

# FORMAL CONSULTATION REPORT



**Proposal to Amalgamate  
Brynford Community Primary School  
and Lixwm Community Primary School to Create  
One Area School from 1 September 2019**

**Summer 2018**



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## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the formal consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School to create one new area school.
- 1.2. In total 272 responses were received during the consultation period, with 20.09% of respondents in favour of the proposal and 79.91% opposed to the proposal.
- 1.3. The most common reasons people were in favour of the proposal were that they believe it would be in the best interests of the children and the communities whilst also stating that investment in the new school was necessary.
- 1.4. People opposed to the proposal believe that it will have a detrimental impact on the community, on their child's education and on their child's well-being.
- 1.5. Of those respondents who offered an alternative to the proposal over 25% suggested a federation between the two schools should be established, whilst 15% stated that the status quo should be maintained.

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## B. REPORT PURPOSE

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### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. This report follows a formal consultation period regarding the proposal to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School to create one new area school from 1 September 2019.
- 2.2. In line with the School Organisation Code (2013) (referred to as "the Code" hereafter), the Council are required to publish this report within 13 weeks of the formal consultation period closing. 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.
- 2.3. This report should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation relating to the proposal.

### 3. The Proposal

- 3.1. The proposal is as follows:

**Flintshire County Council wish to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School with Lixwm Community Primary School in order to establish one new area school from 1 September 2019.**

- 3.2. If the current Proposal is agreed and implemented Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School will close on 31 August 2019. The new amalgamated area school would open on 1 September 2019 initially on a split

site arrangement on the current Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community School sites (Phase 1) until capital investment is in place to develop a new area school (Phase 2) on one site.

- 3.3. The proposal for an area school in this region has been included in the Council's Strategic Outline Programme for the Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Investment Programme. With approval in principle, the second wave of investment, Band B, will commence in April 2019 and projects will be scheduled over the five year investment period.
- 3.4. Should Cabinet determine to proceed with the proposal, an area school on the current Brynford school site would require both modernisation and extension of elements of the existing school to ensure that the new facility meets modern standards for teaching and learning.
- 3.5. The release of capital funding to support the development of an area school is dependent on successful navigation of the Welsh Government's Business Case process.
- 3.6. The proposed capacity of the school would be in the region of 150 full time pupils, with an admission number of 20. However, pupil numbers and capacity will be reviewed again at an appropriate time. The list below provides an example schedule of what facilities the new area school could have:
  - Classrooms of suitable size and shape;
  - Main Hall of suitable size, kitchen;
  - Small group Additional Learning Needs room;
  - Library, Learning resource areas & Cloakrooms;
  - Storage;
  - Staff & Admin area;
  - Pupil and staff WC's;
  - Circulation;
  - Specialist areas.
- 3.7. Should the proposal be determined further information on anticipated timelines for the development of a new area school will be provided to the communities as the council work through the business case process and investment programme.
- 3.8. A new area community primary school, teaching children aged 3 -11 in the medium of English, would require a change in governance, in that there would be a requirement to form a new Governing Body. Once formed they would determine the leadership and staffing structure for the new area school. The formation of a new governing body would implemented as per the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

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## **C. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW**

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### **4. Consultation Period**

- 4.1. The consultation was conducted in accordance with the Code.

- 4.2. It is stipulated in the Code that *“the consultation document must be issued during the term time of the schools affected and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.”*
- 4.3. The formal consultation period opened on Thursday 15 March 2018, which was a school day and closed on Thursday 10 May 2018. This period provided consultees with 56 days, 29 of which were school days, within which to respond.

## **5. Consultation Documents**

- 5.1. The following documents were published, in Welsh and English, on the Flintshire County Council’s website on 15 March 2018:
- Formal Consultation Document;
  - Children and Young People’s Consultation Document;
  - Community Impact Assessment;
  - Transport Impact Assessment;
  - Equality and Welsh Language Assessment;
  - Area Review Option Appraisal Report; and
  - Formal Consultation Response Form.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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:  
<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Area-Review-Brynford-and-Lixwm.aspx>
- 5.4. 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.

## **6. Consultation Notification**

- 6.1. Prior to the publication of the consultation documents, the following meetings were held to outline their content and to explain the consultation process:
- Wednesday 7 March 2018, Brynford Community Primary School Headteacher and Chair of Governors at County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB.
  - Monday 12 March 2018, Lixwm Community Primary School Headteacher, Chair and Vice Chair of Governors at Lixwm Community Primary School, CH8 8NF.
- 6.2. Emails were sent to the Headteacher and secretary/office of Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School on Thursday 8 March 2018, one week prior to publication. The emails:
- Included three invitation letters to the consultation events, one for teachers and support staff, one for governors and one for parents and carers;
  - Requested the invitation letters be emailed out the same day and that the schools confirm this when completed;
  - Stated that hard copies of the letters would be hand delivered to the schools later that same day; and

- Detailed that on 15 March 2018 the schools would receive a link to the consultation documents to be forwarded staff, governors and parents and carers.

6.3. On 15 March 2018 hard copies of the formal consultation documents were hand delivered to Brynford Community Primary School, Lixwm Community Primary School and the four potentially affected schools.

6.4. In addition to the hard copies delivered on 15 March 2018, Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School were also supplied with a post box, to be retained at the respective schools throughout the consultation period, to allow stakeholders to submit a hard copy of their response.

## 7. Consultation Events

7.1. Although not required by the Code, it was arranged for Brynford Community Primary School to host the following consultation events on Monday 23 April 2018:

- 4:00pm, Teaching and Support Staff;
- 5:15pm, Governors; and
- 6:30pm, Parents and Carers.

7.2. Lixwm Community Primary School hosted the following consultation events on Monday 30 April 2018:

- 4:00pm, Teaching and Support Staff;
- 5:15pm, Governors; and
- 6:30pm, Parents and Carers.

7.3. A summary of the issues raised at the six consultation events referenced above can be found in Appendix B.

7.4. The Headteacher and the Chair of Governors of the four potentially affected schools were invited to discuss the proposals once the consultation opened. Meetings were hosted by schools and took place on:

- Monday 9 April 2018 at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor;
- Tuesday 10 April 2018 at Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell;
- Thursday 12 April 2018 at Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel;
- Tuesday 17 April 2018 at Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain.

7.5. Consultation with the six school councils took place as follows:

- Thursday 12 April 2018 at Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell;
- Thursday 12 April 2018 at Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain;
- Friday 13 April 2018 at Lixwm Community Primary School;
- Monday 16 April 2018 at Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor;
- Monday 16 April 2018 at Brynford Community Primary School; and
- Tuesday 17 April 2018 at Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel.

## 8. Report Publication

8.1. As a result of the closing date of the consultation period, **this report must be published by Thursday 9 August 2018.**

- 8.2. This report will be published electronically on Flintshire County Council's website in **June 2018**.
- 8.3. Large print, Braille, alternative language and hard copy versions of this document are available on request from the School Modernisation Team. The Team can be contacted by:
- Writing to School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB;
  - Emailing [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk); or
  - Telephoning 01352 704134 or 01352 704014.
- 8.4. On the day of publication, the following stakeholders were 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.
- 8.5. 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 Flintshire County Council's website and were requested to forward this on to stakeholders.
- 8.6. Consultees who had requested notification of the availability of this report were emailed directly a link to this report on the Flintshire County Council's website.
- 8.7. The stakeholders (see Appendix A) advised of the publication of the Formal Consultation Document were also emailed a link advising them of the availability of this report.

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## **D. CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

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- 8.8. 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 Flintshire County Council website and via online platform Survey Monkey.
- 8.9. The Formal Consultation Document also provided email and postal addresses for stakeholders to provide their responses as an alternative to using the form.
- 8.10. The following table shows how responses to the consultation were submitted and how many were received:

<b><u>Method of Submission</u></b>	<b><u>Number Received</u></b>
Online Response Form	195
Hard Copy Response Form	34
Children and Young Person's Response Form	22
Letters and Emails	21
	<b>272</b>

## 9. Response Forms

9.1. The following table shows the number of responses received for and against the proposal:

<b>Q1. Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School, by 1 September 2019?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Number Received</b>	<b>Overall Percentage</b>
Yes	46	20.09%
No	183	79.91%
	<b>229</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

9.2. The following table shows the breakdown of the responses to Question 1 in terms of which school and area respondents are most associated with:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Brynford</b>	<b>Lixwm</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	37	3	6	<b>46</b>
No	13	115	55	<b>183</b>
	<b>50</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>229</b>

9.3. The following table shows the percentage breakdown of the responses to Question 1 in terms of which school and area respondents are most associated with:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Brynford</b>	<b>Lixwm</b>	<b>Other</b>
Yes	74.00%	2.54%	9.84%
No	26.00%	97.46%	90.16%

9.4. The following table shows the number of respondents who cited the following factors for influencing their decision:



<b>Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Impact on Education	166 / 229	72.49%
Impact on Community	198 / 229	86.46%
Other	98 / 229	42.79%

9.5. The following table summarises the most common reasons why factors influenced respondents who agree with the proposal (note – people could state multiple reasons):

<b>Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Believe that amalgamation is in the best interest of children	24 / 48	50.00%
Believe amalgamation is in the best interest of the communities	9 / 48	18.75%
Believe investment is necessary	7 / 48	14.58%
Other	8 / 48	16.67%

9.6. The following table summarises the most common reasons why factors influenced respondents who disagree with the proposal (note – people could state multiple reasons):

<b>Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on the community	94 / 293	32.08%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on child's education	29 / 293	9.90%
General Comment	22 / 293	7.51%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on child's well-being	21 / 293	7.17%
Other	127 / 293	43.34%

9.7. The following table summarises the most common alternative suggestions to the proposal made by respondents:

<b>Alternative Suggestion</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No Alternative Suggestion	102 / 244	41.80%
Federation	62 / 244	25.41%
Retain the Status Quo	38 / 244	15.57%
Other	42 / 244	17.21%

9.8. The following table summarises the most common additional comments made by respondents:

<b>Additional Comments</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Consultation Process Biased / Unfair	20 / 114	17.54%
Consultation Document Questioned	11 / 114	9.65%
Proposal will Negatively Impact the Village (Lixwm)	10 / 114	8.77%
In Favour of Amalgamation	8 / 114	7.02%
Other	65 / 114	57.02%

9.9. A complete analysis of the views received via the Formal Consultation Response Form can be found in Appendix C.

9.10. A summary of the issues raised via the Formal Consultation Response Forms can be found in Appendix D.

## **10. Correspondence Responses**

10.1. The following table shows the groups of people

10.2. How responses to the consultation were submitted and how many were received:

<b><u>Group</u></b>	<b><u>Number Received</u></b>
Governing Bodies	1
Assembly Members	2
Members of Parliament	1
Trade Unions	2
Individuals	14
Estyn	1
	<b>21</b>

10.3. A summary of the issues raised via correspondence received can be found in Appendix D.

## **11. Response from Estyn**

11.1. The following table 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 E.

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
2	The status quo has shortcomings	Agreed

## E. VIEWS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### 12. Summary of Response Forms and Emails

12.1. The following table shows how responses to the consultation were submitted by children and young people and how many were received:

<u>Method of Submission</u>	<u>Number Received</u>
Hard Copy Response Form	20
Letters and Emails	1
	<b>21</b>

12.2. The majority of responses were received from children attending Lixwm Community Primary School, with sadness being the most popular feeling towards the prospect of closing both schools. Keeping Lixwm Community Primary School open was the most common response when asked if children would like to see anything else happen instead.

12.3. A summary of the responses from children and young people can be found in Appendix F.

### 13. Summary of School Council Events

13.1. Consultation events were held with the School Councils of Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School as well as those of the four 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:

- Introductions and purpose of the session;
- Brief explanation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- Games;
- Open discussions;
- Vote;

- Closing game.

13.5. The following table shows the result of the votes of the Brynford Community Primary School Council and Lixwm Community Primary School Council respectively, where children were asked to complete the ballot on their own so they were not influenced:

<b>Do you agree with Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School joining together to make one area school?</b>		
<b>Vote</b>	<b>Brynford</b>	<b>Lixwm</b>
Yes	6	2
Not Sure	3	4
No	0	3
	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

13.6. The following table provides a summary of the views expressed by the Brynford Community Primary School Council and Lixwm Community Primary School Council respectively during their consultation events:

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Friends</li> <li>• Better Sports Teams</li> <li>• Bigger School / Classes</li> <li>• New Books</li> <li>• New Equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New rules</li> <li>• Property Prices may Fall</li> <li>• Bigger School / Classes</li> <li>• Sad to close</li> <li>• Bullying</li> </ul>

<b>How would you feel about meeting new people and teachers?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• Scared</li> <li>• Happy</li> <li>• Excited</li> <li>• Worried</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxious</li> <li>• Angry</li> <li>• Mad</li> <li>• Weird</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a new school;</li> <li>• Leave the schools as they are;</li> <li>• Could move into a different school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why can't we stay in Lixwm and build up;</li> <li>• Use the money on something else;</li> <li>• We could convert the old headmasters house (Lixwm) into a classroom;</li> </ul>

- 13.7. The views of the Brynford Community Primary School Council and Lixwm Community Primary School Council, as well as those from the four potentially affected schools, can be found in full in Appendix G:
- 13.8. Alongside the publication of this report, a child-friendly version of the views expressed by children and young people will be produced and sent to the respective School Councils.

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## **F. NEXT STEPS**

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- 13.9. Following publication of this report its findings will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on **Tuesday 19 June 2018**. The Cabinet will either:
- Reject the proposal;
  - Approve the proposal with modifications; or
  - Approve the proposal.

### **14. Rejection of the Proposal**

- 14.1. If the Council decides to reject the proposal the process will stop.
- 14.2. Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School will remain two independent schools, each retaining their own name, headteacher, governing body and budget.

### **15. Approval of the Proposal with Modifications**

- 15.1. 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
- 15.2. The Council must not make modifications that would, in effect, substitute a new proposal for the proposal which was published.
- 15.3. 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.
- 15.4. 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).
- 15.5. Approvals may be made conditional on a specified event occurring by a specified date.

### **16. Approval of the Proposal**

- 16.1. If the Council approves the proposal it must be published by way of Statutory Notice.

- 16.2. 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.
- 16.3. As a result of the closing date of the consultation period, **a Statutory Notice Proposal must be published by Thursday 8 November 2018.**
- 16.4. If the consultation proposal is approved it is anticipated that a Statutory Notice Proposal will be published in the autumn term 2018.
- 16.5. 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.
- 16.6. 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”).
- 16.7. After the Objection Period closes an Objection Report will be produced that will summarise all of the statutory objections received. The Objection Report will form the basis of a report that will be presented at the Flintshire County Council’s Cabinet.
- 16.8. The Cabinet will either:
- Reject the proposal;
  - Approve the proposal with modifications; or
  - Approve the proposal.
- 16.9. The Objection Report will be published by the Council before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination.

## G. APPENDICES

### 17. Appendix A - Stakeholders

Group	Stakeholder	Number of Recipients
	Parents/Carers of Brynford C P School	75
	Parents/Carers of Lixwm CP School	61
	Parents/Carers of Ysgol Bro Carmel	188
	Parents/Carers of Maes Y Felin, Holywell	310
	Parents/Carers of Ysgol Y Foel, Cilcain	51
	Parents/Carers of Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	153
	Teachers and Support Staff of Brynford CP School	13
	Teachers and Support Staff of Lixwm CP School	13
	Governors of Brynford CP School	10
	Governors of Lixwm CP School	10
	Governors of Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	10
	Governors of Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell	10
	Governors of Ysgol Y Foel, Cilcain	10
	Governors of Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel	10
	Flintshire County Council Officers	18
	Flintshire County Council Councillors	70
	Denbighshire County Council – School Modernisation	1
	Conwy County Council – School Modernisation	1
	Wrexham County Borough Council – School Modernisation	1
	Cheshire and Chester West Council – School Modernisation	1
	Diocese of St Asaph	1
	Diocese of Wrexham	1
	School Management Division Welsh Government	1
	Assembly Members	2
	Members of Parliament	2
	Estyn	1
	Relevant teaching and support staff trade unions	8
	GwE	2
	Taith	4
	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	1
	Brynford Community Council	1

Group	Stakeholder	Number of Recipients
	Ysceifiog Community Council	1
	Flintshire Communities First	1
	Independent nursery providers in the Brynford and Lixwm areas	1
	Early Years Flintshire County Council	1
	NHS Wales	1
	URDD	1
	Welsh Government	3
	Equality and Welsh Language – Flintshire County Council	2
	Potentially affected Secondary School	2
		<b>1053</b>

## 18. Appendix B - Summary of Issues Raised at Consultation Events

18.1. The following table shows the issues raised at the Teacher and Support Staff meetings at both Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School:

Number	Issue Raised	Response
1	Do we have to apply for our jobs when we amalgamate?	Should the schools be amalgamated onto one site, the Council will support the new Governing Body to formally consult with affected staff and their trade union representatives to discuss impact and minimise any requirement for compulsory redundancies and develop a tailored support package as required.
2	How long will the new area school operate on two sites before teachers/staff are affected?	Should Cabinet determine to proceed with the proposal, the Council will be required to submit Business Cases to WG before capital funding is released. Funding is available from the 21st Century schools investment programme from 2019 to 2025. Currently as there are many variables on a national level we cannot currently be specific on dates. However, the Council would aim to enable the project as quickly as possible within its programme. Realistically the earliest this could happen would be September 2020, however, this would be dependent on external factors.



Number	Issue Raised	Response
3	Will temporary contract staff have a position once the amalgamation takes place?	Temporary staff have same rights and protections as permanent staff an A exception being a person on a fixed term contract covering maternity leave.
4	What will happen if parents/carers do not send their child/children to the new Area School?	There is a risk that parents unhappy the proposed amalgamation could express a preference to any school. However, when there is significant capital investment in a school or area this usually sees a rise in interest/pupil numbers. The new school in Holywell have had a 7% rise in pupil numbers.
5	Would the current Governors be on the new area school Governing Body?	<p>New shadow governing body would be formed and then elections would take place.</p> <p>There is a clear process for appointing the shadow governing body and the new area school governing body. All governors to act in the best interests of the children.</p> <p>There will be a careful plan for transition in place to make it as efficient as possible.</p> <p>The Council would make external mediation is available to bring the new governing body together.</p>
6	If the proposal is not agreed in Cabinet. What will happen?	<p>Status quo would prevail for a number of years.</p> <p>The option to federate is still an option if there is mutual agreement to pursue this option.</p>
7	Would the Headteacher have to teach at both sites until the Area School is built?	This is a Governing Body decision, however, the Council would aim for a non-teaching head to focus on the leadership, development and management of both sites which could allow Assistant Head posts to be developed.
8	Would a senior teacher be released from teaching when the Headteacher is not on site?	This would be a decision of the shadow governing body.
9	During the extensions/remodelling of the Area School. What happens to the teachers/staff and pupils?	The current proposal is to extend and modernise the existing school on the Brynford site. It would be planned to ensure minimal disruption and the planning of the works will be with

Number	Issue Raised	Response
		school and around its activities and most likely in a phased approach.
10	When would we know the new staffing structure and how many staff are required for the new area school?	The status quo will be retained for at least 12 months. The staffing structures would be determined by the new governing body.
11	If the proposal is not agreed by Cabinet. Does this mean we cannot have Band B funding?	The Band B funding cannot be used for repairs and maintenance as that is not part of the programme; it can only be used for major developments.
12	Does the Council have the 50% funding?	Cabinet has agreed the Strategic Outline programme (The council's statement of intent) for its onward 21 <sup>st</sup> century schools investment programme.
13	Is this proposal a cost saving exercise?	<p>The costs are a factor but the proposal is trying to protect education in the area.</p> <p>Whilst projections are going up slightly if the proposal does not go ahead then education in the area may become unsustainable in the future.</p> <p>Cabinet still have to make a decision whether or not to proceed with the proposal or to retain the status quo.</p> <p>Teachers are the most expensive resource for a school. The Council has had to use reserves this year to provide a small increase to schools but once reserves are gone they are gone. It's about the right number of schools in the right area.</p>
14	The new school is projected to be 13% empty.	<p>We do build in additional capacity as new schools often attract pupils due to it being a nicer environment and more efficient building. Therefore it is anticipated that pupil numbers will increase in the Area School.</p> <p>The capacity of the new school would be reviewed with the key stakeholders at the appropriate time.</p>
15	What will the new school provide that Brynford and Lixwm Community Primary Schools currently does not?	<p>Classrooms will be a better size and shape so they will be more suitable and in line with Building Bulletin guidelines.</p> <p>Education has changed over the last 30 years.</p>

Number	Issue Raised	Response
16	Is Broadband going to be better?	Infrastructure of IT will be improved as part of WG national programme. However Broadband speeds are not in the Council's gift.
17	What can be done to resolve the difficult environment between the communities which has been created by the proposal?	External mediation has been successfully used in other amalgamations and could be used in this area.
18	How quick will the management structure be in place?	The shadow governing body will be in place approximately two terms before proposal due to be implemented and they will appoint a Head by 1 Sep 2019. Following that structure will be determined by the governors
19	Will staff have new contracts if the amalgamation takes place?	No, staff will continue on current contracts with continuity of service. Any new staff could have it stipulated in their contract that they may be asked to work at both sites in the interim period.
20	Will parents/carers be able to choose which site?	Yes parents/carers will be able to express a preference. The admission number for each site will remain the same but combined for the new area school's overall figure.

18.2. The following table shows the issues raised at the Governors meetings at both Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School:

Number	Issue Raised	Response
1	What if the Welsh Government funding is not available?	The capital build is dependent upon Welsh Government (WG) funding. The Strategic Outline Programme has been agreed in principle and projects will be required to follow the WG business case process. The project is at risk right up until a contractor is appointed and there is a 'spade in the ground' therefore it cannot be 100% guaranteed.
2	When do the two governing bodies cease?	31 August 2019 and the new governing body would start on 1 September 2019
3	If the proposal goes ahead, what is the best case scenario when the extension/remodelling will be completed?	We are unable to state at the moment as there are too many variables i.e. where the project fits in the overall

Number	Issue Raised	Response
		<p>programme as it is currently to be determined in consultation with WG.</p> <p>The project is a priority. Generally design and development usually takes around 6-9 months, costings derived from this, contribute to business case that must then be considered and approved by WG.</p>
4	How will the governing bodies merge?	<p>Under current regulations a shadow governing body would be formed approximately two terms before the amalgamation occurs (1 Sept 2019). The Local Authority will lead the process to establish the shadow governing body and allow expressions of interest from current governing bodies.</p> <p>First job of shadow governing body will be to appoint the Head of the new school. Current governing bodies will cease 31 August 2019.</p> <p>Elections to the new governing body will be completed by the end of the first term after amalgamation.</p> <p>The shadow governing body should be made up of experienced governors. The Local Authority will lead appointments and also appoint a clerk, even if it is only a temporary appointment. The shadow governing body will probably be in place for 10-12 months.</p> <p>Shadow governing body will be appointed on longest service from current governing bodies. This will be for staff and parent governors whereas community appointments will slightly differ.</p> <p>New regulations are due to be released in December 2018 which may impact process.</p>
5	Will the shadow governing body run for the first term?	<p>The shadow governing body will be in place 2 terms before 1 September 2019 and continue as a shadow governing body for the Autumn term. It would have to be a balanced and equitable shadow governing body.</p>

Number	Issue Raised	Response
6	When will the Senior Manager/Headteacher be appointed?	The shadow governing body can either ring fence the appointment so that it is selected from the current head teachers, provided they are suitably qualified and not on temporary contract. Alternatively the post can be nationally advertised and best candidates interviewed before a Head is appointed.
7	Will there be an odd number on the shadow governing body to ensure voting can be decided (i.e. what happens if a vote is tied)?	The Chair will have the casting vote if a tie occurs. At the first meeting of the shadow governing body, the first item on the agenda will be to elect a Chair.
8	If Brynford or Lixwm Community Primary have a surplus budget. What happens to that surplus once the schools come together?	Any surplus would be carried over to the new area school.
9	What can be done to resolve the difficult environment between the Governors which has been created by the proposal?	External mediation could be used.
10	We do not know what the Education would be like in the new area school as it has not been inspected.	Both schools have been inspected by Estyn in the last six years. The amalgamated school will have the same staff as roles can be ring-fenced and teachers can remain at their current sites until the school is brought on to one site.
11	Will teachers/staff have to reapply for their jobs?	The shadow governing body will be appointed two terms before the amalgamation. Information will be communicated throughout the process.
12	Lixwm village is thriving with eight candidate sites ready for development. There is a potential for growth in both communities.	The new area school will be futureproofed for future housing developments. There are agreed methodologies for calculating school forecasts. Some sites may not be developed for 15 years and we have to look at now.
13	How is the backlog maintenance costs calculated?	External surveyors conduct condition surveys on all school buildings in line with national guidelines. The outlined costs are measured on the lifecycle of everything i.e. windows and roofs. This helps to identify and authorise

Number	Issue Raised	Response
		investment in the education premises portfolio.
14	Having gone through three years of minutes there is no record of the Lixwm governing body rejecting Federation.	Federation was an option as part of the informal process but it was unanimously rejected. There is a paper trail to show federation was on the table and was rejected by Headteacher and Governor representatives of the governing body. Options changed following the informal consultation due to the more detailed options appraisal.
15	If federation was rejected by the Lixwm Governors it was because it was not clear what Federation was as there was not enough information.	If there is a strong proposal for federation then it is something that can go ahead. Guidance on Federation was provided
16	Flintshire County Council have made it impossible for a federation	We cannot force a federation as it has to be a choice
17	The choice was skewed due to plans being shown during the informal consultation.	We have always been transparent it would have been immoral to give hope if it was known only one site could accommodate an area school.
18	From the informal consultation parents/carers feedback at Brynford Community Primary School they wanted Status Quo	The Options were changed with good faith that an area school was wanted If you recall we paused this process – while discussions took place with the Diocese and for you to explore discussions with other Governing Bodies.
19	FCC should of provided more support to federate with a Church School.	We have communicated with the Diocese around the Proposals but the Diocese have a responsibility to protect the churches characteristics
20	FCC had the ability to broker a federation with local schools	We met with Ysgol Y Foel, Cilcain about the Area Review
21	What is a sustainable budget?	Need to look at what the budget might be in 5/10 years. In our School Modernisation Strategy we refer to a viable school being at least 150

18.3. The following table shows the issues raised at the parents and carer's meetings at both Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School:

Number	Issue Raised	Response
1	Some parents/carers were under the impression that no amalgamation would take place until funding became available within the timeframe 2019-2025.	<p>There were two processes the informal consultation had several options for the area including three schools into one (Brynford, Lixwm and Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor). In 2015 Cabinet took decision to move forward with amalgamation of Brynford and Lixwm. Welsh Government (WG) cannot release the funding until amalgamation is in place.</p> <p>This is the start of a consultation that is open for 42 days. At the end of the period there will be a consultation report presented at Cabinet including the findings of the consultation to allow a decision to be made.</p> <p>If the proposal is accepted, statutory notice will be published in September and a 28 day Objection Period will open. Following this another report will be presented at Cabinet in order for them to make a final decision.</p> <p>Welsh Government funding is available from April 2019. If proposal and funding is agreed by Cabinet there will be a 6-9 month design and development which will feed into the WG business case process.</p> <p>The proposal is not 'cast in stone'. If the proposal goes ahead then the two schools will close on 31 August 2019 and the new amalgamated school will open on 1 September 2019. The Head will run both sites with the Assistant Head covering management when the Head is at the other site.</p> <p>In the short term the Head will be shared across the two sites.</p>
2	Will there be 100% assurance that we will get the funding?	Cannot give a 'cast iron guarantee' as in the hands of others. However, Cabinet and WG support the overall programme in principle.



Number	Issue Raised	Response
3	How many years before the funding is recouped?	<p>There will be one school budget with a small additional allocation for a split site arrangement.</p> <p>It is worth making the investment for better education for pupils. Larger schools are more sustainable and it is appreciated that change can be difficult. This proposal is about trying to sustain education in the area. Yes there are financial drivers but ultimately it is the education of learners that is most important.</p>
4	When does transition planning begin?	<p>As soon as a decision is made transition planning will begin as it is important it is well planned and managed.</p> <p>The timeline is dictated by a legal code.</p> <p>Teachers can focus on children whilst transition plans are developed.</p>
5	Current pupils may be disrupted for the benefit of future generations	<p>Possibly modular buildings could be used to minimise disruption. The project works will be very well planned utilising school holidays where possible.</p>
6	Would classes be merged from Brynford and Lixwm during works or wait until they are completed?	<p>Once a contractor is engaged they will meet with the Local Authority and the school to determine the best way to complete the works on a live site.</p> <p>One option will be to use modular buildings that will be better furnished than current classrooms.</p>
7	Why does amalgamation have to happen in 2019? Why not 2021?	<p>The process follows a legal framework that requires statutory proposals in place before funding can be drawn down.</p> <p>All work practices should be well established to help transition.</p>
8	Can you have two Headteachers?	<p>Amalgamation means that there will only be one Head.</p>
9	Federation is the same thing as amalgamation and would have prevented tensions between the communities.	<p>During the informal process it was unanimously agreed between the three schools that federation should be dropped from any proposals. The possibility of federation was revived following potential WG funding for Small and Rural schools.</p>



Number	Issue Raised	Response
		The Local Authority have always stated that it will support federation between willing partners but will not force schools to federate.
10	What is Band B?	This is the WG funding programme that runs 2019/25. The project would happen at some time during this period.
11	Do schools get one of the existing Heads?	The shadow governing body will be set up at least two terms before the new school starts. The shadow governing body can either ring fence the appointment so that it is selected from the current head teachers, provided they are suitably qualified. Alternatively the post can be nationally advertised and the best candidates interviewed before one is appointed.
12	Will there be a movement of pupils across sites?	That will be down to the governing body.
13	The first public consultation there were plans on this wall showing a new extension at Brynford. Brynford have been favoured from the outset.	Nothing is predetermined.
14	There is planning permission for sites that will bring families in.	<p>We consider sites in the consultation document with planning permission, there is a formula to determine the yield, based on 2011 census.</p> <p>Do not use candidate sites as it could be a long time before they come to fruition. We cannot predict if new pupils come to the school as they could already be in the system and just come from other schools.</p>
15	FCC are removing preference by removing this school. If the new school goes ahead will we be forced to go there?	<p>There is a parental preference to choose schools and the Council cannot simply transfer pupils from Brynford. The Council has to follow an Admissions Framework which means that if there is space available then we have to admit.</p> <p>Parental preference means parents can express a preference for a</p>

Number	Issue Raised	Response
		particular school and we have to admit if there are spaces available.
16	Why is federation off the table?	Federation remains an option. The Council has a legal option (to impose a federation) but it will unlikely work if there are not willing partners.
17	Where is the proof that federation was taken off the table?	Initially informal discussions with representatives of the governing bodies to establish preferred options. Through consultation it was agreed to consult on three options.
18	Where is the evidence?	It has been minuted with other officers present. Discussions about federation reopened last year due to Small and Rural Schools Grant. If there is a proposal to federate then it will be presented to Cabinet. The process was paused in September to review and support the school looking for a federation partner. We have to respect the other governing bodies who don't want to federate.
19	Why are FCC not looking at what the pupils and parents at Brynford want rather than the governing body?	The views of Brynford parents that they do not want to federate will be taken back to cabinet. The feasibility study needed to be undertaken and it was found that only the Brynford site could accommodate a new area school.
20	The road to Brynford is a hazardous route	A full Transport Impact Assessment has been carried out
21	If FCC do not get the funding what will happen?	Without the funding the project will not happen.
22	How many children will there be in each class? There will be large class sizes and some pupils will get left behind.	Infant class sizes are capped at 30 and although there are no restrictions at Key Stage 2 the aim is to keep to the 30 place cap. The biggest factor in a child's development is the quality of teaching and the proposal will still see the current teachers in the classroom.
23	What is the plan for those big classes and numbers of pupils?	The will determined by the shadow governing body

Number	Issue Raised	Response
24	The only way forward is to force a federation.	If you are saying you want us to look at that then we will do that.
25	How can you allow children to travel?	It is common across Flintshire. Lots of people travel to access Welsh Medium for example.
26	FCC want to reduce the carbon footprint but we won't use a bus, we will use our cars.	The data shows that parents already drive, the location of pupils shows this.
27	Futureproofing. There is only a slight increase in the census data. There is a likelihood of a growth in number of children in Lixwm, more so than Brynford. With the Northern Gateway development and planned relief road for the A55 people will be looking for villages with amenities. We know the Council is looking at developments in particular areas.	On housing, we have to work within a formula and can only consider so far in advance. Although current planning, we do build sufficient capacity. In Penyffordd for example we have factored in the potential for a two classroom extension to future proof the school.
28	The Community Assessment is flawed.	The Community Impact Assessment was produced in conjunction with information provided by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors
29	How do you expect it to work with the two communities?	We would expect everyone to be professional
30	Has a full financial breakdown been carried out?	Most of the information is in the consultation document, anything can be requested as this is a transparent process. Any responses you write go to Cabinet and will be published seven days before Cabinet meets. Issues will be summarise but comments will be unfettered.
31	Why were the Community not invited to this meeting? If a public meeting is arranged will you attend?	This was a parents and carers meeting. Under the Code we are required to consult with parents and carers. That is something we will take under consideration

## 19. Appendix C - Response Form Analysis

19.1. The following table shows the response to Question 2:

<b>Q2. Please let us know which factors have influenced your decision (note – multiple selections were allowed):</b>	
<b>Response</b>	<b>Number Received</b>
Impact on Education Standards	166
Impact on Community	198
Other	98

19.2. Of those who selected “Other” as a response to Question 2, the following table shows a summary of the further factors cited (note – people often cited more than one factor):

<b>Other Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Alternative Options	8	4.42%
Consultation Questioned	28	15.47%
Financial Comment	8	4.42%
Impact on Children	24	13.26%
Impact on Communities	49	27.07%
Impact on Education	6	3.31%
Impact on Environment	4	2.21%
Impact on Parental Preference	1	0.55%
Impact on Traffic & Transportation	17	9.39%
Political Comment	2	1.10%
School Comment	22	12.15%
Supporting for the Proposal	12	6.63%
	<b>181</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

19.3. The following table shows the responses to Question 3 (note – people often cited more than one factor):

<b>Q3. Why have the factors in Question 2 influenced your decision?</b>		
<b>Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Believe alternative options have not properly been considered	2	0.59%
Believe amalgamation is in the best interest of staff	1	0.29%
Believe amalgamation is in the best interest of the communities	9	2.64%
Believe an alternative option is better	3	0.88%
Believe investment is necessary	7	2.05%
Believe money is the driving factor	9	2.64%
Believe proposal protects other schools across Flintshire	3	0.88%
Believe that amalgamation is in the best interest of children	26	7.62%
Believe the consultation process has been biased / unfair	15	4.40%
Believe the consultation process has been flawed	8	2.35%
Believe the consultation process has been misleading	3	0.88%
Believe the proposal is unnecessary	4	1.17%
Believe the proposal is unsustainable	14	4.11%
Concerned about the increase in traffic at proposed area school	4	1.17%
Concerned about the safety of the road around proposed area school	9	2.64%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on parents	11	3.23%
Concerned about transportation arrangements if the proposal is accepted	1	0.29%
Concerned phase two of amalgamation will not take place	29	8.50%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on child's education	21	6.16%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on child's well-being	3	0.88%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on local businesses	3	0.88%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on staff	5	1.47%

