

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON STATUTORY NOTICES FOR SCHOOL
MODERNISATION**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update members of the Cabinet on the progress since the publication of statutory notices relating to the 21st Century Schools Programme.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.02 Cabinet approved the publication of statutory notices relating to School Modernisation projects in Holywell, Connah's Quay, Queensferry and Buckley in March 2013.

2.03 The notices were published in accordance with Welsh Government requirements, and a period of a month was given for the lodging of written objections. In the event of valid objections being received during the statutory period, a determination of the proposal is made by the Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for Education and Skills. In order that Civil Servants at the Department of Education and Skills can advise the Minister, the Authority must provide a range of background data and written information to support the proposal.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Considering the number and wide-ranging proposals, the level of objections has been relatively few. Twenty seven valid individual objections were submitted broken down as follows:

Area	No. of objections received
Reduction in age range at Elfed High School	19
Reduction in age range at Connahs Quay High School	6
Closure of Croft Nursery	2

One objection was received which dealt with the separate planning related issue of establishing a new school on the Holywell High School site.

A response to each of these objections has been made to the objector, and a copy sent with the other supporting information to the Welsh Government as required for Ministerial consideration. A summary of the correspondence is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.02 Specific objections were not received in response to the statutory notices relating to the proposed primary amalgamation and the new secondary school in Holywell, neither were any received in relation to the proposal to establish a new 3-16 School at Queensferry. However, as valid objections were received in relation to the proposed closure of the Croft nursery and to the change in age range from 11-18 to 11-16 in Connah's Quay and Buckley, it is likely that the Welsh Government will call-in all of the proposals related to secondary schools due to the close interdependencies for post-16 provision. It is not expected that the proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Perth y Terfyn infants and Ysgol y Fron Juniors will be called in. Written confirmation of this will be sent from the Welsh Government in due course. In the meantime, the design process of the buildings and submission of business cases is progressing to support the receipt of grant funding from the Welsh Government.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That members note this update, which will be followed by further updates when ministerial decisions have been made.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this update.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this update.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this update.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a result of this update.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None as a result of this update.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None required for this update.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultation complete in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: Summary of Objections to Statutory Notices.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report to Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny on 14th March 2013 updating Members on the progress made in relation to the School Modernisation Strategy.

Report to Cabinet on 19th March 2013 with proposals and seeking Members agreement to progress the development of the preferred options for each of the areas and that Statutory Notices be prepared for publication when appropriate.

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