

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 December 2016
Report Subject	School Modernisation – Brynford, Lixwm and Rhosesmor Area School Review
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Cabinet of the responses from the informal consultation period for the Area Review.

To invite Cabinet to commission consultation on statutory proposals for school organisational change in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the informal consultation period for the Area.
2	Cabinet is requested to consider the evidence and analysis provided within the reports.
3	Cabinet is requested to determine the next steps for school organisational change in the area.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING SCHOOL MODERNISATION – BRYNFORD, LIXWM AND RHOSMOR AREA SCHOOL REVIEW
1.01	Recommendations for the initial phase of the School Modernisation Implementation Plan were presented and approved by Cabinet in June 2015.
1.02	Cabinet agreed to complete an area review of the following schools: Area 1 - Brynford CP School, Lixwm CP School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor.
1.03	The schools in the area met a number of triggers for review in accordance the Council's School Modernisation strategy.
1.04	Options initially presented for discussion with Headteachers and a representative group of governors at each school were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: status quo • Option B: area school multiple sites (two) • Option C: area school one site • Option D: federation <p>The outcome of those discussions was that there was universal agreement that option D should be dropped and option B should be replaced by the following option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two schools in the area. One school at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, with amalgamation of Brynford CP and Lixwm CP onto one site
1.05	As a consequence, options consulted upon with key stakeholders in the areas were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A: status quo • Option B: two schools in the area. One school at Ysgol Rhos Helyg with amalgamation of Brynford CP and Lixwm CP onto one site • Option C: area school one site
1.06	Consultation opened on 1 st July 2016 and closed on 26 th August 2016 with consultation events for parents/carers/staff and governors taking place on the 4 th July 2016 at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor, 7 th July 2016 at Lixwm C.P. and 11 th July 2016 at Brynford C.P. School. (Consultation report appendix 1). <p>Additionally, children and young people's consultation events were conducted with the School Council's on 10th July 2016 at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor and Lixwm C.P. School and 14th July 2016 at Brynford C.P. School and their views were captured in the consultation documents. Both adult and children and young people's versions of consultation documentation were produced and available either online or hard copy by request.</p>

1.07

At the workshop sessions held with the School Councils at Brynford C.P. School, Lixwm C.P. School and Ysgol Rhos Helyg Rhosesmor. The School Council were then asked for their views on the options. For each option the School Council were able to note down their views. These views were then included in the Options Appraisal Document.

Option 1 – Stay the Same

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small School • You can all join in competitions • Nobody would need to move • You know everyone • More attention and time with the teachers which you can educationally benefit from • Less arguing • Less transport issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money • A little bit bigger • Need harder maths lessons • No new friends • No loos • We don't want to leave

Option 2 – Joining all of our schools together

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More money • Toilets • Bigger playgrounds • New clothes • More friends • New name • People would want to come because it is new modern and big • Shorter journeys • New teachers • Save energy because we would be sharing the same kitchen • Save energy from wind turbine • Water fountains • Bus • More space to put things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy roads • Everything would change • Might lose friends • Uniform • New logo and name • Too big • More food to make • More arguing • Less room to play • Longer journey • There might be people that we don't know and they are mean • Not enough room in the classroom • You wouldn't have a choice of school • School trips

3 – Joining some of our schools together

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More friends • More room • More teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy roads • Headteachers • Change in Governors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger playground • So other girls and boys aren't the only girls and boys in their year • Shorter journey • Get more equipment • Win more tournaments • Less pollution • Full class rooms • One Cook • They are both small schools so they should join to make the bigger school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different teachers • More enemy's • Longer journeys • Transport (Bus) • Losing your best friend • School Uniforms • Losing jobs • More food for the cook to make
	<p>The final activity for the School Council was for them to vote for each option for their school. Overall the School Councils voted for Option 3 – joining some of our schools together.</p> <p>Additionally, during the consultation period, the Council received 10 further comments from children and young people and the following key themes were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths of the School • Impact on Children • Consultation questioned • Supporting the proposal • Impact on Traffic and Transportation • Impact on Parental Preference • Impact on Education 	
1.08	<p>Key Themes – Adult, stakeholders</p> <p>During the consultation period, the Council received 246 additional comments and the following key themes were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths of the School • Consultation questioned • Impact on Communities • Supporting the Proposal • Impact on Education • Impact on Children • Impact on Traffic and Transportation • Impact on Parental Preference • Financial comment • Alternative Options 	
1.08	<p>The Cabinet Secretary for Education has recently announced a statement regarding rural schools. The statement intimated changes to the School Organisation code. Whilst the current code prescribes that alternative to closure must be considered, the proposed changes in the code are likely to be more prescriptive around rural schools with option such as Federation being cited in her statement.</p>	
1.09	<p>Local member views:</p>	

	During the informal consultation period the Council received correspondence from one local Member. (See appendix 2).
1.10	<p>Governing Bodies views prior to consultation was that they didn't wish to consider Federation:</p> <p>The views of the Governing Bodies post consultation are as follows:</p> <p>During the informal consultation period the Council received correspondence from the three school's governing bodies (see appendix 3).</p> <p>The Governing Bodies at both Ysgol Rhos Helyg and Brynford CP were supportive of the two schools in the area option.</p> <p>The Governors of Lixwm CP having reflected on their community's views have issued a statement of preference which is to retain a school within its community by federating with a neighbouring school.</p>
1.11	<p>Should Cabinet determine an option which requires school organisational change, then formal consultation is required and is administered through the legal framework of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013.</p> <p>Physical amalgamation of schools will require capital investment, this will be considered at a future date, through the available investment programmes.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no resource implications associated with this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Informal consultation carried out in the areas as outlined in the body of the report.
3.02	<p>School Organisational Change models required formal Consultation within the Legal Framework of the School Organisational Code.</p> <p>Should a change model for the area be determined further consultation will be required with key stakeholders, including dedicated approaches with children and young people, employees, governors and parents/carers, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013. This will involve Key stakeholders. Progress and authorisation to proceed will be sought from the County Council's Cabinet at key stages in the process. (anticipated timeline, as noted in appendix 4)</p>
3.03	The results of the consultation on the statutory proposals would be reported to Education and Youth, overview and Scrutiny, in line with para

	3.02.
--	-------

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation business plans and manage risks in close detail. High level risks will be reported to Programme Board, operational risks will be managed by the project team in accordance with agreed tolerances.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 - Consultation Reports (Adult and Children & Young Peoples versions) Appendix 2 – Local Member responses Appendix 3 - Governors responses Appendix 4 - Anticipated Consultation Timeline</p> <p>Consultation Documents are available online on the following link: http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Brynford-Lixwm-Rhosesmor-Area.aspx</p> <p>Copies of all correspondence received during informal consultation will be available to Cabinet members in the Members library.</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision Telephone: 01352 704135 E-mail: Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Federation and Collaboration - 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 term federation is often used to describe many forms of collaboration between schools. The Statutory process of Federation is often referred to as “Hard Federation” An informal, non-statutory arrangement between schools is often called “soft federation” or collaboration, where schools have made a commitment to work together through some form of joint governance.</p>

School Organisation Code – 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

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf>