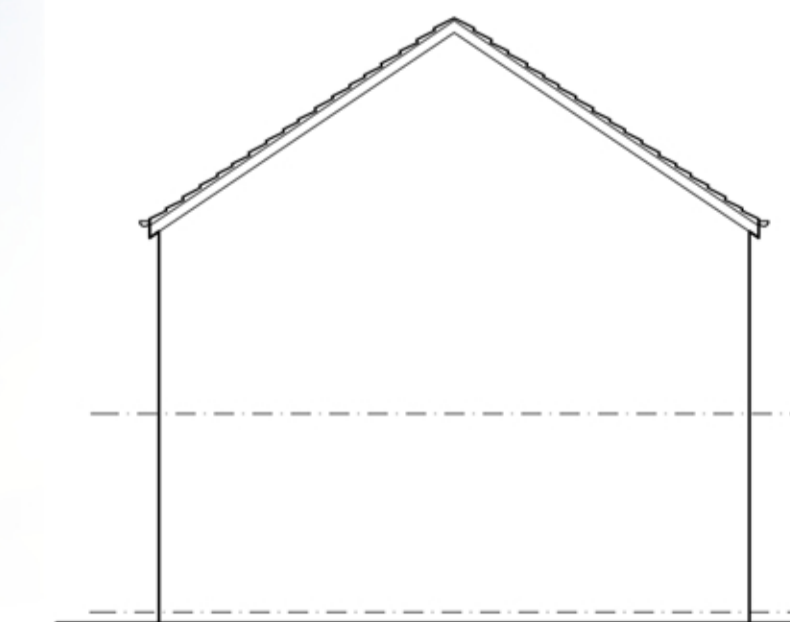
FOR COMMENT

CUSTOM HOUSE SCHOOL  
CONNAH'S QUAY

FOR  
WATES LIVING SPACE

PROPOSED ELEVATIONS

Scale 1:100 @ A1



Typical Side Elevation (Type 1)



Mews Court Rear Elevation

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Dwg. No. 671.09 (-) 002 CH Rev.

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# Flintshire Housing Standard

Draft

**24 March 2015**

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Produced by Project Development Workshop Ltd for Flintshire County Council

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## **ABOUT THE FLINTSHIRE HOUSE STANDARD**

The Flintshire House Standard is a set of key design principles that is intended to ensure new homes built or facilitated by Flintshire County Council are of high quality and excellent value.

The expectation is that the Standard helps to ensure new homes provide a successful legacy in respect of both the individual homes and the neighbourhoods in which they are located.

The Standard is intended not to be onerous or impractical and seeks to avoid duplicating other good practice standards. Instead it should utilise these relevant standards as a frame of reference and provide clarity on the extent to which these other standards should be applied.

The Standard also avoids duplication with principles that are already outlined by the Council's planning guidance and Building Regulations.

The Council may require different standards on occasion, for instance if attracting funding from the Welsh Assembly Government or if there are particular specialist requirements, for instance for a supported or specialist housing development.

In addition, the Council understand that quality new homes rely not only on clear design requirements, but also quality collaborative processes and strong communication. These are equally important aspirations from any of the Council's partners.

## DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

### 1. General Design Requirements

#### Building for Life

The Council require the use of the **Building for Life 12** assessment to consider the merits of development proposals and what successful, sustainable development looks like. The Building for Life 12 principles should be applied to measure how well designed, well integrated, functional, attractive, and sustainable new homes and neighbourhoods are.

See: <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/knowledge-resources/guide/building-life-12-third-edition>

The Council will expect all schemes to receive mainly green traffic lights and amber when constraints of the site mean that a green is not possible.

#### Welsh Housing Quality Standards and Welsh Design Quality Requirements

Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS), which was revised in 2008, outlines the Welsh Assembly Government's vision that all households in Wales should have the opportunity to live in good quality homes. WHQS sets standards for all social housing, including existing homes.

Welsh Design Quality Requirements of 2005 (WDQR), overlaps to much of an extent with the WHQS, but applies to housing association new build projects. As it applies to new build it is therefore generally more relevant to the Flintshire Housing Standard.

**General compliance with WHQS and WDQR internally/externally for all Council and Affordable Properties is expected, other than where the exceptions detailed within this guidance apply and/or where the standards have been superseded by the Flintshire House Standard (e.g. amended Lifetime Homes requirements) or have become outdated.**

When viable, the Council would also welcome Private Market properties meeting these standards.

### 2. External Appearance of Homes

External appearance of Council, Affordable, and Private Market Properties should be "tenure blind". This will ensure that the Flintshire Standard will leave a lasting legacy in terms of external appearance and creating coherent mixed tenure neighbourhoods. This does not mean that properties must be identical or have the same internal layout, nor does it mean that the developer's standard house types cannot be used.

**This means that the external appearance of the properties is not an obvious clear indication of occupier's tenure.**

The Council also expect that new homes and developments have distinctive character through the use of materials, finishes, building styles and landscaping details. This will provide a development with a coherent appearance, where new homes complement each other, without all homes looking exactly the same.

The design of homes should also consider how they fit in with the local surroundings and topography.

### 3. Space Standards and Room Layouts

Flintshire's new homes should provide sufficient space and smart design to allow the intended household size to live, study, play, work, host guests, and comfortably store everyday household items.

Floor space dimensions for the Council and Affordable homes should generally be in accordance with Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) and Welsh Design Quality Requirements' (WDQR), stipulated minimum expected furniture per room (and the expected size of different furniture items detailed in the WHQS and WDQR), circulation, and storage requirements. **There is clear guidance in the WDQR on this, so it is not duplicated in the Flintshire Standard.**

Where viable, it is proposed that these principles will also be applied for private market properties

It is important to note that, because of the Council's flexibility on some elements of Lifetime Homes (as listed below), a slightly different set of space standards is included in the Flintshire House Standard to the notional standards suggested in the WDQR, which includes provision for full Lifetime Homes. Subsequently, the Council expect new homes built to the Flintshire House Standard to meet the following space requirements:

Type	Anticipated Metre <sup>2</sup>
1 bed 2 person flat	45 – 51
2 bed 3 person flat	57 – 65
2 bed 4 person house	71 – 83
3 bed 5 person house	85 – 94

The above are some typical expected house types. Further guidance will be provided if other house types are required, which will be in alignment with these principles.

The aim of offering a range of sizes is not to encourage always building to the lower end of the range, but to offer some flexibility to respond to site and viability constraints whilst maintaining a minimum acceptable level. Generally the Council will expect homes to be built towards the middle-higher end of the ranges provided.

The ceiling height is to be 2.4m for all Council, Affordable and Private Market Properties.

### **Storage**

Adequate built in storage should be provided for both clean items (e.g. laundry etc) and dirty items (e.g. mops).

Minimum internal storage required should include:

1 bedroom	1.5m <sup>2</sup>
2 bedrooms	2m <sup>2</sup>
3 bedrooms	2.5m <sup>2</sup>

Some storage will need to be 2m high, in order to store tall items – e.g. brooms.

External storage will be required for bikes and gardening equipment (when applicable) as per the WDQR.

### **Studying and working from home**

All new homes should allow space for studying and working from home, with relevant services (e.g. plug sockets, internet, telephone connections) relating to the identified space.

### **Garden sizes**

Gardens for houses and bungalows should be a minimum useable area of 30m<sup>2</sup> unless otherwise agreed by the Council and should include a level, paved area (min 3m<sup>2</sup>) accessible from the back door, and paved access to the garden gate (if applicable).

Further guidance on sizes and sloping requirements are provided in the WDQR.

## **4. Access and Circulation**

### **Front entrance**

The external front entrance to new houses should be accessible (as per Lifetime Homes), covered (e.g. canopy), and illuminated.

### **Entrance from front door to living room**

The front door to new homes should not open directly into the living room. Front doors should open into a lobby area, circulation space, or entrance hall that will act as a buffer.

### **Access to gardens**

Generally it should either be possible to access the garden from the kitchen without needing to pass through the living room, or to reach the rear garden from the street without having to pass through the main living room.

All family homes should be provided with gardens that are convenient to access and safe for small children to play in.

### **Circulation Space**

Generally all separate rooms should be accessed from corridors/circulation space, as opposed to through a different room.

However, this should not discount the option of open plan kitchen-dining-living spaces, which could be considered as a single room accessed from the corridor if agreed by the Council and if this makes sense to the requirements of the target markets identified for the homes.

## **5. Sustainability and Energy Efficiency**

Ensuring homes are energy efficient and affordable to keep warm whilst mitigating the impact of new homes on the environment are key aims of the Flintshire House Standard.

While noting that the improvement to Building Regulations Part L have superseded elements of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH), a minimum of **CSH** Level 3 is required on all elements. The only exception is the Energy & CO<sub>2</sub> element where level 4 standards are expected as a minimum for all Council, Affordable and Private Market Properties.

A “fabric first” approach should be adopted to achieve required levels of energy efficiency.

Due to the high levels of energy efficiency required, it will be essential to demonstrate ventilation strategies early on, and how these will help to avoid condensation and meet Building Regulations. Sufficient levels of controllable ventilation are essential.

It will also be important to demonstrate strategies for preventing overheating that are not reliant on mechanical ventilation.

## **6. Parking**

The Council wish to see development that is car friendly, but not dominated by cars. The maximum parking ratios, as defined in the Council’s supplementary planning guidance on

parking, should be followed alongside discussions with planners on a site by site basis that will also consider visitor parking.

The Council would like parking to be visible to residents, but recognise that the viability of this will need to respond to the individual context of each site and its constraints. Therefore this will be a planning consideration on a site by site basis.

Guidance should also be taken from Building for Life 12 and WDQR.

Parking should be easily identified as being linked to the home that the space serves.

Access from the parking space to the home should be convenient, clear, safe, and well-lit. Parking spaces should not be within 2 metres of any window.

## **7. Lifetime Homes**

The Council is eager that new properties are flexible so as to meet future needs of the residents. The Council will not require full Lifetime Homes standards to be met, but will welcome proposals from developers on the use of key elements of the Lifetimes Homes standard to apply to all Council and Affordable homes, and when viable, Private Market Properties. It is anticipated that the most important aspects of Lifetime Homes for the Council would be:

- First floor bathroom side access to WC and bath
- First floor bathroom space potential to convert to walk in shower
- Ground floor level WC
- Sockets controls etc. at a convenient height
- Turning space for wheelchairs in ground floor living rooms
- Space provision for a future stairlift
- Walls able to accommodate fitting of future handrails etc.
- Wide enough doors and halls to allow wheelchair access
- Accessible threshold, covered and lit
- Level or gently sloping access to entrance (when practical)

While a ground floor WC is required in houses, the ability to create a future ground floor level access shower (as per full Lifetime Homes) is not required, as the elements of Lifetime Homes retained should enable the continued use of the upstairs bathroom, irrespective of mobility (see below). This also mitigates the requirement for a potential through-floor lift.

For bungalows or specialist homes, full Lifetime Homes and additional standards may well be required and details of the different requirements will be confirmed in such instances.

## 8. Stairs

Due to the design requirement that the upstairs bathroom has the potential to be adapted into a level access walk in shower, the potential to install a stairlift is also required. It is therefore anticipated that **winders on stairs** will typically not be appropriate, unless it is clear how future adaptations will be possible (i.e. the stairlift) and how other challenges associated with winders, such as movement of furniture can be mitigated.

At least one handrail should be provided on the stairs.

## 9. Service Meters

Service meters for utilities (e.g. gas, electricity, and water) should be clearly marked and accessible for utility companies outside of properties. Care should be taken that the meter cupboards are discreetly positioned and do not dominate the external appearance of the properties in an unattractive manner.

## 10. Sprinkler Systems

It is important to note the Welsh Assembly's intention to make sprinkler systems mandatory in all new homes, with this expected to come into force in 2016.

## 11. Communal Areas

Areas that will require maintaining via a service contract (for instance communal landscaping) should be minimised as much as possible at the design stage in consultation with the Council. This is to reduce the need for service charges, which will have affordability consequences for both the Council and its customers.

Detailed specification for communal spaces will be agreed with the Council on a case by case basis, but there will be an emphasis on communal space, where it is required, being attractive, safe, visible, and cost effective to maintain and manage.

## 12. Apartments

While the Flintshire House Standard focuses mainly on houses, the Council recognises the role that apartments can play in parts of the Flintshire housing market and that these will be appropriate for certain sites for various reasons.

It is important to the Council to minimise the extent of internal communal circulation space within any apartment blocks and to ensure efficient external space that is easy and cost effective to manage and maintain whilst still being attractive.

## Flintshire Housing Standard

The council will consider "cottage flat" type arrangements, in which the occupier of the first floor apartment can access their home from their front door on street level. The Council will also consider access via secure (resident only) open air stairwells that minimise management costs and liabilities. These would be subject to the detail of these offering an attractive design solution (a return to the 1960's style deck-access approach would not be welcome).

The Council understand that in some cases, to achieve high levels of design, cost efficiency, and appropriate density, some apartment blocks may require internal circulation space. In such instances the Council expect a real emphasis on these being designed to be secure spaces, maximising visibility, and designing out communal hidden areas. In these scenarios the Council also expects these to be efficient spaces in terms of management and maintenance costs.

Lifts will only be considered in older person, specialist, and supported blocks or apartment blocks greater than four storeys. The lift manufacturer will need to be agreed with the Council and the lift should be open protocol in terms of maintenance.