<b>Q3. Why have the factors in Question 2 influenced your decision?</b>		
<b>Factors Cited</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on the community	95	27.86%
Concerned the proposal will have a detrimental impact on the environment	4	1.17%
Concerned the proposal will result in bigger class sizes	18	5.28%
FCC / political competence questioned	5	1.47%
General Comment	25	7.33%
Preference to retain school in the community	4	1.17%
	<b>341</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

19.4. The following table shows the responses to Question 6 (note – people could provide more than one suggestion):

<b>Q6. Do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in the Brynford and Lixwm area?</b>		
<b>Alternative Suggestions</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Amalgamation After Phase 2	2	0.82%
Amalgamation Without Phase 2	2	0.82%
Build New School at Brynford	2	0.82%
Build New School between Brynford and Lixwm	1	0.41%
Charge Parents to Fund School	1	0.41%
Create an Infant and Junior Site School	2	0.82%
Encourage Community Involvement	2	0.82%
Extend Lixwm and Close Brynford	1	0.41%
Federation	62	25.41%
Federation with Other Schools	8	3.28%
General Comment	12	4.92%
No Alternative Suggestion	102	41.80%
Retain Lixwm and Extend Brynford	6	2.46%
Retain Status Quo	38	15.57%
Share a Head without Federation	2	0.82%
Support Amalgamation	1	0.41%
	<b>244</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

19.5. The following table shows the responses to Question 7:

<b>Q7. Please let us know if you have any additional comments you would like to make:</b>		
<b>Additional Comments</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Admissions Procedure Questioned	1	0.88%
Against Federation	1	0.88%
Availability of Transport Questioned	4	3.51%
Bullying by FCC	1	0.88%
Community Actions Questioned	1	0.88%
Consultation Document Questioned	11	9.65%
Consultation Process Biased / Unfair	20	17.54%
Death of Village	10	8.77%
Emotional Impact on Children	5	4.39%
Environmental Impact from Increased Traffic	1	0.88%
Federation	1	0.88%
Financial Savings Questioned	5	4.39%
Formal Objection	3	2.63%
Funding Questioned	6	5.26%
Future of Building Questioned if Closed	1	0.88%
Future of Small Schools	1	0.88%
Impact on Local Businesses	1	0.88%
Impact on Personal Circumstances	2	1.75%
In Favour of Amalgamation	8	7.02%
In Favour of Small Schools	6	5.26%
Infant and Junior Sites Created	1	0.88%
Political Comment	2	1.75%
Positive School Comment	5	4.39%
Proposal is Disruptive	1	0.88%
Relationship between Communities	7	6.14%
Sad to Remove a Village School	2	1.75%
Transition Arrangements Questioned	3	2.63%
Validity of Proposal Questioned	4	3.51%
	<b>114</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

19.6. The following table shows the responses to Question 8:

<b>Q8. Would you like to receive an email link to the formal consultation report when it is published on the Flintshire County Council website?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Number Received</b>	<b>Overall Percentage</b>
Yes	144	62.88%
No	85	37.12%
	<b>229</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## **20. Appendix D - Summary of Issues Raised via Consultation Response Forms and through Correspondence**

<b>Alternative Options</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	A more formal effort should be made by Flintshire County Council to find a third alternative such as becoming a church school, a Welsh medium school or encouraging community involvement.	Conversion to a church school is not in the Council's gift, this is a matter between the Governors and the Diocesan Authority for which the Council would be a statutory consultee. This issue has been explored by the governors with the Diocesan Authority without success. Community engagement is evident by the fact this is an open consultation and as such any interested parties can put forward their views and any alternative models for Education in the area.
2	The Council and Welsh Government state that Federation is a preference to keep rural schools open in their communities.	The Council supports federation between willing partners.
3	The new School Organisational Code, which will come into force later this year, will require Councils to consider federation as part of the legal framework for organisational change.	Federation has been considered throughout the process, as detailed in the consultation document.
4	The ideal would have been to find capital expenditure to increase the site in Brynford and do the repairs to Lixwm	The Council could consider this as an option. However a more efficient model would be to amalgamate schools. Since funding for schools is largely driven by pupil numbers, surplus capacity means a disproportionate amount of funding is



<b>Alternative Options</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
		spent on infrastructure (such as buildings) and the “fixed costs” of running a school (such as leadership and administration).
5	I don't see why the federation between Brynford and Lixwm cannot take place??	See Point 3.
6	Personally I don't think phase 2 is necessary, the schools could exist as a split site.	See Point 4.
7	If the council would force a federation then all would work out.	It is not in the spirit of the Federation Act to force federation when there is not mutual agreement to do so. The Council would support a Federation if there was mutual agreement between partners.
8	It is well known that the process to look for federation has been made more challenging by the fact that our most likely partners, Brynford School, are not facing an equal threat despite also being under review.	The proposal would mean the legal closure of both schools and the opening of a new area school onto one site. The only site sufficient in size to do this is the current site of Brynford Community Primary School.
9	I would recommend improving and extending the Lixwm site (given its relative isolation from other schools) which would provide a better coverage of educational provision in Flintshire.	The building options appraisal conducted by technical professionals concluded that Lixwm Community Primary School is insufficient in size to create an area school based on building bulletin guidance.
10	Could both schools be kept and one become infant and one junior.	The council strategy has been to move away from separate infant and junior schools.
11	Could land be donated to add land to Lixwm allowing School to be built there? Could the land from the park which was donated become part of the school ground? Providing additional learning space?	If the trustees of land would consider gifting the land then this would need to be considered with legal services and technical team.
12	The only other possible alternative would be a new school built as soon as possible on the land behind Brynford school which would effectively mean no current school site would be retained.	A new school has been considered in the buildings options appraisal and discounted.

<b>Alternative Options</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
13	I would like the school to become a Welsh medium school to be able to retain the welsh children who currently attend a school in Holywell.	Point noted, however, this was not an option put forward when the schools were engaged in modelling options for the area.
14	Community in Lixwm will be looking at the option of creating a free school in the village	Point noted. However the Law in Wales currently does not permit free schools.
15	Why can't the schools be amalgamated once the building works have been completed?	Welsh Government (WG) and the School Organisation Code's legal framework has a clear sequence. WG require statutory proposals to be in place before they will release capital via their business case process. Release of capital prior to statutory proposal agreement would be deemed in Law to be a pre-determination of the consultation process.
16	Small charge by pupil per week. Parents would be happy to pay £5 a week to help the school stay open.	Point noted, however this is not permissible within Wales
17	Considerably less than the £2.7m required to create an area school could be spent to remodel and improve both current schools.	The building impact assessment concluded that the current proposal was the best option. The option presented removes fixed costs from the system and provides more funding directly to pupils.
18	It is critical that a scheme where both schools are maintained, with modernisation factored into future years investment and powered by growth and increased housing, is assessed and secured. And this can be achieved. If this requires a form of imposed federation (which Flintshire can do) then this should be considered and moved forward.	See point 2.

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	The full impact that the proposal will have on the community has not been considered.	A Community Impact Assessment was produced as part of the consultation.

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
2	Having read the community impact document, the facts and figures do not collate.	Information regarding community groups and frequency of use was supplied directly by the schools.
3	The consultation document is flawed and factually inaccurate.	<p>The Council has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.</p> <p>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.</p>
4	Kirsty Williams has said: ‘These changes set out presumption against closing rural schools and new incentives for rural schools to link up and work together for both the benefit of teachers and pupils. I want to see rural schools working more formally together across the country, forming federations and looking into the possibilities of sharing buildings with other services to ensure that schools remain viable’ Flintshire County Council have blatantly ignored this directive. You do not have a strong case for school closure and you have not considered all viable alternatives.	The Council have acted in the spirit of the code despite the anticipated changes not coming into force until October 2018.
5	I believe there is evidence that Brynford parents were not provided with correct information or even consulted properly about federation with Lixwm School, again demonstrating such a poor regard for the process.	All information provided by the Council has been consistent to all parties throughout the process.
6	I think a legal investigation should take place into the ethics and compliance aspect as to how the FCC are dealing with this process. One example, a question left unanswered, about our first meeting which showed plans of Brynford alterations/new build. Why were there no plans of Lixwm - in fact it gave everyone the impression that the decision was 'pre-determined'.	Plans were shown of the area school on the only viable site as Lixwm site is insufficient in size based on Building bulletin design guidance.

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
7	Lixwm parents will not enrol their children at the new area school so therefore the proposal is unsustainable.	As with all proposals parents and carers are able to express a preference for a place at any school. However, applications will be processed in line with the Council's admissions Policy.
8	Objection to interviewing of children without permission	Meetings were arranged with school councils via the headteacher and governors and the purpose of the meetings were clearly stated. It is a schools responsibility to advise parents/carers of School Council agendas.
9	The consultation document is biased in favour of the proposal.	The Council has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.  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.
10	The original assessment (informal options appraisal) was biased in favour of Brynford	The building options appraisal conducted by technical professionals concluded that Lixwm Community Primary School is insufficient in size to create an area school to appropriate building bulletin guidance.
11	Lixwm school has not been given an equal opportunity to remain open compared to Brynford.	It is an open consultation any interested party can put forward their views.
12	Because the council will have already privately ruled on the outcome of this proposal and WILL proceed with their plans regardless of the 'consultation process' outcomes. They need holding to account and ought to remember that they were ELECTED by the community and that COULD CHANGE!	The statutory consultation process is not pre-determined.
13	Flintshire CC has hidden behind this decision to abrogate their responsibilities for providing education to our children	No decision has been made. The Council has put forward the proposal in order to protect a sustainable education model for the area.

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
14	The proposal is unnecessary.	It is incumbent on the Council to consider sustainable education models for the area. This is a statutory function of the Council.
15	May I add this survey has not been working on a previous occasion I tried to complete it. How often has this happened?	The survey monkey form was available online from 15 March 2018 to 10 May 2018.
16	The underhand way that Flintshire Country Council have provided Brynford school with a carrot that they will have a shiny new building. This is a deliberate attempt to sabotage any attempt for the schools to federate.	Consultation has been completed in line with the code. The Council has been consistent in its support for federation should there be mutual agreement to do so.
17	It is not right to close one village in order to get a grant for another.	Point noted.
18	Is the plan being influenced by a desire by Flintshire CC to use land it owns in Brynford	Refer to options appraisal.
19	Lixwm School is populated by lixwm kids. Where as brynford is generally from Holywell. Send these children to schools closer to their home	47.76% of the pupils attending Brynford CP School are attending their nearest school and 50% of Lixwm CP School are attending their nearest school. Parents/Carers are able to express a preference for a pupil place at any school if space is available. Applications will be processed in line with Flintshire County Council's Admissions Policy.
20	Why is this school (Brynford) in disrepair? We don't want our kids in a school are where the school isn't maintained or looked after my teachers parents and pupils	Both schools are condition grade B, both schools have accommodation suitability deficits when compared to the building bulletin model.
21	There is reference in the Consultation document of the cost to the backlog maintenance? If these are urgent has the LA any responsibility in allowing this situation to arise?	All Councils in Wales have similar issues, this underpins the council's rationale to consult on modernisation of its schools portfolio and have a strategy invest in schools and areas.
22	The data presented in this proposal demonstrates that since 2013 FCC has mismanaged the admissions to Brynford school and the school is about 20% over capacity.	All admissions applications are administered in line with Council's published admissions policy. When places are refused an independent

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
		appeals panel determines that placement.
23	Given the proximity of Brynford to Holywell (<1.5miles), I fail to understand why the £30 million development of the new school in Holywell did not take into account for provision of Brynford pupils, given the proximity of two schools and the large catchment Brynford school operates which would lessen any impact on transferring pupils.	That was a decision the Council made at that time. Parents can express a preference for the new Holywell primary school. Flintshire does not operate catchment areas
24	I have noted that there seems to be no real commitment to resolving all of the accommodation issues at Brynford – I would ask the community and Cabinet to consider is the area school actually getting the investment it deserves or this is half hearted do it up job, its not a new building is it?	The proposal would extend and modernise the existing building.
25	The natural flow lines for the community of Lixwm is towards Mold and it was an ill considered idea based on no understanding of the socio-geographic factors that exist based on generations of natural choice.	The Council needs to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations. This is not straightforward in that there are a large number of surplus school places in some areas of the County, whilst other areas don't have enough places to meet the local demand. In other areas, school populations are sustained by children and young people from outside the local area through parental preference. School Organisation change does not take away a parents ability to express a preference for a school of their choice.
26	The area assessment did not consider all schools in the local area. Why were just Lixwm, Brynford and Rhos-Helyg chosen?	Officers are following a mandate given by Cabinet in June 2015 to review schools/areas as noted in that report. School modernisation will continue to be a Council priority
27	Why hasn't Nannerch school been involved in the school closures, even if it is a church school	See point 26
28	FCC should engage external consultants who have demonstrated design and delivery of similar projects	Flintshire do not have a large internal design team, most technical work commissioned externally and capital



