

# FORMAL CONSULTATION REPORT



## Proposal for the re-designation of Lixwm Community Primary School to a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School



December 2019

**Large print, Braille, alternative language and hard copy versions  
of this document are available on request**

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## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- 1.1. This report provides an overview of responses to the formal consultation on the proposal to re-designate Lixwm Community Primary School.
- 1.2. In total 36 people submitted a response form during the consultation period, with 35 (97.22%) of respondents in favour of the proposal and 1 (2.78%) opposed to the proposal.
- 1.3. The majority of respondents were a parent/carer of a pupil at Lixwm CP School.
- 1.4. Children and young people submitted 6 consultation response forms and there were also 5 letters received from interest parties.

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## B. OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL

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### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. Flintshire County Council (hereafter referred to as “the Council”) sought the views of interested parties regarding the proposal to re-designate Lixwm Community Primary School to a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School, as of 01 September 2020.
- 2.2. This report follows a formal consultation period which opened on **26 September 2019** and closed on **11 November 2019**.
- 2.3. The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code 2018 (hereafter referred to as “the Code”).
- 2.4. This report will:
  - 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.
- 2.5. The content of this document should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

### 3. What is being proposed?

- 3.1. The Governing Body of Lixwm Community Primary School and education officers from the Anglican Diocese of the Church in Wales (referred to in this document as the Diocese) have, since 2018, been in discussions to strengthen the existing relationship between the school and the Anglican Church, with a long term ambition to pursue a federation with a local school of the same designation. It is not possible to pursue a federation of schools with different designations.

- 3.2. It is not possible simply to change the category of Lixwm Primary School from a community school to a Voluntary Aided School; this is because one of the characteristics of a community school is that it is not influenced by religious groups. In order to achieve the change, Lixwm Community Primary School would have to be administratively closed and a new Voluntary Aided School opened.
- 3.3. This option has been discussed between the Governing Body of Lixwm Community Primary School, the Diocese and Flintshire County Council. The decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal will be made by Flintshire County Council's Cabinet of Elected Members and the St Asaph Diocesan Board of Statutory Education. The ultimate decision whether or not to implement the proposals will be for Flintshire County Council's Cabinet to make.

## 4. The Proposal

- 4.1. The proposal being considered is:

Stage One: Flintshire County Council will close Lixwm Community Primary School on 31 August 2020

Stage Two: The Anglican Diocese of the Church in Wales will open a new Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School to be known as Lixwm Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on 1 September 2020, on the existing site of Lixwm School. This will then allow the Governing Body to pursue a Federation with a nearby school of the same designation.

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## C. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

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### 5. Consultation Period

- 5.1. It is stipulated in the Code that "*The consultation document must be published on a school day and consultees must have at least 42 days in which to respond, with at least 20 of these being school days*"<sup>1</sup>
- 5.2. The formal consultation period opened on Thursday 26 September 2019, which was a school day and closed on Monday 11 November 2019. This period provided consultees with 47 days, 27 of which were school days, within which to respond.

### 6. Consultation Documents

- 6.1. The following documents were published, in Welsh and English, on the Flintshire County Council's website on 26 September 2019:
- Formal Consultation Document;

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<sup>1</sup> (School Organisation Code, 2018)

- Children and Young People’s Consultation Document;
  - Community Impact Assessment;
  - Transport Impact Assessment;
  - Integrated Impact Assessment; and
  - Formal Consultation Response Form.
- 6.2. On the day of publication either a hard copy or an electronic link was provided to stakeholders advising them of the availability of the consultation documents. A complete list of recipients can be found in **Appendix A**.
- 6.3. All of the above documents are still available (at date of publication) on the Council’s website and can be accessed by the following link:
- <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation/Related/Lixwm-Community-Primary-School.aspx>
- 6.4. The Children and Young People’s Consultation Document was specifically designed to make the proposal easy to understand for primary school children and allow them to participate in the consultation.

## **7. Consultation Notification**

- 7.1. Prior to the publication of the consultation documents, the following meetings were held to outline their content and to explain the consultation process:
- A meeting on 24 September 2019 at Lixwm Community Primary School with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Lixwm Community Primary School, CH8 8NF.
- 7.2. On 26 September 2019 hard copies of the formal consultation documents were hand delivered to Lixwm Community Primary School and the seven potentially affected schools.
- 7.3. In addition to the hard copies delivered on 26 September 2019, Lixwm Community Primary School were also supplied with a post box, to be retained at the respective school throughout the consultation period, to allow stakeholders to submit a hard copy of their response.

## **8. Consultation Events**

- 8.1. Representatives of the Council hosted consultation events with the school council of Lixwm CP School and those of the seven potentially affected schools. Sessions were held as follows:
- Wednesday 09 October 2019 at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor;
  - Thursday 10 October 2019 at Lixwm Community Primary School;
  - Monday 14 October 2019 at Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain;

- Monday 14 October 2019 at Ysgol yr Esgob CiW VA, Caerwys;
- Wednesday 16 October 2019 at Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell;
- Tuesday 22 October 2019 at Ysgol Bro Carmel;
- Monday 04 November 2019 at Nannerch CiW VC Primary School; and
- Tuesday 05 November 2019 at Brynford Community Primary School.

## 9. Report Publication

- 9.1. The Code requires the Council to publish this report on their website at least two weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice:
  - summarising each of the issues raised by consultees;
  - responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons
  - setting out Estyn's response to the consultation in full; and
  - responding to Estyn's response by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.
- 9.2. It is anticipated that this report will be published electronically on the Council's website in December 2019 prior to consideration by the Council's Cabinet on 17 December 2019.
- 9.3. On the day of publication, the following stakeholders will be advised of the availability of this report:
  - Pupils, parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools which are subject to the proposals; and
  - Consultees who had requested notification;
  - Key stakeholders
- 9.4. The group containing parents and staff members detailed above were advised via their individual schools. These schools were emailed a copy of the link to this report on the Council's website and were requested to forward this on to stakeholders on the same day.
- 9.5. Consultees who had requested notification of the availability of this report will be emailed directly a link to this report on the Council's website.
- 9.6. The stakeholders (see **Appendix A**) advised of the publication of the Formal Consultation Document will also be emailed a link advising them of the availability of this Consultation report.

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## D. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

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- 9.7. A Formal Consultation Response Form was created to allow stakeholders to respond to the consultation and provide their views on the proposal. This form was available as a hard copy as part of the Formal Consultation Document, electronically on the School Modernisation page of the Council's website and via online platform Survey Monkey.
- 9.8. The Formal Consultation Document also provided email and postal addresses for stakeholders to provide their responses as an alternative to using the form.
- 9.9. Figure 1 shows how responses to the consultation were submitted and how many were received:

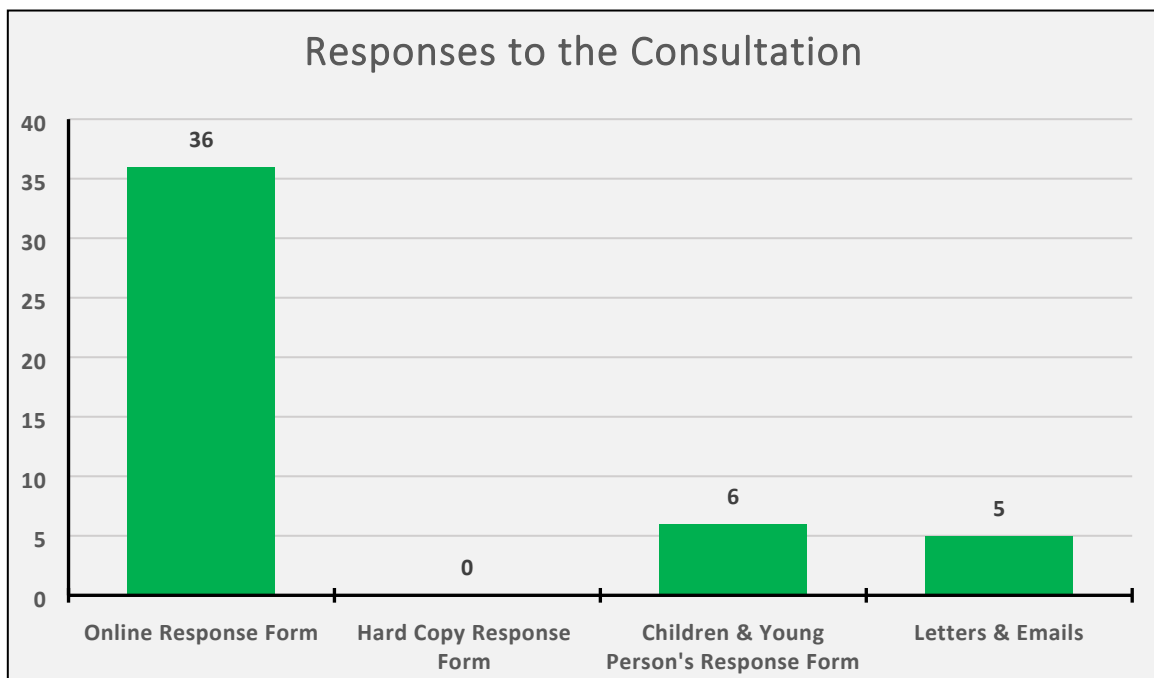


Figure 1: Types of Response Submissions

## 10. Response Form Results

- 10.1. Figure 2 shows the response form results where people stated whether they were for or against the proposal:



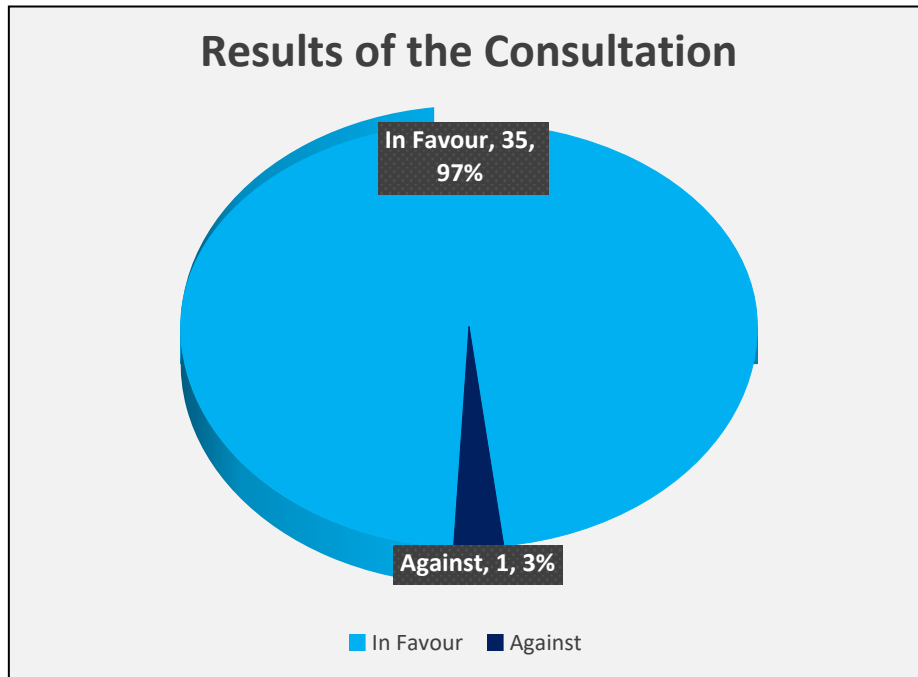


Figure 2: Consultation Results from Response Form

10.2. Figure 3 shows the relationship to Lixwm CP School of those people who submitted a response form:

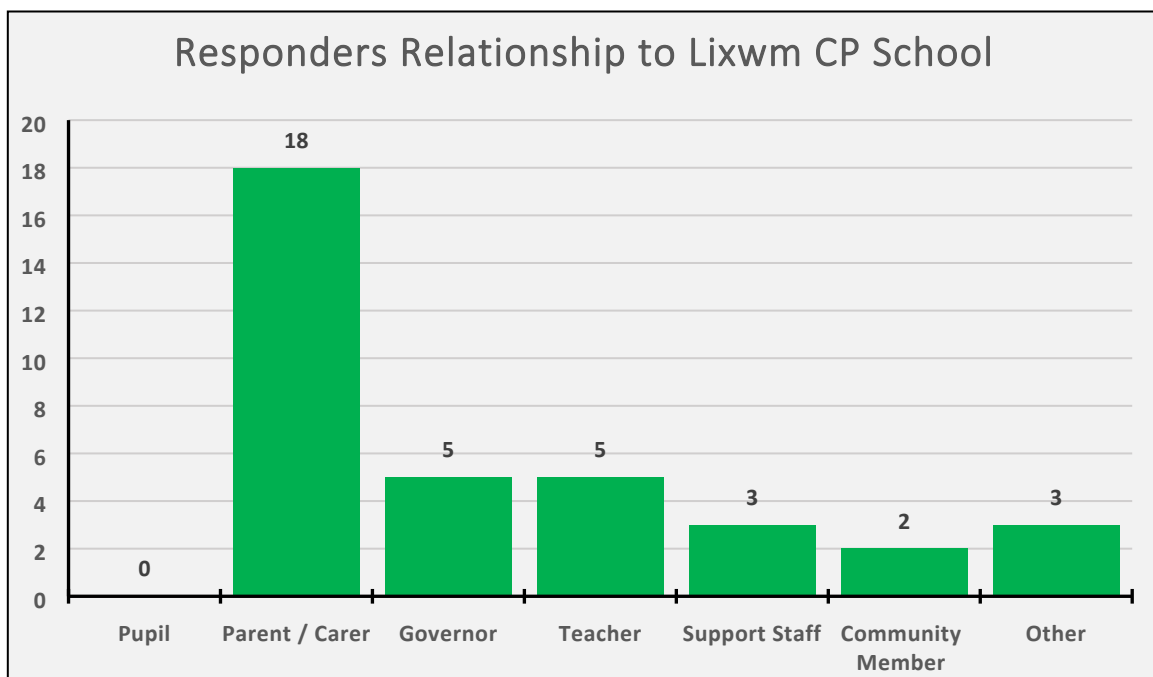


Figure 3: Responders Relationship to Lixwm CP School

10.3. The following table shows the groups of people who have submitted correspondence regarding the proposal:

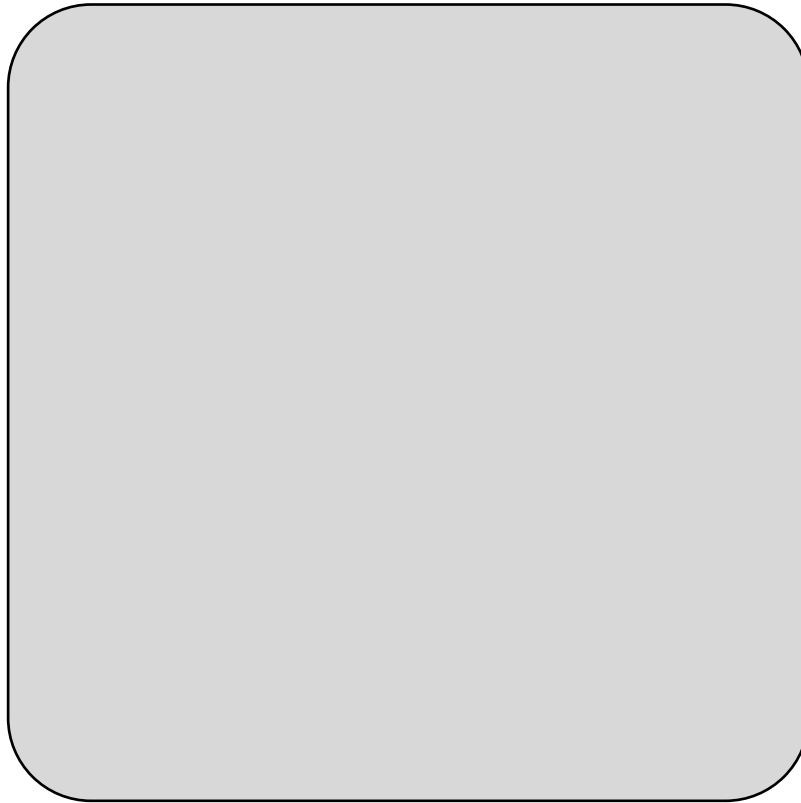


Figure 4: Groups of People who Submitted Correspondence

10.4. No issues were raised via correspondence, with copies included in Appendix B.

## 11. Response from Estyn

11.1. Table 1 shows a summary of the comments made by Estyn in relation to the proposal and a response from the Council addressing any points made. The full response from Estyn can be found in Appendix C.

Number	Estyn Comment	Response
1	It is Estyn's view that the new arrangement will at least maintain the standards and outcomes for pupils in the area.	Agreed

Table 1: Estyn Comments

## 12. Views of Children and Young People

12.1. No issues were raised via the surveys submitted by children, with copies included in **Appendix D**.

## 13. Summary of School Council Events

13.1. Consultation events were held with the School Councils of Lixwm Community Primary School as well as those of the seven potentially affected community primary schools.

13.2. The purpose of these meetings were to explain the proposal in a child-friendly way to representatives of each school so that they could provide their views.

13.3. Members of the School Modernisation Team were on hand to answer any technical questions whilst members of the school staff were also present but were asked not to participate.

13.4. The format of the events were as follows:

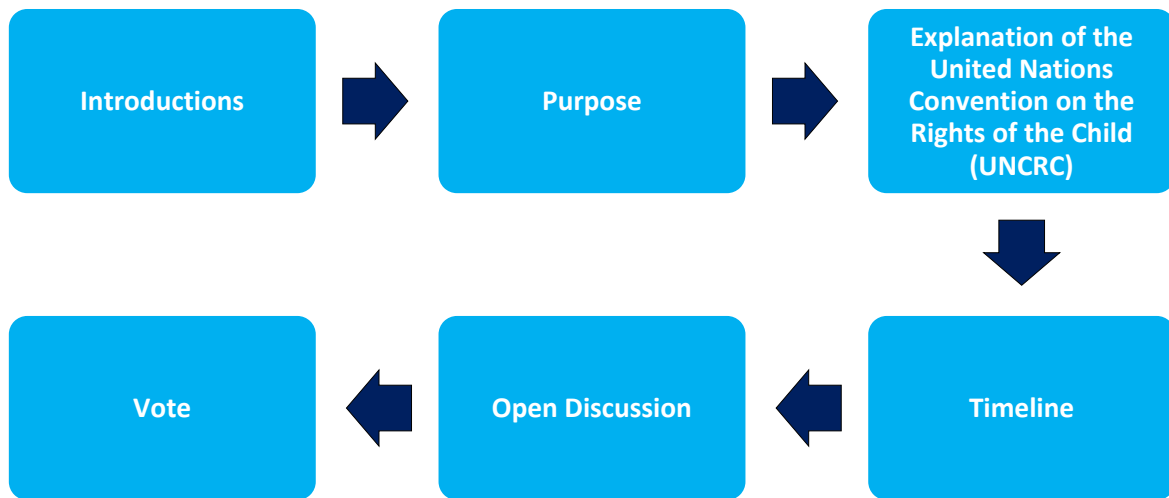


Figure 5: School Council Session Format

13.5. Figure 6 shows the results of votes cast by the school councils, where children were asked to complete the ballot on their own so they were not influenced:

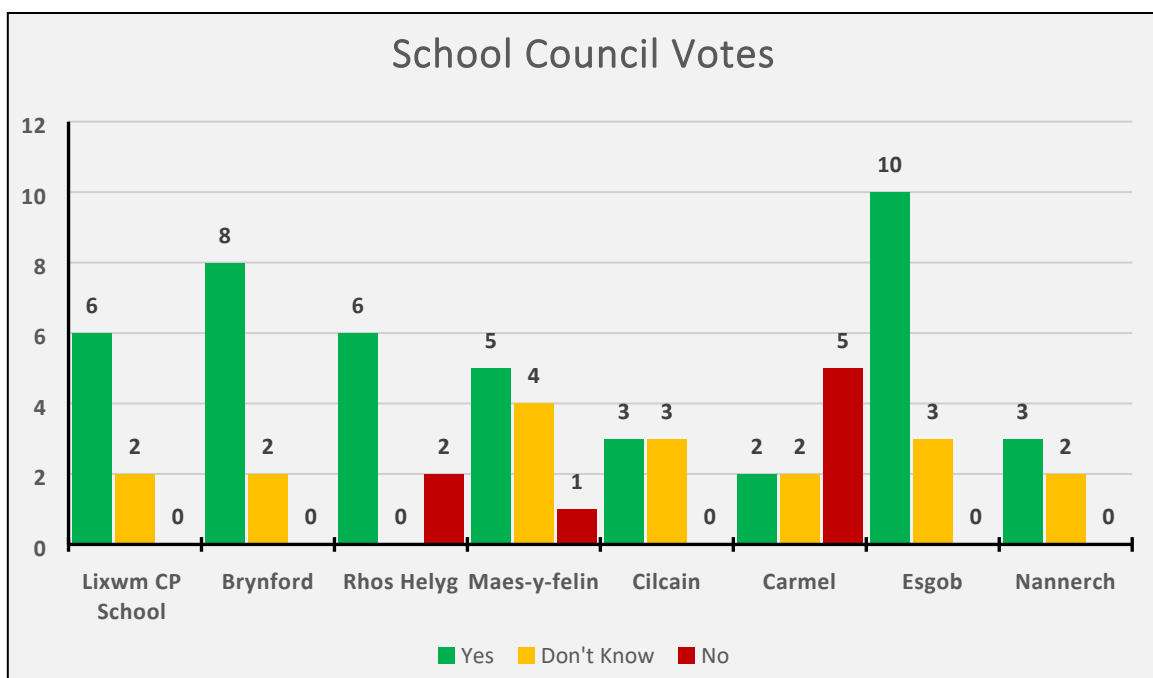


Figure 6: School Council Votes

13.6. The ballot papers from each school council vote have been included in full in **Appendix E**.

## E. NEXT STEPS

13.7. Figure 7 shows the anticipated timeline of the proposal.

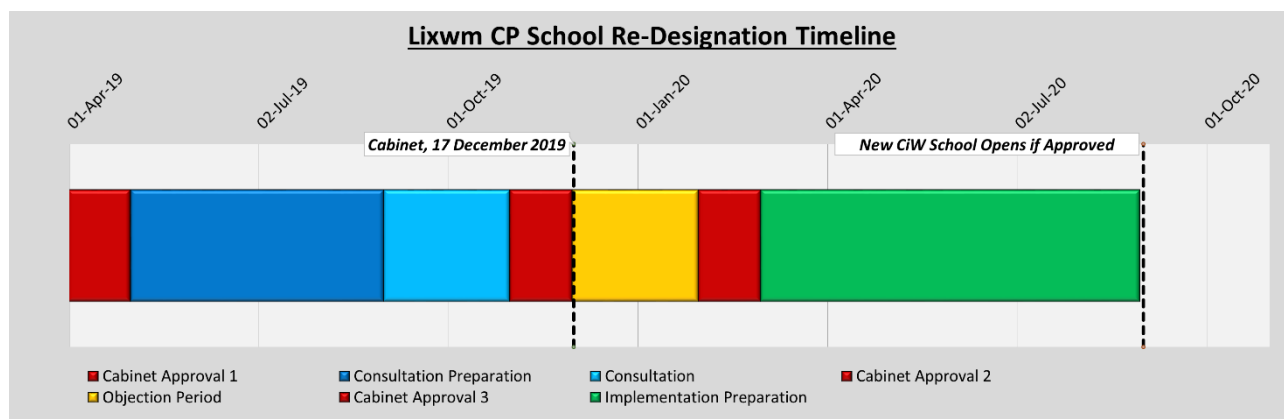


Figure 7: Proposed Timeline

## 14. Decision Options

14.1. Following publication of this report its findings will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on **17 December 2019**. Cabinet will decide to either:

- Reject the proposal;
- Approve the proposal with modifications; or
- Approve the proposal.

## 15. Rejection of the Proposal

15.1. If the Council decides to reject the proposal the process will stop and the school in Lixwm will remain a Community Primary School.

## 16. Approval of the Proposal with Modifications

16.1. The Council may decide to approve the proposals but with modifications. These modifications can only include changes to matters related to implementation such as changes to admission numbers or to the timing of implementation

16.2. The Council must not make modifications that would, in effect, substitute a new proposal for the proposal which was published.

16.3. Before making any modification, the Council must first consult with the proposer and obtain their consent to the modification. They must also obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers. If consent cannot be obtained, and the local authority believes that the proposals are not acceptable in their published state, they must reject the proposals.

16.4. The local authority must also consult with the governing body of any school to which the proposals relate (where the governing body is not the proposer).

- 16.5. Approvals may be made conditional on a specified event occurring by a specified date.

## 17. Approval of the Proposal

- 17.1. If the Council approves the proposal it must be published by way of Statutory Notice
- 17.2. Statutory Notice Proposals must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses, otherwise the proposals will lapse and a new consultation document must be issued to revive them.