### 13. Loft Space

All roof voids must have a roof access hatch in a circulation area. Access must avoid door swings and stairs. Hatches should be lockable and insulated as per the adjacent ceiling.

The Council does not generally expect lofts to be fully boarded, although boarding should be used to prevent any loose/fibrous insulation from becoming airborne.

Some developments should have full boarding as part of the detailed specification, subject to feasibility and whether this will have a detrimental impact on achieving other priorities.

If loft mounted services have been unavoidable, access ways should be provided (e.g. plywood) between the access hatch and service area. The hatch should be of an appropriate size to allow servicing of equipment.

### 14. Flooring

The Council will typically require flooring in kitchens and bathrooms to be non-slip vinyl flooring or an alternative (as agreed with the Council), with choices to be agreed with the Council.

### 15. Kitchens

Kitchens should meet the requirements outlined in WDQR. They should include space for all appliances within the kitchen or adjacent utility room if applicable.

### 16. Bathrooms



All two storey (or more) houses will require an accessible ground floor WC and hand-wash basin.

The first floor bathroom should include a bath and a shower, and have the ability to be adapted to a level access shower in the future.

### **17. Gardens and Boundaries**

WDQR provides guidance on gardens and boundary requirements that should be followed.

Gardens should be turfed or seeded as per agreement with the Council.

Boundaries between gardens should be at least 1200mm high and be fenced with timber close boarded fencing or an alternative as per agreement by the Council.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### 18. Detailed Specification

The Flintshire House Standard provides key overarching design principles for Flintshire's New Homes Programme, which will inform the delivery of the Council's Strategic Housing and Regeneration Partnership.

The Council expect to agree a detailed specification as part of the contract documentation, which will include performance requirements for each building contract/site delivered through the SHARP or by a separate arrangement.

In addition to further detail on the above items, the Council will require specific agreement, as part of any contract documentation of the following items:

#### Specification

- Heating and hot water
- Ventilation systems
- Internal decoration
- External decoration
- External doors
- Internal doors
- Windows
- Bathroom and sanitary ware
- Telephone, TV, and internet installations
- TV aerials
- Communal digital TV services (apartments)
- Door intercom systems (apartments)
- Warden call systems (when applicable)
- Hard and soft landscaping detail
- Sprinkler system
- Fire alarms, heat and smoke detectors
- Ironmongery
- Timber and Joinery
- Refuse storage
- Internal lighting
- External lighting
- Kitchen unit manufacturer and range
- Sheds (when required)
- Rainwater goods
- Service installations
- Meter positioning
- Intruder alarms (when required)
- Lifts
- Site signage
- Any other items identified by the Council

#### Process and other information

The Council will also expect to obtain and agree detail of the following as part of each site/contract:

- Building warranty
- Number of keys

- Collateral warranties
- Performance bond
- Component whole life costings
- Handover process requirements for the Council
- Defects liability information, response times, and key performance indicators for during the defects period
- Tenant choices
- Maintenance and H&S manuals
- Supply chain details
- Tenant handover packs
- Local labour
- Considerate construction scheme
- Fire risk assessments

### 19. Building Information Modelling

The Council would encourage the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM), which allows greater depth of collaboration at design stage and the modelling of the proposed buildings in a digital form. The expectation is that BIM can help encourage a better understanding of what is being built, whilst encouraging efficiency and value for money in relation to the construction and whole life of the new building. The outcomes of using BIM should also mean a more considered design and ultimately a better home for the tenant to live in.

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Custom House School Site - Financial Analysis

#### Core Assumptions

#### Income

Property mix, opening market values (OMV) and Gross rental values (based on 2016/17 rents)

Property type	m2	No.	Opening OMV	Annual Rent	Weekly Rent for Custom House	Comparator LHA Weekly Rent
2B4P house	76	8	140,000	£4,783	£91.67	£111.57
3B4P house	94	4	140,000	£5,261	£100.83	£127.85
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>				

- **Build Cost = £1,496,972 (exc VAT).**

#### Additional Identified Costs

- Compliance with Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 - £6,240
- Extended foul drainage and additional drainage costs - £21,008
- Car parking spaces - £4,246
- Works to party wall (shared with No. 33 Mold Road) - £3,000
- Symphony kitchens in lieu of Regency - £1,798
- Additional depth of foundations due to poor ground bearing capacity - £12,672
- Land drainage due to poor porosity of the ground - £3,000

£51,964 Additional costs to be charged separate to scheme.

- **Total Cost (Excl. development finance charges) = £1,548,936**

Description	Assumption
Financial Institution Yield	6.5%
Major Repair fee – years 6-50	0.80%
Management Fee	£400 p.a.
Void allowance	2.5%
Maintenance Yr1	£100 p.a.
Maintenance Yr 2/3	£200 p.a.
Maintenance Yr 4 +	£400 p.a.
Indexation of fees	CPI (see above)

#### Resource Implications

**Break even – Yr 50 (excluding £51,964 additional costs)**

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## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Medium Term Libraries Plan – An Assessment of the Feasibility of the Community Asset Transfer of Rural Libraries
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Organisational Change)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2015 Cabinet agreed a Medium Term Libraries Plan that outlined a sustainable libraries infrastructure for the future. This included designated hub libraries in Mold, Holywell, Connah's Quay, Deeside Leisure Centre, Buckley and Flint. For rural libraries it recommended, during the autumn of 2015, assessing the feasibility of community asset transfers.

The re-location of libraries in Queensferry, Mancot and Hawarden to a new library in Deeside Leisure Centre was recommended and approved by Cabinet and this will be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. The last element of the proposal was to progress with the transfer of library buildings, not services, to communities in Holywell and Broughton, this approach along with a continuing mobile and housebound provision is seen as a sustainable library service for the foreseeable future in Flintshire.

This report provides feedback on the assessment of the feasibility of community asset transfers in the areas of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. It recommends a way forward for each library and a timescale that fits within the context of the medium term libraries plan. It aims to support the achievement of the £0.544m of savings through Community Asset Transfers put forward as a budget efficiency proposal for 2016/17.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider the assessment of the feasibility of community asset transfers for the libraries in Hope, Mynydd Isa, and Saltney in particular reviewing the formal consultation with communities and the draft notes from Organisational Change Scrutiny Committee.
2	To proceed with community asset transfers in Hope and Mynydd Isa, with a target date range of April-June 2016 for completion and, with the final basis for transfer to be brought back to Cabinet.
3	In Saltney, based on the formal community consultation, to give to the end of February 2016 for further consideration by the community to express an interest with a final date of the end of June 2016 for any final transfer.
4	That if no interest is expressed by the community of Saltney by the end of February 2016 that provision of a library service is ceased from 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF A COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER FOR RURAL LIBRARIES</b>
1.01	At the March 2015 Cabinet a Medium Term Plan for Libraries was proposed and agreed. This report deals specifically with the rural libraries (Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney). As agreed in the Medium Term Plan for Libraries an assessment of the feasibility of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of these libraries has taken place and this report now proposes a way forward.
1.02	Since March 2015 work has taken place to support ideas brought forward by each of the three communities. This includes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hope, supporting the local Ward Member and the school to look at how integrating the school library and community library might enable the library to be more sustainable.</li><li>• Mynydd Isa, work has taken place to provide details to Argoed Community Council of how a CAT might work and supporting Café Isa to consider if a CAT of the community centre, youth centre, and library might be feasible.</li><li>• Saltney, where information has been requested about the community library then this has been provided, initially an expression of interest was received for the CAT of Saltney Library, although little discussion has taken place since about finding a solution for a CAT of the library to the community.</li></ul>
1.03	To ensure formal as well as informal consultation about the feasibility of a CAT of these libraries has been undertaken an information document asking for formal responses was sent out in November 2015 to town and



	community councils and schools and was made available in libraries to library users. The deadline for responses was Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015. A detailed analysis of these responses is provided at Appendix A including a copy of the consultation document.
1.04	<p>In summary the responses can be detailed as follows</p> <p>Hope – An interest in a CAT from both an emerging ‘Friends of Hope Library Group’ and Hope Community Council. Castell Alun School are supportive of working with the community and enabling the library to be open to the community during school time. The local Ward Member, while supporting the integration of school and community library, asks for continuation of paid for library staff during the school holidays.</p> <p>Mynydd Isa – An interest in a CAT from Caffi Isa. Local Ward Members and residents have a range of queries about how this CAT may work</p> <p>Saltney – No interest at present from the Community Council in taking forward the CAT, Ward Members both ask for an extension for consideration of a CAT but have differing views about how this might best be achieved.</p>
1.05	<p>There are two potential solutions for a Community Asset Transfer as outlined in the consultation document and in line with Welsh Government identified best practice</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The community operate a book stock and IT equipment with no professional library input. This is relatively low cost with only the costs of the building and replacement of book stock and IT equipment required.</li> <li>(2) The community buy back professional librarians and / or access to the library management system for recording and ordering issues. In this way the library remains part of the library network but the community have to pick up a large proportion of the current costs of the library. .</li> </ol>
1.06	<p>The early work to support the communities and the formal consultation show that a CAT is feasible in both Hope and Mynydd Isa as there are community organisations coming forward with a commitment to make a CAT work. In both instances it is likely that option (1) in 1.05 is the more likely solution. More work is required now to support the community to finalise their plan for a CAT. It is proposed a target date of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 is set for completing this work while recognising it may require more time. A final date for completion of these CATs and therefore provision of library services in these areas is proposed at the end of June 2016.</p>
1.07	<p>The early work to support the community and the formal consultation show that a CAT at present is not feasible in Saltney. Given the consultation responses ask for more time, while recognising there are proposed budget savings attached to this work for 2016/17, it is proposed to give the community of Saltney until the end of February 2016 to consider again if a CAT is feasible and how this might work. It is proposed to make clear that if an interest is not expressed by this stage then the service ceases at the end of March 2016. The final date for completion of this CAT and therefore</p>

	provision of library service in this area is proposed at the end of June 2016.
1.08	<p>The results of this assessment of feasibility of the community asset transfers in these three areas was taken to Organisational Change Scrutiny Committee for comment on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The draft notes from a constructive discussion detail the following:</p> <p>1. That the assessment of the feasibility of community asset transfers for the libraries in Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney, in particular the formal consultation with communities be received, subject to:</p> <p>a) the holding of a meeting with interested parties in Saltney within the next four weeks;</p> <p>b) the provision of the information requested on the operation of the Library Management System; how it currently relates to book stock and acquisitions and how it could be developed for the future;</p> <p>c) the increase in the 'lent book stock' to community operated libraries being set at 100 books</p> <p>2. That the committee's views on the feasibility of Community Asset Transfers and alternative acceptable solutions for the three libraries is noted and referenced by the officers in further developing solutions.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>										
2.01	<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p> <p>The cost of current library provision in each area are as follow:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Library</th> <th>Cost £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hope</td> <td>£13,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mynydd Isa</td> <td>£34,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saltney</td> <td>£41,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£88,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A Community Asset Transfer of these libraries or a cessation of service would, on an annual basis, save the amounts indicated above.</p> <p>As part of a CAT consideration would be given to one off revenue start-up funding for the first year and a one off capital grant towards capital building costs associated with the condition survey. These amounts being capped at the maximum figure as outlined in the report to Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015</p>	Library	Cost £	Hope	£13,000	Mynydd Isa	£34,000	Saltney	£41,000	Total	£88,000
Library	Cost £										
Hope	£13,000										
Mynydd Isa	£34,000										
Saltney	£41,000										
Total	£88,000										
2.02	<p><b>Human Resource Implications</b></p> <p>If either CATs are progressed as identified in option 1 in 1.05 or a cessation of service occurs then no library staff will be required in future.</p> <p>If either CATs are progressed as identified in option 1 in 1.05 or a cessation of service occurs then no library staff will be required in future. The total number of staff employed at these libraries at present are 5</p>										

	<p>people or 1.08 ftes. The way forward for this is to follow normal Human Resource procedure including staff consultation. It is likely in this instance that staff will be redeployed/assimilated into vacant posts in the library network.</p> <p>If communities did identify funding to continue a professional library service then posts would be retained, however, this is considered unlikely.</p>
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	<p>Informal consultation has taken place with parties interested in CATs including Town and Community Councils, school and community groups.</p> <p>Formal consultation with Town and Community, schools and library users as detailed in Appendix A.</p>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p>Key Risks and Mitigation</p> <p>(1) That communities do not come forward with a sustainable CAT proposal – services cease at the latest in these libraries by the end of June 2016.</p> <p>(2) Communities do not have the required skills and capacity to take on a CAT – support will be provided by the library service and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council and if, at the end of this, it is not considered feasible then services will cease.</p> <p>(3) Communities can manage a CAT for a short period of time but not in the long term – the building returns to the Council and the Council consider best use of the asset.</p> <p>(4) Loss of these services puts at risk performance against Public Library Standards – Flintshire will still meet the standard of providing libraries for 75% of the population within 2.5 miles.</p>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Appendix A – Library Service Consultation In Relation to the Feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries : Summary Report</p> <p>Appendix B – Equality Monitoring and Impact Assessment – CAT for Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Medium Term Libraries Plan – Cabinet March 2015</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b> Pennie Corbett, Principal Librarian  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704402  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk">pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Community Asset Transfer</b> – The transfer of a building to a community organisation with a 27 year lease and peppercorn rent.</p> <p><b>Public Library Standards</b> – Welsh Governments assessment of the quality of public library services, it is not an assessment of whether library services meet their statutory duty.</p>

# **Appendix A**

## **Flintshire County Council**

### **Library Services Consultation**

**In relation to the Feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer of  
Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries**

### **Summary Report**

## **Contents**

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Who was consulted	3
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What people told us	
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Mynydd Isa	5
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Next Steps	6
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## **The purpose of the consultation:**

During 2014/15 Town and Community Councils have been invited to express an interest in taking over council assets in their communities, libraries were included in the list of assets.

The Medium Term Plan for Libraries, agreed by the Council in 2015, to meet the anticipated savings of 30-50% by 2018, included the proposal to have full Community Asset transfer at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. It was agreed that consultation would take place during the Summer and Autumn of 2015. Councillors will consider all feedback received when making their final decision on whether a Community Asset Transfer is possible or what else might be done in light of the conclusion in the Medium Term Libraries plan that future Council provision of services is no longer a sustainable option for these libraries.

The consultation paper included the background to the CAT proposals, examples of models of community run and community funded libraries, details of how community groups could be supported through CAT and information on how to submit responses to the consultation.

## **The period of consultation:**

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## **Who was consulted?**

- Letters outlining the proposals and inviting feedback were sent to:

Argoed Community Council  
Hope Community Council  
Saltney Town Council

### **Primary schools**

Abermorddu School  
Ysgol Estyn, Hope  
Ysgol Mynydd Isa  
Saltney Ferry Primary School  
Wood Memorial Primary School  
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

### **High Schools**

Castell Alun High School  
Argoed High School  
St David's High School

- Consultation documents were deposited in all libraries and on the council's website. Multiple copies were made available in Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney libraries.
- Meetings were held with ward members representing all 3 communities
- Meetings were held with Head of Castell Alun school as stakeholder of Hope library which shares a site with the school
- Meeting held with community interest company at Mynydd Isa Community Centre
- Chief Officer Organisational Change and Principal Libraries and Arts Officer were invited to attend at Town and Community Councils at two locations
- Chief Officer Organisational Change and Principal Libraries and Arts Officer were invited to attend meetings with one community group
- Principal Librarian met with Young People's Coordinator at Saltney Youth Centre

## **Consultation Responses:**

### **Hope**

- Written responses received from one primary school at Hope and from Castell Alun High School.
- Expression of interest received from Hope Community Council
- Expression of interest received from Friends of Hope Library community group
- Written responses received from ward member representing Hope
- Three additional written responses were received from residents of Hope

### **Mynydd Isa**

- Expression of interest received from Caffi Isa Community Interest Company
- Written responses received from two ward members representing Mynydd Isa
- Five additional written responses, and one telephone call were received from residents of Mynydd Isa.



## **Saltney**

- Written response received from one member of Saltney Town Council
- Written response received from ward member for Saltney Mold Junction
- Written response received from Saltney Town Council

## **What people told us ...**

### **Hope**

Responses were received from the ward member, individuals, the primary school, the High School, the 'Friends of Hope Library' and the Community Council all communicating a wish to retain some local library provision in the community.

The High School had been working together with officers and with the local member for Hope over the summer, to integrate the school and public libraries to sustain the service. This had been achieved by November. Some members of the community were concerned that this had happened prior to consultation and that it may limit the options for the community to transfer the library service to the community. The Friends of Hope Library group met with the school who were able to reassure the group that they would support the community use of the library and continue to finance the building and allow the community the use of the school Library Management System.

A major concern was access to the council's library book stock and request system. The group were reassured that residents could access the online catalogue to request books which could be collected from the mobile library, or any library within Flintshire's network of 'hub libraries'.

Other concerns expressed were about the ability to be able to provide up to date books and to refresh the collection in a community run library; and that resources for young children would need to be provided as these would not be available in a High School library.

The ward member for Hope did not support a Community Asset Transfer for the library. He felt that the council should continue to fund some opening hours staffed by the council's library service during the 12 weeks of the year that the school is closed, with the school opening to the public for the 40 weeks a year that the school is open.

### **Mynydd Isa**

Residents expressed concern over the possible closure of the library and had similar queries to Hope residents as to how residents could still access the library network

and utilise the request system. Other concerns were about the funding of a community run library and how volunteers could be helped to run it.

Support was expressed for the local Community Interest Company who proposed to run the library as part of the Caffi Isa initiative.

### **Saltney**

The members of the Town Council expressed concern that the library was no longer sustainable and proposed to discuss options for running a community library from another community building. Members asked for information on running a library without a management system, and what arrangements FCC proposed to put in place to mitigate the cessation of the service. Mobile stops were suggested.

A formal response was made by Saltney Town council declining to transfer the library to the community as plans were already in place to CAT the youth and community centres and it was felt that no other suitable building was available.

The ward member for Saltney Mold Junction requested that the library was kept open for a further 12 months to enable the Town Council to investigate the possibility of a transfer of the library once CATs had taken place for the community centre and youth club. The ward member for Saltney Stonebridge also requested an extension of service after the proposed closure/transfer date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. This was also to allow time for a CAT of the Community and youth centres to be completed.

### **Next steps**

The outcomes of this consultation will be presented to the Cabinet of the Council in January 2016.

Whatever decisions are taken by cabinet will inform further work which may take place with communities to implement these decisions in the best way possible.

# **Annex 1. Consultation document**

## **Flintshire County Council**

### **Library Services Consultation**

#### **In relation to the Feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries**

#### **1. Context**

- 1.1 During 2014/15 Town and Community Councils have been invited to express an interest in taking over council assets in their communities, libraries are included in the list of assets.
- 1.2 The Medium Term Plan for Libraries, agreed by the Council in 2015, to meet the anticipated savings of 30-50% by 2018, includes the proposal to have full Community Asset transfer at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. It was agreed that consultation would take place during the Summer and Autumn of 2015. Councillors will consider all feedback received when making their final decision on whether a Community Asset Transfer is possible or what else might be done in light of the conclusion in the Medium Term Libraries plan that future Council provision of services is no longer a sustainable option for these libraries.
- 1.3 In some of these areas discussions have already started with interested parties. However prior to a final Council decision this formal consultation process will now ask Town and Community Councils, Schools and Library users for their views on whether there is interest in a Community Asset Transfer of their library to the community.

#### **2. Background Information about Libraries and Community Asset Transfer**

- 2.1 Through a Community Asset Transfer Flintshire Council is aiming to work with communities to try and sustain some provision in each community while removing the subsidy the Council provides to the library. While no ongoing funding will be available from the Council both one off capital support and one off revenue funding could potentially be made available depending on the requirements of the Business Plan put forward by the community.
- 2.2 The costs to the Council of running a library
  - i) Staff – front line staff (library assistants) and managers

- ii) Premises costs
- iii) Resources – books, newspapers
- iv) Network and infrastructure: library management system and bibliographical services, online catalogue and online resources (ebooks etc), request system, delivery system and public access IT.
- v) Central support costs: finance, HR, IT, legal

### 2.3 What a Community Library might look like

#### i) Community run library

This is the most widely adopted model. This option involves

- the community taking over the library building or providing a community owned building/venue.
- the bookstock, and public access IT facilities are gifted to the community and in some cases fixtures and fittings, shelving and furniture
- the library is run for the community by volunteers

#### ii) Community funded library

A more expensive model which involves

- the community taking over the library building or providing a community owned building/venue.
- the community buying in the staffing, bookstock and infrastructure (including an element of the support costs) from the council.

## 3. How groups can be supported through a Community Asset Transfer?

3.1 The first step is to put forward your ideas in response to this consultation.

3.2 The library service will then work with community groups supporting them through the development of the proposal including submitting a business plan.

3.3 The final Business Plan for the schemes will go through the Community Asset Transfer scheme and organisations developing proposals will be eligible for support from Flintshire Local Voluntary Council under this scheme.

3.4 For a Community Asset Transfer to be considered feasible it must be in a position to be up and running by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

## 4. Your Response

4.1 The final deadline for your response is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

4.2 We are happy to meet with your group before the consultation closing date to talk through any more detailed information you may need.

4.2 Your response should include the following:

- A view on whether a Community Asset Transfer is feasible in your area;
- Who will be involved in developing the proposal with support from the

Council;

- Initial ideas about how you will achieve this by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016;
- Any other options you have for sustaining library provision in your area.

You are invited to respond in writing to Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**.

**Contact information:** Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer  
Organisational Change, Flintshire County Council  
Leisure & Libraries Head Office, First Floor  
Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road West,  
Queensferry, Flintshire, CH5 1SA.  
e-mail: [pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk)

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# Flintshire County Council

## Equality Monitoring and Impact Assessment

### Equality Monitoring

#### Proposal to transfer provision of library services from the current service points at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney as Community Asset Transfers

Officers responsible for developing and implementing the policy: Chief Officer  
Organisational Change 1, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Equality Act 2010 ("The Act") sets a General Duty out that as a public body within Wales, Flintshire County Council is required to have due regard in its decision making processes (including financial decisions) to three factors:

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- To advance equality of opportunity, and
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected

Characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religious belief and non-belief, race, sex, sexual orientation and Welsh Language) and those who do not. (Equality Act 2010).

Duties within the Act require that public authorities demonstrate that the financial decisions they make are carried out in a fair, transparent and accountable way and consider the needs and the rights of different members of the community.

The specific equality duties of the Act set out that a local authority needs to:

- Make appropriate arrangement for assessing the likely impact of its policies and practices on its ability to comply with the General Duty;
- Monitor these impacts; and
- Publish reports in respect of any assessment.

## **2. Background to the proposal**

- 2.1 The Medium Term Plan for Libraries, agreed by the council in 2015, to meet the anticipated savings of 30-50% by 2018 includes the proposal to have full Community Asset Transfer at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney.
- 2.2 During 2013 the council reviewed all assets with the aim of reducing the property portfolio in order to sustain services within the reduced budgets of the next five years. Libraries were reviewed and some closures were recommended.
- 2.3 Welsh Public Library Standards require that where there is a population density between 1.1 and 19.9 persons per hectare, a static library service point should be within 2.5 miles (or 10 minutes travelling time by public transport) of at least 75% of the population. In Flintshire 90.1% of the population are within 2.5 miles of a static library. The library network is served by too many buildings, some of which have substantial maintenance and repair backlogs. It was recommended that some services be collocated where possible.
- 2.4 Library opening hours were reviewed in 2012. Some libraries were found to be open for too many hours for the levels of use, with staffing resources not deployed efficiently. Opening hours were recommended to be reduced by 18% in April 2015 as part of measures to achieve required 30% budget savings. Therefore some library buildings will be open for business for less than 20 hours per week making the buildings unsustainable.
- 2.5 The Community Asset Transfer of current libraries at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney form part of budget efficiency proposals for the year 2016/17.
  - **Hope Library** is situated on the campus of Castell Alun High School and, as part of ongoing efficiencies, has been integrated with the school library since summer 2015, with separate opening times for school and community.
  - **Mynydd Isa Library** is situated in Mynydd Isa Community Centre, which also houses a youth club and Community Council office.
  - **Saltney Library** has been operated from temporary, leased premises since 2008. The current premises cost is unsustainable for the 11 hours it is open per week.

## **3. Objectives of the proposal**

- 3.1 Sustain some library provision to the communities Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney by transferring buildings as community assets, and offering funding in the form of capital support and one off revenue funding to community groups who put forward a feasible plan.

## **4. Impact of the proposal**

- 4.1 All residents in the 3 communities would be able to access the network of libraries provided by the council, and the mobile service and service to housebound people.
- 4.2 Residents at Mynydd Isa could use Buckley or Mold libraries (Mynydd Isa to Buckley 1.5 miles or Mynydd Isa to Mold 1.8 miles) Saltney residents could access



Broughton Library (2.7 miles). The mobile library currently serves Caergwrle and Abermorddu and would also visit Hope. The proposal, whilst sustaining some library provision in the communities will replace the current provision at the three libraries. The necessary reduction of 30% to the library budget by 2016-17 has put smaller libraries at risk of closure and the proposal is intended to mitigate the effects of the loss of three small local libraries.

## **5. Financial impact for Flintshire County Council**

The council would make savings of £88,000.

<b>Library</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Hope	13,000
Mynydd Isa	34,000
Saltney	41,000
Total	88,000

## **6. Impact on the community**

6.1 These groups will be affected by this policy:

- i) Library service users of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney
- ii) Potential library service users in the communities
- iii) Specific impacts on groups of people within the protected characteristics categories.

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion of belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

iv) Library service users

**Registered users**

	Hope	Mynydd Isa	Saltney
<b>Adults</b>	655	1426	699
<b>Children</b>	858	955	793
<b>Exempt from charges/special situations</b>	57	15	12
<b>Playgroups</b>	4	9	2
<b>Classes</b>	3	0	6
<b>Reading groups</b>	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1577</b>	<b>2406</b>	<b>1512</b>

**Active users (i.e have borrowed books in 2014-15)**

	Hope	Mynydd Isa	Saltney
<b>Adults</b>	166	368	165
<b>Children</b>	314	294	322
<b>Exempt from charges/special situations</b>	24	8	6
<b>Playgroups</b>	0	5	1
<b>Classes</b>	0	0	3
<b>Reading groups</b>	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>497</b>

**Use of Book stock - percentage on loan at 1.4.15**

	Hope	Mynydd Isa	Saltney	All Flintshire libraries
<b>On shelves</b>	5433	7768	5462	203,341
<b>On loan</b>	1554	1951	1482	50,559
<b>Total</b>	6987	9719	6944	253,900
<b>Percentage on loan</b>	<b>22.24%</b>	<b>20.07%</b>	<b>21.34%</b>	<b>19.91%</b>

**Usage – from CIPFA sample surveys 2014-15 and Library Management System**

	Hope	% age of Flintshire total	Mynydd Isa	% age of Flintshire total	Saltney	% age of Flintshire total
<b>Weekly Requests</b>	73		45		51	
<b>Total Annual Enquiries</b>	1,650	1.5	3,450	5.6	2,250	3.4
<b>Annual Visits - Adults</b>	5,000	0.9	20,250	3.6	7,475	1.3
<b>Annual Visits - Children</b>	9,050	8.7	3,100	3	10,075	9.7
<b>Total Annual Visits</b>	14,050	2	23,350	3.5	17,550	2.7
<b>Total annual loans</b>	21,024	3	23,447	3.5	19,229	2.8

## Number of children participating in Summer Reading Challenge 2015

Registered at Hope Library	=	120 children
Registered at Mynydd Isa Library	=	82 children
Registered at Saltney Library	=	106 children

### **Numbers participating by school (4-11yrs)**

School	No. of pupils	Number of children participating in SRC
Ysgol Estyn	229	61
Abermorddu	217	27
Ysgol Mynydd Isa Infants and Junior	555	77
Wood Memorial	186	42
Saltney Ferry	105	4
St Anthony's	165	54
Castell Alun H S	1359	12
St David's H S	508	3
Argoed	580	7

### Rhymetime sessions for under 5s and parents/carers 2014-15

**Hope**                      24 sessions    232 total participants (*parents & children*)

**Mynydd Isa**            10 sessions    149 total participants (*parents & children*)

**Saltney**                    13 sessions    262 total participants (*parents & children*)

### Learning Events

#### **Hope**

- 2 chatterbox sessions – 13 parents and 13 children
- 6 class visits – total attendance 150 children

#### **Mynydd Isa**

- 2 summer activity sessions – 28 parents and children attended

#### **Saltney**

- 1 Author visit
- Class visits from St. Anthony's Nursery – approx. 400 children visited over the year.

ii) Potential library service users in the communities

Population (census 2011)

ward	Number of people	% male	% female	%Age 0-15	%Age 16-64	%Age 65+
Hope 1		49.2	50.8	18.1	62	19.9
Hope 2	2606	49.6	50.4	19.3	62.2	18.5
Argoed 1	1241	47.5	52.5	18.3	65.4	16.3
Argoed 2	1579	50.4	49.6	16.6	60.8	22.6
New Brighton 1	1651	48.7	51.1	16.7	65.7	17.6
New Brighton 2	1319	47.8	52.2	15.7	61.9	22.5
Saltney Mold Junction	1375	49.1	50.9	21.9	63.7	14.5
Saltney Stonebridge 1	2202	49.7	50.3	23.4	64.8	11.8
Saltney Stonebridge 2	1574	49.7	50.3	17.3	70.2	12.5

Economy and employment

ward	Hope 1	Hope 2	Argoed 1	Argoed 2	New Brighton 1	New Brighton 2	Saltney Mold Jn	Saltney stonebridge 1	Saltney Stonebridge 2	Flintshire
Percentage of 16-24 yr olds who are unemployed	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	1	2.5	1.6	0.8	26.7
Percentage of economically active people who are full-time employees	39.7	40	44.2	37.9	43.5	36.6	41.2	45.2	44.9	43.4

Health - Percentage of people whose day to day activities are not limited by their health

Hope1	Hope 2	Argoed 1	Argoed 2	New Brighton 1	New Brighton 2	Saltney Mold Jn	Saltney stonebridge 1	Saltney Stonebridge 2	Flintshire	Wales
82.3	80.9	84.7	80.4	83	79.5	81.9	81.4	82.9	80	77

Transport – percentage of households with no access to a a car or van

Hope 1	Hope 2	Argoed 1	Argoed 2	New Brighton 1	New Brighton 2	Saltney Mold Jn	Saltney stonebridge 1	Saltney Stonebridge 2	Flintshire	Wales
5	17.8	8	9.6	5.6	11.2	28.8	27.3	16.9	17	22.9

## Children and Education

School	No. of pupils	%age of pupils receiving Free School Meals	% of pupils achieving expected level in core subjects at KS2	% of pupils achieving expected level in core subjects at KS3
Ysgol Estyn	229	9.2	92.6	
Abermorddu	217	8.6	96.7	
Ysgol Mynydd Isa Infants and Junior	555	8.5	89.3	
Wood Memorial	186	27.4	85.7	
Saltney Ferry	105	29.1	70	
St Anthony's	165	15.2	100	
Castell Alun H S	1359	5.2		86.1
St David's H S	508	16.2		79.8
Argoed	580	8.1		91.4

### iii) Specific impacts on groups of people within the protected characteristics categories.

Library membership is free, accessible and inclusive. No specific information is recorded as to age (except for children), ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation or other protected characteristics.

Adults provide name, address and gender information.

Children provide name, address, gender and date of birth.

Library services are free to all who join and access to libraries is free to all. Membership is required only for using ICT facilities and for borrowing items.

Library services for people from protected characteristics groups are provided in the following ways:

- Age

Special collections of books and other items are provided for different ages and stages of childhood, as well as Parents Collections

- Disability

- ✓ Books are provided in different formats such as Large Print, audio, downloadable audio (e-audio)
- ✓ RNIB membership is funded and administered by the library service for visually impaired people
- ✓ The libraries are all DDA compliant
- ✓ Adapted ICT facilities are available for people with physical and learning needs
- ✓ A library service to people who are housebound is available
- ✓ Library members who have additional needs are exempted from some library charges

- Gender reassignment

- ✓ Libraries can access information on reading material and support information for all requirements.

- Pregnancy and maternity
    - ✓ Libraries are child friendly with books for children and parents
    - ✓ accessible for prams and buggies
    - ✓ Rhymetime sessions for under 5s and parents/carers held fortnightly
  - Race
  - Religion of belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation
    - ✓ Library book stock covers a wide range of ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation, age and language in representation of subjects and authorship to provide a diverse stock.
    - ✓ Language – Library books and stock are provided in Welsh across all categories. Bilingual activities are provided and all communications are bilingual. Library staff have access to Language Line to assist customers whose first language is not English or Welsh.
- v) Library staff will be at risk of redundancy but will be considered for any library positions that become vacant due to retirement etc. FCC guidelines and procedures will be followed.

## 7. **How the proposal will meet the needs of the community**

- 7.1 Any community run, or community funded facilities provided for the three communities would offer local provision and could be used by residents to complement the networked library service provided by the council, as a local amenity providing some library services.
- 7.2 Library service users of the three communities will still be able to access the library hubs in the main towns of Broughton, Buckley, Connahs Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold and at Deeside Leisure Centre. These locations ensure that 82.2% of Flintshire's population are within 2.5 miles of a library.
- a) The hub libraries provide the core entitlements of a Welsh Public Library:
- *free inclusive access for all/ total community access reaching older people, children and families, minority and deprived communities*
  - *Outcomes: learning, reading support (wide range of reader development activities that actively feed in to the health and wellbeing agenda), health offer, digital support (supported, free online access), information offer (staff skilled in info management), inspirational spaces (network of neutral, trusted and accessible community spaces), support for under 5s and parent/carers, service to people with additional needs (RNIB, LP, audio, housebound, residential homes etc)*

- b) Mobile Library will visit the three locations on a 3 weekly rota in addition to the existing visits to Saltney Ferry, Abermorddu, Caergwrle, Cymau.
- c) Services to people who are housebound will be available for residents unable to access the hub libraries or the mobile library

### 7.3 Potential library service users in the communities

As above

### 7.4 Specific impacts on groups of people within the protected characteristics categories.

The services described at i) and ii) above would be available to all residents

## 8. Additional Financial implications of the proposal

- 8.1 Infrastructure costs such as IT, HR and management costs could be reduced as a result of the 3 libraries ceasing service as part of the network.
- 8.2 The library budget has to be reduced by 30% thus making it necessary to reduce library provision in Flintshire. By reducing the number of library buildings and co-locating the service with other services costs are reduced and library services to the county are sustainable.

## 9. How the communities are to be consulted

- Communities will be consulted during November to December 2015 via the following methods:
- All residents (including library users) - information bulletin (paper and online)
- Community groups to have meetings with Chief Officer and Principal Libraries Officer by request.
- Community Councils, schools and places of worship will be consulted by correspondence
- Individuals, groups and societies can contact Chief Officer and Principal Librarian with any specific concerns or questions.
- People from the protected characteristics groups will be consulted via the EIA Quality Assurance group
- All consultation documents would be bilingual in line with council policy.

## 10. Dealing with Adverse or Unlawful Impact and Strengthening the Policy

- Current users will be given notice of any changes to provision and explanations as to how and where alternative services can be accessed.
- The Library Service for housebound people will be promoted to those with mobility impairments in this community who may be eligible to receive it.

- Online resources can be accessed from home 24/7, e.g. E-book service and Online Catalogue, books can be reserved for collection at any service point.

#### 11. **Measures we will take to strengthen the proposal and foster good relations and advance equality of opportunity**

- Ensuring that the remaining library network library and mobile service offers an all-round better customer experience for all library service users.
- Increased partnership working with local community groups to ensure we make them aware of any new services we offer (including protected characteristic groups)
- Ensure robust support, financial and provision of resources and training support to community groups prior to transition of CAT

#### **Measures we will take to reduce or remove any adverse impact.**

- By ceasing to provide fragmented opening hours for services at rural locations, we will attain more consistency in the number of opening hours (and days) that libraries of a larger size (or with higher usage figures) are open.
- To ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of the changes to the library service to these communities, so we can continue to adapt to the changing needs and demands of users and potential users in our local communities.

#### 12. **Sources used**

- CIPFA
- Flintshire County Council Infobase
- Welsh Government
- Library Management System data for Flintshire Libraries

#### 13. **Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Publish summary of EIA <sup>1</sup>	I. Bancroft	December	
Consult Library users	P. Corbett	November - December	
Consult Community Councils, FCC local	P. Corbett	November -	

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<sup>1</sup> summaries of EIAs where there is substantial impact will need to be published



members, schools, community groups		December	
Decision	I. Bancroft	December/January	

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## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7, and projects forward to year-end.

The projected year end position is as follows:

#### **Council Fund**

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.387m lower than budget
- Projected contingency reserve balance at 31 March 2016 of £4.923m

#### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.149m lower than budget
- Projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.386m

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Note the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016.
2	Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account.
3	To agree a contribution from the contingency reserve of £0.800m to meet the estimated increase in levy required to meet past and future claim

	liabilities in relation to the former Municipal Mutual Insurance company (see paragraph 1.13).
4	To agree a contribution from the contingency reserve of £0.100m to meet the resource requirements for specialist social work for child protection (see paragraph 1.14).

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION FOR MONTH 7 - 2015/16</b>																																																																											
1.01	<p><b><u>Council Fund Latest In Year Forecast</u></b></p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME</b></th> <th><b>Original Budget</b></th> <th><b>Revised Budget</b></th> <th><b>Projected Outturn</b></th> <th><b>In-Year Over/ (Under) spend</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>59.696</td> <td>59.031</td> <td>59.248</td> <td>0.217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community &amp; Enterprise</td> <td>12.598</td> <td>12.719</td> <td>12.471</td> <td>(0.248)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</td> <td>27.782</td> <td>28.427</td> <td>29.425</td> <td>0.998</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning &amp; Environment</td> <td>4.887</td> <td>5.331</td> <td>5.502</td> <td>0.171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education &amp; Youth</td> <td>13.760</td> <td>13.184</td> <td>13.092</td> <td>(0.092)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>82.670</td> <td>83.161</td> <td>83.161</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People &amp; Resources</td> <td>4.595</td> <td>4.665</td> <td>4.546</td> <td>(0.119)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>8.689</td> <td>8.715</td> <td>8.858</td> <td>0.143</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organisational Change</td> <td>9.569</td> <td>9.618</td> <td>9.229</td> <td>(0.389)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>3.296</td> <td>3.177</td> <td>3.000</td> <td>(0.177)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</td> <td>23.915</td> <td>23.429</td> <td>22.538</td> <td>(0.891)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>251.457</b></td> <td><b>251.457</b></td> <td><b>251.070</b></td> <td><b>(0.387)</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>In-Year Over/ (Under) spend</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	Social Services	59.696	59.031	59.248	0.217	Community & Enterprise	12.598	12.719	12.471	(0.248)	Streetscene & Transportation	27.782	28.427	29.425	0.998	Planning & Environment	4.887	5.331	5.502	0.171	Education & Youth	13.760	13.184	13.092	(0.092)	Schools	82.670	83.161	83.161	0.000	People & Resources	4.595	4.665	4.546	(0.119)	Governance	8.689	8.715	8.858	0.143	Organisational Change	9.569	9.618	9.229	(0.389)	Chief Executive	3.296	3.177	3.000	(0.177)	Central & Corporate Finance	23.915	23.429	22.538	(0.891)						<b>Total</b>	<b>251.457</b>	<b>251.457</b>	<b>251.070</b>	<b>(0.387)</b>
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1.02	The reasons for the projected variances occurring to date are summarised within appendix 2 with movements between periods summarised in appendix 1.																																																																											
1.03	<p><b>Significant budget movements between original and revised budget</b></p> <p>There was a significant budget change between the Social Services and Streetscene &amp; Transportation portfolios in month 7. The transport budget of £0.656m has been transferred from Social Services to Streetscene &amp;</p>																																																																											

	<p>Transportation. This is to reflect the current reporting structure. All associated expenditure has also been transferred between these portfolios.</p> <p>Another significant budget virement is the movement of £0.376m between Education &amp; Youth and Central &amp; Corporate Finance. This relates to Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools which had been included in the Education &amp; Youth portfolio but is now reflected within Central &amp; Corporate Finance.</p>
1.04	<p><b>Streetscene and Transportation</b></p> <p>The overall overspend within Streetscene &amp; Transportation has decreased from a projected £1.042m overspend at Month 6 to £0.998m as at Month 7. The projected overspend within the service is due in part to the delay in the implementation of a number of efficiencies as reported to the Programme Board. In addition fluctuations in recycle sales due to a volatile market has led to an increased pressure on income projections which have resulted in a shortfall of £0.397m. Full details of movements are explained in Appendix 2.</p>
1.05	<p><b>Programme of Efficiencies</b></p> <p>The 2015/16 budget contains £12.874m of specific efficiencies which are being tracked.</p>
1.06	<p>Appendix 3 provides detail on the latest position where there is a variation to the level of efficiency achievable compared to the budget.</p>
1.07	<p>This shows that it is currently projected that £10.642m (83%) will be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.232m. The underachieved efficiencies are included within the projected outturn figure. The position will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the monthly monitoring process. Any efficiencies which remain unachievable for future years will be taken into consideration as part of the 2016/17 budget setting process.</p>
1.08	<p><b>Inflation</b></p> <p>Included within the 2015/16 budget are provisions for pay (£1.304m), targeted price inflation (£0.421m), non-standard inflation (£0.102m) and income (£0.254m).</p>
1.09	<p>For 2015/16 the amounts for non-standard inflation (NSI) include an allocation for food (£0.064m) and an allocation for Non Domestic Rates (£0.038m).</p>
1.10	<p>There is also an amount of £0.240m remaining from 2014/15 which is currently also being held centrally. Areas subject to NSI increases will be monitored throughout the year and allocations made to portfolio areas only where a critical funding need is evidenced.</p>
	<p><b>Reserves and Balances</b></p>

	<b>Unearmarked Reserves</b>
1.11	The 2014/15 outturn reported to Cabinet on 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 showed unearmarked reserves at 31 March 2015 (above the base level of £5.769m) of £4.746m.
1.12	Taking into account previous allocations and the current underspend at Month 7 the balance on the contingency reserve at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 is projected to be £4.923m.
1.13	The month 6 report identified an emerging risk as described in section 4.01 of this report to meet past and future claim liabilities in relation to the former Municipal Mutual Insurance company. It is recommended to use £0.800m from the contingency reserve to meet the estimated 20% increase of the levy required.
1.14	There is an increased need for specialist social work capacity for child protection support working in partnership with statutory agencies. Currently there are projected costs of £0.100m being shown within the Children's Service budget and it is recommended that this be met from the contingency reserve.
	<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>
1.15	<p>The Council has developed a reserves protocol which was considered by Audit Committee and approved by County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015. This sets out the principles around how the Council will determine, manage and review the level of its reserves and includes reference to regular reporting of the latest position to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The next updated position on earmarked reserves will be included in the Month 9 monitoring report.</p>
	<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>
1.16	On 17 February 2015 the Council approved a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2015/16 of £30.776m.
1.17	The budget provided for a closing balance of £1.396m which at 4.5% of total expenditure, satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.
1.18	The 2014/15 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 showed a closing balance at the end of 2014/15 of £1.510m.
1.19	The Month 7 monitoring report for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £0.149m lower than budget and a projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.386m, which at 4.48% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The Budget Monitoring Report reflects the planned use of the financial resources of the Council for the current financial year and details the variations occurring to date.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None Required.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p><b>Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)</b>  MMI was the predominant insurer of public sector bodies prior to 1992 when it failed. To ensure an orderly “run off” Flintshire, along with other local authorities, was required to pay a levy of 15% of its share of claims paid previously and of any future claims. MMI’s administrator has recently published their 2015 accounts which shows that due to an increase in the number of claims generally, there will be a need to increase the levy in the future, affecting claims paid previously and future claims. There is a recommendation in section 1.13 to meet a significant liability which reflects a 20% increase in the levy.  Status: unstable/red risk.</p>
4.02	<p><b>Recycling</b>  The recycling market (paper in particular) is going through a volatile period with fluctuating re-cycle sale values. This will impact on 2015/16 recycling income levels for the Council. The current impact is reflected in the Month 7 projections and continues to be monitored throughout the year.  Status: unstable/red risk.</p>
4.03	<p><b>Car Parking</b>  Due to car parking charges being introduced in some Flintshire towns later than anticipated during 2015/16, there will be a shortfall in achieving the increased car park income targets. The full impact is being assessed and is being built into the projected outturn position.  Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.04	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b>  The risk is the volatility in demand and the impacts on service costs which cannot be predicted with any certainty. Therefore there is always a risk of significant variances occurring although this area continues to be closely monitored.  Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>

4.05	<p><b>Former Euticals Site</b></p> <p>Monthly costs for ongoing security and maintenance of the site are in the region of £0.030m and will accumulate throughout the financial year until site disposal.</p> <p>Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.06	<p><b>In Year Reductions in Specific Government Grants</b></p> <p>This is a generic risk associated with the risk of some Government grants reducing in year. Whilst these continue to be managed and mitigated where known, they can add to cumulative cost pressures. As we are late on in the financial year further reductions are unlikely, therefore this risk has been closed.</p> <p>Status: closed.</p>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 6 – Appendix 1</p> <p>Council Fund – Budget Variances – Appendix 2</p> <p>Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies – Appendix 3</p> <p>Council Fund – Movement on unearmarked reserves – Appendix 4</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account Variances – Appendix 5</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None required</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Sara Dulson Finance Manager</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702287</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk">sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p>
7.02	<p><b>Council Fund:</b> the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.</p>
7.03	<p><b>Financial Year:</b> the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.</p>
7.04	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account:</b> the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate</p>



	from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.
7.05	<b>Projected Outturn:</b> projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.
7.06	<b>Reserves:</b> these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.
7.07	<b>Revenue:</b> a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.
7.08	<b>Underspend:</b> when referring to expenditure the actual expenditure incurred is less than budget. Shown as a –ve. When referring to income the actual income achieved exceeds the budget. Shown as a –ve.
7.09	<b>Variance:</b> difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.
7.10	<b>Virement:</b> the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.

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**COUNCIL FUND - REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16  
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Budget Monitoring (Month 7)  
Summary of Movement from Month 6**

	£m	£m
<b>Month 6</b>		
Portfolios	0.772	
Central and Corporate Finance	(0.481)	
<b>Variance as per Cabinet Report</b>		<u>0.291</u>
<b>Month 7</b>		
Portfolios	0.504	
Central and Corporate Finance	(0.891)	
<b>Variance as per Directorate Returns</b>		<u>(0.387)</u>
<b>Change Requiring Explanation</b>		<u><u>(0.678)</u></u>
 <b><u>Social Services</u></b>		
<b>Services For Adults</b>		
• Locality Teams (Localities) - Increases in projected costs of externally provided Residential Care £0.038m and Domiciliary Care £0.021m. Other minor variances amount to (£0.009m).	0.050	
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m for Services for Adults.	0.019	
<b>Subtotal: Services for Adults</b>		<u>0.069</u>
<b>Development &amp; Resources</b>		
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m.	(0.005)	
<b>Subtotal: Development &amp; Resources</b>		<u>(0.005)</u>
<b>Children's Services</b>		
• Professional Support - Increase in use of agency staff to cover for staff deployed on support for areas of key risk within the service.	0.062	
• Out of County placements - additional cost of 1 new high cost placement	0.071	
• Residential Placements - increase in number of placements.	0.030	
• Prevention and Support - increase in Section 17 payments.	0.033	
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m.	0.009	
<b>Subtotal: Children's Services</b>		<u>0.205</u>
<b>Total: Social Services</b>		<u><u>0.269</u></u>
 <b><u>Community &amp; Enterprise</u></b>		
<b>Council Fund Housing</b>		
• Procurement of Telecare equipment	0.040	
• Community Based Accommodation Support Service structural review and vacancy savings	(0.082)	
<b>Subtotal: Council Fund Housing</b>		<u>(0.042)</u>
<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>		
• Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus due to increase in collection rates	(0.040)	
• Housing Benefit Subsidy estimated outturn based on the latest projection of Housing Benefit expenditure	0.157	
• Vacancy savings identified in respect of the Revenues and Benefits services	(0.076)	
• Minor changes such as increased fines income - Revenues	(0.035)	
<b>Subtotal: Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>		<u>0.006</u>
<b>Minor changes of less than £0.025m.</b>		
• Customer & Housing Services	(0.001)	
• Flintshire Connects underspend	(0.017)	
• Council Fund Housing	(0.014)	
• Regeneration	0.009	
• SHARP Procurement	0.019	
• Benefits	(0.019)	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<u>(0.023)</u>
<b>Total: Community &amp; Enterprise</b>		<u><u>(0.059)</u></u>

**Streetscene & Transportation Portfolio**

<b>Minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	
• Ancillary Services & Performance	(0.003)
• Highway Network	(0.018)
• Transport & Logistics	(0.023)
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	<b>(0.044)</b>
<b>Total: Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>(0.044)</b>

**Planning & Environment Portfolio**

<b>Minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	
• Business	(0.004)
• Community	(0.008)
• Development	0.006
• Access	(0.009)
• Shared Service	0.003
• Strategy	0.005
• Administration	0.001
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	<b>(0.006)</b>
<b>Total: Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>(0.006)</b>

**Education & Youth**

<b>Primary &amp; Early Years Education</b>	
• Primary School Services.	0.002
<b>Subtotal: Primary &amp; Early Years Education</b>	<b>0.002</b>
<b>Inclusion Services</b>	
• Out of County - Various movements in placements including new placements, withdrawn follow on placements and minor variances.	0.035
<b>Subtotal: Inclusion Services</b>	<b>0.035</b>
<b>Access (School Planning &amp; Provision)</b>	
• School Provision.	(0.024)
<b>Subtotal: Access (School Planning &amp; Provision)</b>	<b>(0.024)</b>
<b>Commissioning &amp; Performance</b>	
• Business Support - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio. Includes other minor variances.	(0.043)
<b>Subtotal: Commissioning &amp; Performance</b>	<b>(0.043)</b>
<b>School Management &amp; Information</b>	
• School Management Information - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio.	(0.042)
<b>Subtotal: Commissioning &amp; Performance</b>	<b>(0.042)</b>
<b>Minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	
• Access - School Planning	(0.008)
• Community Centres	(0.004)
• Youth & Community Service	0.002
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>
<b>Total: Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>(0.082)</b>

**People & Resources****HR & OD**

- This variance from last month is due to a vacancy within the Trade Union Facility budget (£0.021m) and income received from Unison (£0.020m). The balance is due to minor variances. (0.044)

**Subtotal: HR & OD** (0.044)

**Corporate Finance**

- The variance reflects recent workforce reapportionment between Council Fund and Housing Revenue Fund. (0.035)

**Subtotal: Corporate Finance** (0.035)

**Total: People & Resources** (0.079)

**Governance****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

- Legal Services 0.001
- Democratic Services (0.015)
- Business Support (0.017)
- ICT 0.018

**Total minor variances of less than £0.025m** (0.013)

**Total: Governance** (0.013)

**Organisational Change****Valuation & Estates**

- In year salary savings from 2 ftes leaving mid-year. (0.044)

**Subtotal: Valuation & Estates** (0.044)

**Property Design & Consultancy**

- Additional Design fees anticipated from SHARP 21st Century Schools. (0.097)

**Subtotal: Property Design & Consultancy** (0.097)

**Facilities**

- Anticipated additional income from an increased uptake in school meals. Salary savings from an fte leaving mid-year. (0.069)

**Subtotal: Facilities** (0.069)

**Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

- Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events 0.003
- Leisure Services 0.005

**Total minor variances of less than £0.025m** 0.008

**Total: Organisational Change** (0.202)

**Chief Executive**

- The change in variance is due to a reduction to the projected spend on public consultation for the Medium Term Financial Strategy by £0.025m, a reduction in workforce costs by £0.016m and minor variances of £0.011m. (0.052)

**Total: Chief Executive** (0.052)

**Central & Corporate Finance**

- CLIA - Short Term Savings from Interest Costs - Delayed Capital Expenditure. (0.596)
- Reduced Matrix Income. 0.050
- Unachievable Workforce Efficiencies. 0.136

**Total: Central & Corporate Finance** (0.410)

**Total Changes**

(0.678)



MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Social Services Locality Teams (Localities)	14.250	14.039	(0.211)	(0.261)	<p><b>Domiciliary Care</b> There are some significant compensating variances in this area. The main area of pressure is Domiciliary Care, which is still being influenced by clients returning to the service following successful past rehabilitation, the changing demographic profile, increased complexity of need and increasing numbers of people with dementia. The current level of projected overspend is £0.468m which has significantly reduced from the 2014/15 outturn position of £0.837m, which has been partly influenced by the cessation of one complex package.</p> <p><b>Residential Care</b> The significant projected overspend on Domiciliary care is being more than offset by a projected underspend of (£0.723m) on residential care, which includes, an underspend of (£0.220m) on payments to care home providers, an underspend of (£0.474m) due to an increase in the level of property related income, plus further increases in income above budget including (£0.029m) for free nursing.</p> <p><b>Professional Support</b> A further area of significant area of underspend is the professional support within the area Localities teams. There is a total projected underspend of (£0.071m) which relates to staffing due to Social Worker vacancies.</p> <p><b>Other</b> A further area of significant overspend is Minor Adaptations where an efficiency measure for £0.100m was approved in the budget relating to a means testing approach is now considered to be unachievable. It is intended that this pressure is addressed by way of realignment of budget from another area. Other minor variances amount to a net £0.015m within Day care services.</p>	<p>Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.</p> <p>Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.</p>

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
First Contact (Intake and Reablement)	0.519	0.438	(0.081)	(0.084)	The projected underspend is due to additional income of (£0.107m) offset by other minor variances amount to net £0.026m.	Keep under review.
Reablement Services (Intake and Reablement)	0.451	0.398	(0.053)	(0.053)	The projected under spend is mainly due to the reallocation of an officer to another service promoting Continuing Health Care independence.	Keep under review.
Hospital Social Work	0.427	0.308	(0.119)	(0.119)	Staffing savings due to vacant posts - which are intended to be used as part of budget realignment adjustments in respect of efficiency proposals which cannot be achieved.	Keep under review.
Resources & Regulated Services (Intake and Reablement)	5.798	5.728	(0.070)	(0.082)	Area of significant area of underspend is the Home Care within the area Resources & Regulated Services teams. There is a total projected underspend of (£0.097m) which relates to staffing due to vacancies. There is an offsetting overspend of £0.063m on residential care. Other minor variances amount to a net (£0.036m) within Day care services.	Keep under review.
Transition and Disability Services (Disability Services)	0.607	0.698	0.091	0.086	The projected overspend is mainly due to the cost of the support arrangements provided by Penderrels in respect of direct payments. This accounts for £0.082m of the total projected overspend of £0.091m with other minor variances making up the remaining £0.009m.	Keep under review.
Resources & Regulated Services (Disability Services)	15.239	15.392	0.153	0.148	This service is now reflecting the transfer of budget in relation to the Independent Living fund (ILF) to Central and Corporate as a one off efficiency. The remaining element is in relation to the additional administration capacity needed to manage the payments to service users and for obligations to fund employer liability insurance payments for service users who employ carers.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Vulnerable Adults and Disability Service (Disability Services)	2.299	2.470	0.171	0.143	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16, estimated commitment with additional transition clients.	Keep under review.



## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Administrative Support (Disability Services)	0.304	0.381	0.077	0.112	This overspend is mainly due to pressures on employees costs, including use of agency staff.	Keep under review.
Residential and Domiciliary Service (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.813	0.920	0.107	0.112	Increases in Residential and Domiciliary packages alongside additional new package costs.	Keep under review.
Professional Support (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.693	0.751	0.058	0.062	Overspend is mainly due to pressures on employees costs, including use of agency staff.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Forensic Budget (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.317	0.137	(0.180)	(0.186)	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16.	Keep under review - potential volatility due to changes in client numbers and demands at short notice from prison or courts.
Other Services for Adults variances (aggregate)	3.422	3.369	(0.053)	(0.057)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Business Services - Charging Policy Income	(1.673)	(1.936)	(0.263)	(0.246)	Impact of an increase by Welsh Government in the level of the maximum charge cap from £55 per week to £60 per week.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Training	0.047	0.185	0.138	0.148	The base budget for this service has naturally reduced as a consequence of the combined impact of Single Status outcomes and EVR/VR determinations. As a consequence the match funding element of the budget has fallen below the level required to meet the grant conditions for the Social Care Workforce Development Programme Grant (SCWDP). It will be necessary therefore to realign the budget from elsewhere within Social Services to top up to the level required.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Other Development & Resources variances (aggregate)	2.418	2.533	0.115	0.093	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Family Placement (Children's Services)	2.227	2.437	0.210	0.206	The £0.210m overspend is a result of an increase in the number of foster care placements within the service. Part of this is also due to the increasing number of court orders for Residence and Special Guardianship orders which invariably attract an ongoing allowance for the carers.	A review of the Family Placement Team has been undertaken the outcome of which is being considered and will inform future planning and possible efficiencies.
Professional Support	4.997	5.212	0.215	0.153	There is a projected overspend of £0.213m on agency pay costs within the Duty & Assessment team, which is due to the need to deploy staff to address key risks within this area of the service. There is a further pressure of £0.106m which relates to the Children's and Young Adults Support team (CYAST). This is due to pressures within payments to external providers of £0.085m and Transport £0.045m, with some offsetting underspends against pay budgets due to vacancies. Disability Service (CIDS) which is due to an increased numbers of direct payment service users. There are offsetting net underspends of (£0.104m) elsewhere within Children's Services Professional Support, including a significant underspend on staffing within the Family Intervention team.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Out of County Placements	3.416	3.355	(0.061)	(0.132)	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16.	Keep under review.
Other Services for Children variances (aggregate)	2.460	2.433	(0.027)	(0.095)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>59.031</b>	<b>59.248</b>	<b>0.217</b>	<b>(0.052)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Community & Enterprise Customer & Housing Services	1.464	1.224	(0.240)	(0.222)	Additional in-year efficiency identified in respect of Homeless Accommodation (£0.094m). Community Centres additional efficiency (£0.049m). Underspend on the Flintshire Connects service provision (£0.066m). Other minor variances (£0.031m).	Continue to monitor and review.
Council Fund Housing	(0.035)	(0.013)	0.022	0.078	Telecare income lower than anticipated by £0.061m. Procurement of telecare equipment £0.040m. Savings of (£0.082m) in respect of the Community Based Accommodation Support Service. Other minor variances of £0.003m.	Continue to monitor and review.
Regeneration	0.550	0.634	0.084	0.075	Estimated shortfall of £0.059m in markets due to income targets increasing in line with inflation each year, where charges have not increased at the same rate. Other minor variances £0.025m.	Continue to monitor and review.
Revenues & Benefits	10.668	10.499	(0.169)	(0.156)	Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund currently stands at (£0.183m) higher than initially estimated. Vacancy savings (£0.076m). Projected underspend on the budgeted provision for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (£0.226m). Housing Benefit Subsidy budgeted shortfall of £0.350m. Other minor variances of (£0.034m).	Continue to monitor closely as these areas are highly volatile and projections are likely to change throughout the year.
Housing Programmes	0.072	0.127	0.055	0.036	Expenditure of £0.055m to enable the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) to move forward with the development of the Over Arching Legal Agreement with Wates Living Space. This expenditure has supported the expedient development of schemes on The Walks, Flint and Custom House School, Connah's Quay which will both be on site by March 2016.	Continue to monitor and review.
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>12.719</b>	<b>12.471</b>	<b>(0.248)</b>	<b>(0.189)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Streetscene & Transportation Ancillary Services & Performance - Waste Disposal & Waste Collection	6.589	7.390	0.801	0.792	<p>Reduced electricity sales from gas engines following equipment breakdown and fluctuating levels of gas extraction is now estimated at £0.100m.</p> <p>Further options are being considered and consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed closure of Hope recycling centre. In addition, changes to the later than expected introduction of new operating times at Connaught Quay and Flint sites will result in a total projected shortfall on the budgeted efficiency of £0.160m.</p> <p>Delayed implementation of delivery service for waste containers £0.050m and introduction of charge for second waste bin £0.025m.</p> <p>Under achieving in the recycling market due to a volatile period with fluctuating re-cycle sale values £0.397m. Part year income due of £0.020m in 2015-16 for compost from Denbighshire CC (£0.040m shortfall against £0.060m budget) as they will not be using the composting facilities at Greenfield until January 2016.</p>	<p>Potential for investment to upgrade/install new extraction wells and new management arrangement.</p> <p>Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.</p> <p>Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.</p> <p>Monitor recycling market closely throughout 2015/16 and amend projections accordingly.</p>
Ancillary Services & Performance - Parking & Enforcement	0.096	0.206	0.110	0.110	Shortfall from Business Planning proposals following delays in the implementation of car parking charges across the County.	Monitor Car Parking Income closely and amend projections accordingly.
Ancillary Services & Performance - Other Variances	0.778	0.768	(0.010)	0.002	Minor Variances.	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Transportation & Logistics - other Variances	13.407	13.394	(0.013)	0.010	Minor Variances.	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.
Highways Strategy & Network	7.366	7.476	0.110	0.128	Delay in the full externalisation of grass cutting service resulting in a net shortfall of £0.050m. The implementation of the reduced cleansing standards is now anticipated to be 1st January 2016 which will result in an estimated shortfall in the efficiency of £0.090m. Aggregate of minor variances totalling (£0.030m).	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker. Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.
Highway Network - other Variances	0.191	0.191	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>28.427</b>	<b>29.425</b>	<b>0.998</b>	<b>1.042</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Planning & Environment						
Pest Control Dog Warden	0.043	0.048	0.005	0.009	Potential Shortfall in the self financing position	Monitor level of services provided and adjust income commitment as appropriate.
Licensing	(0.008)	0.016	0.024	0.024	Potential Shortfall in the self financing position	Monitor level of services provided and adjust income commitment as appropriate.
Community - Aggregate of other Variances	0.668	0.668	0.000	(0.003)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Animal Health & Defra	0.126	0.170	0.044	0.044	Shortfall on Grant Income target due to partnership with Wrexham ending in late 2015. Salary recharge moved to correct service area.	Investigate ways to reduce Grant Income target through potential budget realignment.
Business - Aggregate of other Variances	1.466	1.458	(0.008)	(0.004)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Planning Control & Enforcement	(0.133)	0.018	0.151	0.144	Shortfall from Planning App fees not increasing until October, 2015. Reduced level of planning fees income in September, 2015.	Planning Fee Income levels will be closely monitored.
Development - Aggregate of other Variances	0.133	0.127	(0.006)	(0.005)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Portfolio Aggregate of other Variances	3.036	2.997	(0.039)	(0.032)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>5.331</b>	<b>5.502</b>	<b>0.171</b>	<b>0.177</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Education & Youth						
Primary & Early Years Education	0.868	0.868	0.000	(0.002)	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	1.122	1.127	0.005	0.005	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	8.676	8.699	0.023	(0.013)	Complex placements present a significant budget volatility risk in all Authorities. Whilst most placements are stable with predictable costs, individual in-year high cost placements can have a significant impact on planned budgets.	Continue to review.
Access (School Planning & Provision)	0.508	0.487	(0.021)	0.011	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
21st Century Schools	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Youth Services	1.436	1.432	(0.004)	(0.002)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Commissioning & Performance	0.234	0.188	(0.046)	(0.003)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
School Management & Information Team	0.192	0.143	(0.049)	(0.006)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>13.164</b>	<b>13.092</b>	<b>(0.092)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>		
<b>Schools</b>						
Primary & Early Years Education	43.614	43.614	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	35.641	35.641	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	3.906	3.906	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>83.161</b>	<b>83.161</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
People & Resources						
HR&OD	2.243	2.232	(0.011)	0.034	A 2015/16 budget efficiency of £0.105m is being reported as not achievable. This is being partially offset by workforce underspends of (£0.071m) and minor variances of (£0.045m).	The efficiencies are expected to be achieved in full next year. Workforce underspends are in-year only.
Corporate Finance	2.422	2.314	(0.108)	(0.073)	A 2015/16 budget efficiency is being reported as being partially achieved with a shortfall of £0.038m. This is being offset by temporary workforce underspends of (£0.146m).	The efficiencies are expected to be achieved in full next year. Workforce underspends are in-year only.
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.665</b>	<b>4.546</b>	<b>(0.119)</b>	<b>(0.039)</b>		
Governance						
Legal Services	0.610	0.642	0.032	0.030	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Democratic Services	1.911	2.008	0.097	0.112	The overspend is due a delay in achieving an efficiency of £0.110m which was agreed within the 2014/15 budget. An underspend of (£0.013m) is due to minor variances.	The efficiency is expected to be achieved in full next year.
Internal Audit	0.416	0.414	(0.002)	(0.002)	Minor Variances.	Underspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Procurement	0.138	0.150	0.012	0.012	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Business Support	0.740	0.695	(0.045)	(0.027)	Minor Variances.	Underspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Records Management	0.174	0.195	0.021	0.020	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
ICT	4.726	4.754	0.028	0.010	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>8.715</b>	<b>8.858</b>	<b>0.143</b>	<b>0.155</b>		



## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Organisational Change						
Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events	1.773	1.771	(0.002)	(0.005)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Museums Service	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
County Archives	0.260	0.261	0.001	0.001	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Leisure Services	3.969	3.981	0.012	0.007	£0.070m Deeside Ice rink income pressure offset by premises & supplies cost savings of (£0.058m).	Continue to review.
Community Assets	0.018	0.018	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Valuation & Estates	(0.807)	(0.948)	(0.141)	(0.097)	Workforce efficiencies of (£0.141m) achieved following staff releases within this Service area.	Continue to review.
Property Design & Consultancy	2.688	2.520	(0.168)	(0.071)	An additional (£0.090m) in Design fees over the budgeted income target has been identified, this relates to SHARP and 21st Century schools feasibility works. Projected costs of (£0.054m) relating to the demolition of Connahs Quay office has been met through funding support from the Vibrant and Viable Places initiative resulting in savings as well as an NNDR rebate of (£0.017m). Other minor variances of (£0.007m) on Admin Buildings.	Continue to review.
Engineering Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Facilities Services	1.653	1.562	(0.091)	(0.022)	Additional income of (£0.055m) anticipated over and above income target from increased uptake in school meals. Salary savings of (£0.011m) from the Team Leader post that is currently vacant. Other minor variances of (£0.025m) within the service.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Organisational Change</b>	<b>9.618</b>	<b>9.229</b>	<b>(0.389)</b>	<b>(0.187)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Chief Executives	3,177	3,000	(0.177)	(0.125)	The underspend is due to workforce savings of (£0.101m) and also a reduction in Core Funding Agreements of (£0.028m). There is an underspend of (£0.042m) relating to the budget required for performance related increments. An overspend £0.025m is due to a projected spend for public consultation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The balance of (£0.031m) underspend is due to minor variances.	The employee savings of (£0.101m) are expected to be in-year only.
<b>Total Chief Executives</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>(0.177)</b>	<b>(0.125)</b>		
Central & Corporate Finance	23,429	22,538	(0.891)	(0.481)	HRA Financing - The settlement amount changed after the budget was set. Based on all original assumptions this equates to a reduction in efficiencies of approximately £0.600m. However, there is no need to borrow this financial year, as capital expenditure is later than planned, resulting in short term savings from interest costs built into the budget.  Balance of unused Non Standard Inflation from previous year (£0.240m). Pension Actuarial Review (£0.905m) due to lower than anticipated costs of additional contributions.  Estimated Workforce Efficiency of £0.285m considered unachievable in year.  One off identified efficiencies (£0.300m) in relation to the Independent Living Fund (ILF).  Higher than projected income as a result of Rent Review for Unilever (£0.173m).  One off / time limited, Unbudgeted costs of £0.400m in relation to former Euticals Ltd - Sandycroft site.  Minor Variances of £0.042m.	Review of CLIA will identify overall position for possible mitigation.  Review as part of Medium Term Finance Strategy, Corporate Financing Options. Consider realignment options.  Currently looking at other options.  Continue to review.  Continue to review.  Keep under review.  Keep under review.
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>23,429</b>	<b>22,538</b>	<b>(0.891)</b>	<b>(0.481)</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>251,457</b>	<b>251,070</b>	<b>(0.387)</b>	<b>0.291</b>		

## 2015/16 Efficiencies Month 7 - Under or Over Achieved

Portfolio	Original Efficiency	Revised Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement
	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>			
Review of specialist finance functions to identify efficiencies in process	0.170	0.166	(0.004)
Ensure continuation of grant maximisation opportunities identified in 2014/15	0.100	0.066	(0.034)
Review of specialist human resources functions to identify efficiencies in process	0.105	0.000	(0.105)
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>0.375</b>	<b>0.232</b>	<b>(0.143)</b>
<b>Central and Corporate Finance</b>			
Workforce efficiency proposal	0.300	0.015	(0.285)
Central Loans and Investment Review	1.830	1.230	(0.600)
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>2.130</b>	<b>1.245</b>	<b>(0.885)</b>
<b>Social Services</b>			
Develop means testing approach for minor adaptations	0.100	0.000	(0.100)
Review model/costs contracts for catering	0.050	0.000	(0.050)
Rationalise the number of sites where In-House short term care is provided	0.075	0.110	0.035
Develop a 'progression' model for Supported Living	0.250	0.145	(0.105)
Review commissioning with Action for Children	0.075	0.015	(0.060)
Regional approach to advocacy	0.053	0.005	(0.048)
Review and realign funding to voluntary sector	0.203	0.065	(0.138)
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>0.806</b>	<b>0.340</b>	<b>(0.466)</b>
<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>			
Welfare Rights Team Review	0.020	0.035	0.015
Community Centres	0.048	0.096	0.048
Community Based Accommodation Support Service	0.030	0.090	0.060
Telecare Charging	0.200	0.139	(0.061)
Stopping sending remittance advices to Landlords	0.054	0.013	(0.041)
In-house bailiff service	0.100	0.050	(0.050)
Removal of Post Office as payment option	0.028	0.017	(0.011)
Review Single Person Discount	0.150	0.270	0.120
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>0.630</b>	<b>0.710</b>	<b>0.080</b>
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>			
Introduce non-generic Streetscene roles (3 year plan)	0.080	0.115	0.035
Staff Car Parking Charges (within Workforce Savings)	0.100	0.030	(0.070)
Develop Energy Production at Landfill	0.050	0.000	(0.050)
Rationalise HRC Sites	0.400	0.240	(0.160)
Removing the Waste Containers delivery service	0.150	0.100	(0.050)
Introduce Charge for 2nd Garden Waste Bin	0.050	0.025	(0.025)
Car Parking Charges	0.400	0.290	(0.110)
Cancel Real Time Info System	0.020	0.025	0.005
Charge Maintenance of Bus Shelters	0.005	0.000	(0.005)
Review subsidised bus routes	0.075	0.050	(0.025)
Externalise grass cutting service	0.075	0.025	(0.050)
Reduced Street Lighting resource	0.050	0.038	(0.013)
Remove second grass cut for highway verges	0.030	0.025	(0.005)
Reduce Cleansing standards zero tolerance litter	0.150	0.060	(0.090)
Part night street lighting in residential areas	0.020	0.030	0.010
Winter Maintenance (Car Parks and standard)	0.150	0.170	0.020
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>1.805</b>	<b>1.223</b>	<b>(0.583)</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Environment</b>			
Staffing & Management Restructure (incl. all vacancies)	0.295	0.207	(0.088)
Staffing & Collaboration	0.024	0.040	0.016
Animal & Pest Control	0.030	0.007	(0.023)
Increased Planning Fees (15% WG increase)	0.135	0.050	(0.085)
Increase in number of Planning Applications	0.060	0.030	(0.030)
Additional elements of charging (discharge of conditions)	0.050	0.025	(0.025)
Pre-Planning Advice PDM111952P	0.020	0.019	(0.001)
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>0.614</b>	<b>0.378</b>	<b>(0.236)</b>
<b>Total 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>12.874</b>
<b>Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>2.232</b>
<b>Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Achieved</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>10.642</b>



**APPENDIX 4**

**Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2015	10.515	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		<b>4.746</b>
Less - Allocation from the Contingency Reserve for the costs of the speed limit review		(0.210)
Plus projected underspend as at Month 7		0.387
<b>Total projected Contingency Reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b>		<b>4.923</b>



## HRA Major Variance Report - Period 7

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Last Month (£m)	Cause of Variance	Action Required
Estate Management	1.634	1.592	(0.042)	0.031	Salary projections have contributed a (£0.054m) underspend. The remaining balance of £0.012m relates to minor variances.	Keep under review.
Repairs & Maintenance	8.394	8.201	(0.193)	(0.185)	All of the projected underspend relates to stores materials. A (£0.029m) profit share relating to last year and careful monitoring has contributed to this underspend although this is a volatile area which could see spend increase in the winter months.	Keep under review.
Other variances (aggregate)	(9.794)	(9.708)	0.086	0.007	£0.025m of the projected variance relates to revaluation of properties. This is a cost which is incurred once every 4 or 5 years. £0.030m relates to garden recharges. The remaining £0.031m relates to minor variances.	Keep under review.
<b>Total :</b>	<b>0.234</b>	<b>0.085</b>	<b>(0.149)</b>	<b>(0.147)</b>		







## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Parking Provision in Talacre
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Talacre is an important element of the visitor economy in Flintshire for day visitors and in particular due to the concentration of caravan parks in the area. The beach in Talacre is popular with Flintshire residents and draws visitors from a wide catchment area. Parking provision in the village however is not adequate to cope with demand and this impacts on business vitality, the experience of visitors and the quality of life of local people.

The report provides a summary of the processes followed to date in tackling the parking problems in Talacre and recommends future actions to alleviate the parking pressure in the village, recognising that options for parking in the village are limited by the wildlife importance of most of the surrounding land.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the proposed plan for providing improved parking in Talacre.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND ISSUES TO CAR PARKING IN TALACRE</b>
1.01	<p>Talacre is an important contributor to the tourism economy in Flintshire. The 2009 Masterplan stated that “Talacre and Gronant occupy a unique position in the county’s tourism offer, being the only significant beach areas and close to the major conurbations of the North West.” (Hyder Consulting 2009). The tourism economy of Flintshire is dominated by the caravan park accommodation base which is predominantly located in the far north west of the County. The caravan parks in Gronant and Talacre have seen major investment over the years and offer a very high quality experience to visitors. The beach at Talacre draws visitors from a wide catchment area and is extensively used by local people. It is also a popular and iconic location for photography and filming.</p>
1.02	<p>The visitor experience in Talacre and Gronant, though, does not match the quality of the accommodation base. The 2009 Masterplan was commissioned to set out an ambitious long term vision for the area to improve its visitor appeal and to help to resolve the longstanding conflicts between the needs of visitors, businesses, local people and wildlife conservation.</p>
1.03	<p>Parking was identified by the stakeholders in Talacre as the most pressing issue in the village. The majority of visitors use the beach car park throughout the year but this is subject to flooding and when this coincides with peak visitor numbers parking demand massively outstrips supply. Visitors park in every available space in the village, causing considerable inconvenience to local people and choking the narrow roads so that vehicle flows are impeded. Visitors face long queues to enter the village to find no available parking and then again long waits to leave again. This has a major negative impact on the visitor perceptions of Flintshire, on local people and on the viability of the businesses in the village. Total parking provision in the village in 2009 was 429 spaces as 160 spaces had already been lost from the beach car park.</p>

1.04	<p>The 2009 Masterplan set out a wide range of suggested improvements in Talacre and Gronant to improve their appeal to visitors. The study gave particular emphasis to seeking solutions to the parking issues in the area. A wide range of parking options were considered but there were a number of constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council owns very little land in and around the village; the majority is privately owned, in particular by ENI.</li> <li>• Most of the land around the village is legally protected for wildlife by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and includes areas protected under international law.</li> <li>• The beach car park is managed by NRW and is subject to gradual reduction over time as natural processes regenerate the site and salt marsh and sand dunes re-colonise.</li> </ul> <p>The Council, after securing external funding and after a lengthy period of negotiation with ENI and NRW, was able to develop a 150 space overspill car park in the village which is available for a period of ten years. This came into operation early in 2015.</p>
1.05	<p>To alleviate the pressures on the village on busy days it is proposed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Lighthouse car park is leased from its owners, extended to include the Council owned car park adjacent to the site and managed by the Council to maximise parking availability</li> <li>2. Agreement is sought with the Talacre Community Centre Trust to use the land to the rear of the building for parking.</li> <li>3. An agreement is made with NRW and ENI for the Council to manage the hardstanding area at the entrance to the beach car park</li> <li>4. Small scale maintenance work is undertaken on the beach car park to maximise availability during the year.</li> <li>5. That a Traffic Regulation Order is put in place to regulate on-street parking, reduce congestion on busy days, and alleviate problems for residents. The provision of such a traffic order cannot be accommodated without the providing some alternative off road parking facilities. In the event that the above agreements cannot be made, the Traffic Order will need to be reconsidered.</li> </ol> <p>It is expected that subject to the various agreements that these measures will be put in place before the summer of 2016.</p>

1.06	<p>The proposed plan for parking provides 415 spaces as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overspill car park on Gamfa Wen (already in place) - 150 spaces.</li> <li>• Lighthouse Inn car park leased from owners and existing Council car park - 60 spaces.</li> <li>• Hard standing area at entrance to beach car park (subject to closure due to flooding) - 35 spaces.</li> <li>• Land to the rear of community centre - 70 spaces.</li> <li>• A portion of the beach car park is still available for visitor use although it is subject to closure due to flooding and will reduce in size over time as the natural habitat regenerates - 100 spaces</li> </ul> <p>The parking situation in Talacre will continue to be monitored and an ongoing dialogue will be maintained with ENI and NRW to find further long-term alternative solutions as the beach car park reduces in size.</p>
1.07	<p>As the proposed charges for car parking in Talacre are above the levels charged in most other towns in Flintshire, the local community will share some of the financial benefit, in line with the Councils parking strategy. The contribution can be used to improve visitor infrastructure in the area.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>There are a number of costs associated with the parking proposals outlined above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to Lighthouse Inn car park to maximise capacity and install parking ticket machines.</li> <li>• Improvements to the beach car park.</li> <li>• Improvements to the rear of the community centre (once agreement has been reached with organization operating the centre)</li> <li>• Installation of parking ticket machines.</li> <li>• Advertising of off street parking place order and on street TRO, including signing and lining works.</li> <li>• Cleaning and maintenance of car park areas and parking enforcement.</li> </ul> <p>The costs will be offset by income from annual parking revenues.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	<p>Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member, Ward Member, Natural Resources Wales, ENI.</p>
3.02	<p>Consultations are on-going with the group that hold the long term lease for the community centre to gain agreement to the proposals.</p>

3.03	A local publicity event will be held in the village in January to allow local businesses and the local community to comment on the proposals.
3.04	Further consultation will be required to take place when the Traffic Regulation Order for on-street parking is developed.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p>The sustainability of the proposed parking provision in Talacre is subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The beach car park remaining in operation for a number of further years. This is subject, though, to unpredictable natural processes such a major flooding event, which could render it permanently unavailable.</li> <li>2. Levels of parking use matching the estimates used. The estimates of demand can fluctuate greatly and are very weather dependent.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Talacre and Gronant Masterplan 2009, Hyder Consulting.</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b> Ruth Cartwright Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement Manager / Niall Waller Enterprise and Regeneration Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704796 / 01352 702137  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ruth.cartwright@flintshire.gov.uk">ruth.cartwright@flintshire.gov.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk">niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>ENI Liverpool Bay Operating Company Limited (ENI):</b> the company operating the gas terminal at Point of Ayr in Talacre.</p> <p><b>Natural Resources Wales (NRW):</b> a Welsh Assembly sponsored body, created in 2013, to safeguard the environment and natural resources of Wales</p>

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## EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS – DECISIONS TAKEN

### Organisational Change

- **Revision of Records Office Fees and Charges**

To approve minor changes to charges at the Records Office including photocopying and reproduction fees. These increases are in line with charging elsewhere and will make a minor difference to overall finance of the Records Office.