- 17.3. As a result of the closing date of the consultation period, **a Statutory Notice Proposal must be published by 11 May 2020.**
- 17.4. If the consultation proposal is approved it is anticipated that a Statutory Notice Proposal will be published in the winter / spring 2020.

## 18. Objection Period

- 18.1. Following the publication of a Statutory Notice Proposal an Objection Period will open within which anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so.
- 18.2. To be considered as statutory objections, objections **must** be made in writing or by email, and sent to the Council within 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published (“the objection period”).
- 18.3. After the Objection Period closes an Objection Report will be produced that will summarise all of the statutory objections received.
- 18.4. The Objection Report will form the basis of a report that will be presented at the Flintshire County Council’s Cabinet, who will make a final decision whether to:
- Reject the proposal;
  - Approve the proposal with modifications; or
  - Approve the proposal.
- 18.5. The Objection Report will be published by the Council before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination.

## 19. Implementation

- 19.1. If the proposal is approved then the Council will work with the school, governors, Diocese and staff to ensure a smooth transition to a Church in Wales school;
- 19.2. The administrative closure of the community school will happen on 31 August 2020 and the new Church in Wales school will open 01 September 2020.

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## **F. Appendices**

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| <b>20. List of Consultees</b>                    | <b>Appendix A</b> |
| <b>21. Correspondence Received</b>               | <b>Appendix B</b> |
| <b>22. Response from Estyn</b>                   | <b>Appendix C</b> |
| <b>23. Children and Young People's Responses</b> | <b>Appendix D</b> |
| <b>24. School Council Ballot Papers</b>          | <b>Appendix E</b> |