### Organisational Change

- **Museum Accreditation**

To approve a one year extension to the existing Museum Service Collections Management Framework and Forward Plan to enable Mold and Buckley Museums to continue as fully accredited within the national Museum Accreditation Scheme.

### Organisational Change

- **Leisure Services – Tariff / Price List 2016**

The average price increase for 2016 across all Leisure Services' activities is 1.8%. Spa charges are not included in the tariff; they are revised as necessary in line with industry norms. Leisure Services' tariff runs in accordance with the calendar year rather than the financial year.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are on deposit in the Team Manager's Room, Committee Services.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS  
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
JANUARY 2016 TO JUNE 2016**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
January					
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 January 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Organisational Change – Ysgol Maes Edwin</b> To consult with the Committee on the outcome of the consultation process for school organisational change at Ysgol Maes Edwin	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>School Organisational Change – Ysgol Llanfynydd</b> To consult with the Committee on the outcome of the consultation process for school organisational change at Ysgol Llanfynydd	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 January 2016	Education and Youth	<b>Self-evaluation on education services</b> To update Members on overall service performance.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Education &amp; Youth)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 January 2016	Finance	<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b> To receive a verbal update on the progress of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2015 - 2018		Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Provisional Local Government Settlement</b> To enable the Committee to comment on the outline response to the Provisional Local Government Settlement which is to be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 19th January.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 January 2016	Organisational Change	<b>Medium Term Libraries Plan : Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries</b> To comment on the feasibility of Community Asset Transfers for these libraries		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Q2 - Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Report (Organisational Change)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Organisational Change)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Strategic Housing and Regeneration Project (SHARP)</b> To seek Members' support on the first phase Housing schemes tenure and size mix and funding arrangements.		

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Flintshire Business Week 2015 (FBW15)</b> To report on the outcomes of Flintshire Business Week		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13 January 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Public Conveniences</b> To update Members of the Scrutiny Committee on the final stage of the Public Convenience Review.		Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13 January 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Energy at Landfill Sites</b> To provide details of the business case for the solar panels on Brookhill and Standard Landfill Site.		Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13 January 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Bus Subsidy Proposals</b> To advise and update Scrutiny on the proposed review of subsidised bus services and outline the proposed approach for consulting with local communities on the development of Community Transport		Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Environment)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 January 2016	Finance	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 7 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme (Corporate Resources)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 January 2016	Finance	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account draft budget and Rent Increase</b> To provide the Committee with the draft HRA budget and proposed rent increase</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT</b> To invite the Cabinet to make a response to the Welsh Government Consultation.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17</b> 1) To present both the first stage of the draft budget for approval and recommendations. 2) To present strategy to close the remaining budget gap for consultation. 3) To provide an updated overview of the financial forecast for 2017/18 based on the provisional Local Government settlement.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WLGA) MANIFESTO / LOCALISM 2016-21</b> To invite the Cabinet to formally support the Manifesto 'Locally 2016-21' and the case it makes for the future of Local Government in Wales.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</b> The requirement to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/2017 by 31st January 2016.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Review of Discretionary Rate Relief</b> To seek approval on the need to carry out a Discretionary Rate Relief review.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Organisation - Ysgol Llanfynydd</b> Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Organisation - Ysgol Maes Edwin</b> Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Strategic Housing and Regeneration Project (SHARP)</b> To agree the next stages of the Council's Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP).	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Organisational Change	<b>Medium Term Libraries Plan: Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries</b> To assess and determine the feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer or to decide on alternative way forward.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Parking Provision in Talacre</b> To seek approval for the introduction of a parking strategy for Talacre.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Cabinet	19 January 2016	Finance	<b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 7 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017</b> To provide information on the budget process and proposals for 2016/17.		Cabinet Member for Education, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2016/17 Budget for the Education &amp; Youth Portfolio</b> The purpose of this report is to present the final draft budget proposals for the Education & Youth portfolio.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 January 2016	Social Services	<b>Adult Safeguarding Report</b> To update members on Adult Safeguarding Performance and current issues		
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 January 2016	Social Services	<b>Extra Care</b> To receive an update on the development of Extra Care facilities in Flintshire.		Cabinet Member for Social Services
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 January 2016	Social Services	<b>CSSIW Annual Report</b> To receive a presentation from CSSIW on their findings		Cabinet Member for Social Services

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 January 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Social &amp; Health Care)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Flintshire Council County	26 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL</b> To inform a debate on the Local Government Bill and agree Flintshire's response to Welsh Government.		
Flintshire Council County	26 January 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</b> The requirement to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/2017 by 31st January 2016.		
Flintshire Council County	26 January 2016		<b>CHANGE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NAME</b> For Council to consider a request from Leeswood Community Council to change its name to Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Community Council		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire County Council	26 January 2016		<b>APPROVAL OF DRAFT LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION 2016-2020</b> For Members to consider any consultation responses and approve the Draft Licensing Policy for 2016-2020		
Audit Committee Page 709	27 January 2016	Finance	<b>Statements of Accounts 2014/15 – Action Plan</b> To provide the Audit Committee with the Flintshire’s response to the Wales Audit Office Audit of 2014/15 accounts.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT</b> To agree the annual update of the Code of Corporate Governance. To agree the process for preparing the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.		

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>EXTERNAL REGULATORS AND INSPECTIONS REPORTS</b> To consider the annual reports issued by external regulators and inspectors.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>CONSULTANTS</b> To present to the Committee the results of a review of consultancy.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>Mid year Improvement Plan strategic risks</b> To review the Improvement Plan 2015/16 mid year strategic risks.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>PAYROLL FOLLOW UP</b> To present to the Committee the results of a follow up review of the Payroll report 2014/15		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT</b> To present to the Committee an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Department.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>ACTION TRACKING</b> To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Audit Committee meetings.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Governance	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme for the Audit Committee.		
Audit Committee	27 January 2016	Finance	<b>Treasury Management 2015/16 Mid Year Report, Quarterly Update and 2016/17 Strategy</b> To present the draft Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 for review prior to the Committee recommending its approval to Cabinet. To provide Members with a quarterly update		
February					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	5 February 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Organisational Change – Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton</b> To consult with the Committee on the outcome of the consultation process for school organisational change at Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Environment)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Introduction of Council Tax Premium for empty and second homes</b> To seek the introduction of a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty property and second homes.		



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>Supporting People - Local Commissioning Plan</b> To enable the Committee to consider appropriate measures to manage reductions within the Supporting People Programme Grant to protect service delivery as much as possible</p>		
Community and Enterprise Overview Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme (Community &amp; Enterprise)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 8)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 8 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme (Corporate Resources)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme (Organisational Change)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Organisational Change Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>		

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Organisation Change - Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton</b> School Organisation Change	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Supporting People - Local Commissioning Plan</b> To consider appropriate measures to manage reductions within the Supporting People Programme Grant to protect service delivery as much as possible.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget and Rent Increase</b> To provide the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and proposed rent increase.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing

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Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>Vibrant and Viable Places Programme 2017 - 2020</b> To update on the implementation of the 2014-17 programme and seek approval for the development of proposals for the 2017 - 2020 programme.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>Council Tax &amp; Business Rate Statutory Policies</b> To ratify annual policies for the financial year 2016-17 that determine discount scheme and administrative arrangements.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>Introduction of Council Tax Premium for empty and second homes</b> To seek the introduction of a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty property and second homes</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Economic Development

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Purchase of Ex Council Stock</b> To consider proposals and criteria for the repurchase of ex council property.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy</b> To update on progress of the Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Organisational Change	<b>Alternative Delivery Model consideration of final Business Plans</b> Decisions on final Alternative Delivery Model business plans and any council wide considerations that need addressing prior to completion.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Energy at Landfill Sites</b> To provide the business case for the solar panels on Brookhill and Standard Landfill Site.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure

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Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 8)</b>            To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 8 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2015/16</b>            To present to Members the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2015/16 for recommendation to Council.</p>		

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Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Prudential Indicators 2016/17 to 2018/19</b> To present proposals for setting a range of Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).</p>	Operational	
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Minimum Revenue Provision - 2016/17 Policy</b> To present proposals for the setting of a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt in 2016/17, as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 ('the 2008 Regulations).</p>	Operational	

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Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<b>Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17</b> To present to Members the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 for recommendation to Council.		
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Governance	<b>ADMINISTRATION REVIEW</b> To consider an establishment structure for generic administrative posts and to note the savings achieved by the administrative review.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Social Services Wellbeing Act</b> To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Council's response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Social Services



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Cabinet	16 February 2016	Social Services	<p><b>Children's Services Restructure and Inspection Action Plan</b></p> <p>To seek Cabinet approval for the Children's Services Restructure in response to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Flintshire Council	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2015/16</b></p> <p>To present to Council the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2015/16 for approval.</p>		
Flintshire Council	16 February 2016	Finance	<p><b>Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17</b></p> <p>To present to Council the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17.</p>		

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Flintshire County Council	16 February 2016		<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL</b> To inform a debate on the Local Government Bill and agree Flintshire's response to Welsh Government		
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Education and Youth	<b>Welsh Education Strategic Plan</b> To consider the Councils response to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan		Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Education &amp; Youth)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
March					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Social &amp; Health Care)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Organisational Change)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Organisational Change)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Audit Committee	16 March 2016	Finance	<b>Wales Audit Office – Audit Plan 2016</b> To provide the Audit Committee with the Wales Audit Office - Audit Plan for 2016,		

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Audit Committee	16 March 2016	Finance	<p><b>Treasury Management 2015/16 Update</b> To provide members with a quarterly update on matters relating to the Council's 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy up to the end of February 2016.</p>		
Community and Enterprise Overview Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) - Verification in achieving and maintaining the Standard : next Steps</b> Development of a Strategy and approach to verifying achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – Homelessness</b> To review the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and how the Council undertakes its new homelessness prevention statutory duty</p>		

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Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Finance	<b>Review of Fair Debt Policy</b> To review the impact of the Fair Debt Policy previously approved by Cabinet.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Community &amp; Enterprise)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Community &amp; Enterprise)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Finance	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 9)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 9 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Welsh Language Standards</b> Advise members of the proposed new Welsh Language Standards for Flintshire and seek endorsement of the Council's approach.</p>		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Corporate Resources)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.</p>		

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Corporate Resources)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Environment)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Environment)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p><b>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) - Verification in achieving and maintaining the standard : next steps</b></p> <p>Development of a Strategy and approach to verifying achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 9)</b></p> <p>To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 9 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report</b> To receive the 2015/16 Quarter 3 Improvement Plan monitoring reports for the period July to September 2015.		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Finance	<b>Capital Programme 2015/16 (Month 9)</b> To provide Members with the Month 9 (end of December) capital programme information for 2015/16.	Operational	
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Education and Youth	<b>School Admission Arrangements 2017</b> To advise members of the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for September 2017	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (Education &amp; Youth)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 730	24 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Education &amp; Youth)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
April					
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 April 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Social &amp; Health Care)</b> To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 April 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 10)</b></p> <p>To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 10 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>		
Cabinet	19 April 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 10)</b></p> <p>To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 10 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 April 2016	Community and Enterprise	<b>Purchase of Ex Council Stock</b> To consider proposals and criteria for the repurchase of ex council properties	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
May					
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 7 of 92	12 May 2016	Finance	<b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 11)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 11 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17 May 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 11)</b></p> <p>To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 11 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
<p>June</p>					
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring &amp; Chief Officer Performance Reports (Environment)</b></p> <p>To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 June 2016	Finance	<p><b>REVENUE BUDGE MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 12)</b></p> <p>To provide Members with the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month (insert month no.) and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring &amp; Chief Officer Performance Reports (Corporate Resources)</b></p> <p>To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	21 June 2016	Chief Executive's	<b>Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report</b> To receive the 2015/16 Year End Improvement Plan monitoring reports for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	21 June 2016	Finance	<b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 12)</b> To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 12 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring &amp; Chief Officer Performance Reports (Social &amp; Health Care)</b></p> <p>To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.</p>		