<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	in other regions in the UK, rather than this simplistic vanity project to close a school and build a new super-school in the hope that everything will magically improve. The initial review undertaken before this proposal selected an illogical group of schools for consideration, given the current opposition to this proposal FCC should review other schools in this region to identify others options that are not as sub-optimal as this one	investment projects in schools are delivered within WG benchmarks to ensure value for money.
29	Why would you close such a school, other under performing schools get extra resources....	The Council wishes to invest in a sustainable education model for the area. Since funding for schools is largely driven by pupil numbers, surplus 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).
30	Please accept this correspondence as a formal objection to the proposal	Please note that responses submitted as part of the formal consultation period will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Statutory objections can only be made if a Statutory Notice is published. If a Statutory Notice is published objections can then be registered. Consultees may submit a request during the statutory objection period that their response submitted at the consultation stage should be treated as an objection
31	Flintshire asked for options and then sat back waiting for parents and governors, who are generally in full time employment and forced to do all this in their own time, to sort the mess out when council and the school modernisation team have alleged experts and specialists that should be looking for workable, acceptable solutions.	The proposal put forward is what officers believe to be the best solution for the area. It offers investment in a sustainable area school. Taking resources from fixed costs such as buildings and leadership and focusses revenue expenditure on protecting expenditure on teaching and learning

<b>Consultation Questioned</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
32	<p>Section 3.2 of the School Organisation Code states that the following must receive a hard copy of the consultation document or be emailed a link to the relevant website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembly Members and Members of parliament representing the area served by / intended to be served by any school which is subject of the proposals.</li> </ul> <p>We believe you have failed to consult with these stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Council has consulted with the relevant stakeholders and has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.</p>
33	<p>Staff believe that they will be placed in a pool for potential redundancies.</p>	<p>Should the schools be amalgamated onto one site, the Council will support the new Governing Body to formally consult with affected staff and their trade union representatives to discuss impact and minimise any requirement for compulsory redundancies and develop a tailored support package as required.</p>

<b>Financial Comment</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	<p>Where is the funding coming from?</p>	<p>50% of the funding will come from Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme whilst the remaining 50% will be funded by the Council through borrowing.</p>
2	<p>Does it have confirmed funding?</p>	<p>The WG have approved the Council's investment programme in principle, However business cases will need to be submitted to WG for individual projects before capital funding is released.</p>
3	<p>The funding is not guaranteed. What will happen if amalgamation proceeds but funding for the building works cannot be obtained?</p>	<p>Whilst there cannot be 100% guarantee. The Council have 100% success rate in business case submissions for the 21st Century schools investment programme.</p>
4	<p>The projected annual £50,000 for transportation would be better spent investing in the schools.</p>	<p>Point noted, however these are maximum estimated figures.</p>



<b>Financial Comment</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
5	Money is the only thing driving this school review	The proposal provides a sustainable area school of suitable size with appropriate investment so that buildings are suitable for 21st century school teaching and learning and also are in appropriate condition. The proposal also increases the potential for staff development.
6	How will amalgamation save money in the short term?	Short term savings will be modest based on reduced leadership cost. If the schools were to amalgamate onto one site further savings would be achieved directing resources away from fixed costs (buildings and leadership) to teaching and learning. Whilst the capital investment in one building would produce a more suitable learning environment.

<b>Impact on Children</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	No consideration appears to be given for the welfare of the children in Lixwm.	An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment was produced as part of the consultation process.
2	Amalgamation will have a detrimental impact on children and their well-being.	Detailed transition plans will be produced with the schools
3	Children currently at the school will not benefit from the new facilities.	Point noted. Some children would have left the primary school prior to the investment in the proposed new facility
4	If this plan does go ahead there needs to be a child impact assessment completed. There are very vulnerable children at these schools to whom the disruption already caused and uncertainty is having a large psychological impact.	An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment was produced as part of the consultation process.  Transition plans would focus on all learners but especially vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
5	I noted a distinct lack of detail for the children's transition during many points of the consultation, I wonder if any of Cabinet have spent any measured time in both schools before	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

<b>Impact on Children</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	closing one - you would hope that one member would take the time to get to know the schools intimately before making that decision (I hope I am wrong).	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

<b>Impact on Communities</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Businesses employing local people will be adversely affected.	Point noted.
2	How does the Council expect the communities to bond, given the current ill-feeling?	External mediation can be made available to bring the communities together.
3	Lixwm will lose their identity and it will rip the heart out of the village.	Point noted. A Community Impact Assessment was produced as part of the consultation process.
4	We will have no community space in the village.	Community facilities would be available in the proposed area school
5	The loss of the school will put off families moving to the village.	Point noted.
6	House prices will fall if the school has closed.	Point noted. However, many villages do not have a local school, we are unaware of any research which underpins this statement.
7	There are houses being built in Lixwm and there are eight candidate sites for development In the latest Flintshire LDP, several large pieces of land have been proposed for housing development in Lixwm, so pupil numbers will inevitably rise over the coming years. Figures indicate that by 2020, Lixwm school will be at capacity.	In the Planning department preferred Strategy dated November 2017. Lixwm has been categorised as a "defined village"  In defined villages housing development will only be permitted related to scale, character and role of the settlement and which delivers local needs affordable housing. Provision will include only: (i) Windfall market housing (only when delivering essential affordable housing) (ii) Local need affordable housing (iii) Small scale exception schemes for affordable housing

<b>Impact on Communities</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
8	It is disappointing our FCC use the media to set communities against one another and bully Governing bodies.	Disagree. The Council has not engaged in media in any form in this context.
9	Under the planning permission given to Lixwm School for renovation work in the 1980's there was a requirement that the school hall would be retained for community use. The local community will insist that this is honoured and therefore needs to be factored in to the financial assessment.	We are not aware that there are any legal covenants. However, this point will be investigated.
10	At Lixwm School on Monday 30th April was advertised as a parents only meeting. There were members of the community who expressed interest in attending both via the telephone prior to the meeting and attending the school of the evening. The members of the community were turned away and yet during the meeting, we were told that the meeting was open to community members. This was NOT the case.	People were asked to sign in to the event to ensure parents and carers could be accommodated. Community members who turned up on the night would have been asked to wait outside until all parents and carers had been accommodated and if space allowed they would then be permitted to take a seat in the hall. No community member presented themselves and as a result none were turned away on the evening.
11	We understand that a 'community meeting' has been permitted; to be organised by Ysceifiog Community Council in late May 2018. This is because FCC actively prevented community members from attending the meeting of the 30th April 2018 at Lixwm School	See point 10.

<b>Impact on Education</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	The standard of education cannot be maintained in a class size more than double what it is now. With the best teachers in the world there is no way you can teach as well with 30 something in your class.	As part of the Consultation process we have received a response from Estyn. Estyn's view is that the new arrangement will at least maintain the standards and outcomes for pupils in the area.
2	Consultation requires that standard of education must be at least as good in new school – we do not believe this new school could provide same level of nurturing	See point 1

Impact on Education		
Number	Comment	Response
3	The amalgamated school would have to re-elect the Governing body, re employ all staff and re-organise classes with disruption during the building phase.	The Council will work with the shadow governing body to keep disruption to a minimum.
4	Stats show that moving kids to different schools interrupts their focus, causes huge anxiety and as a result takes their focus away from education , Children should NOT be moved or forced to go to another school, they need stability and continuity.	<p>We are not aware of any published statistics.</p> <p>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</p>
5	All schools need a full time head not a shared one - if I had a concern I would expect to be able to speak to the head at any time not on certain days/times.	Whilst it would be a governing body decision, the Council anticipates that the new area school will have a full time non-teaching headteacher.
6	Children not being used to new staff and teachers will result on children who are used to individual, personalised learning to 'get lost' in the system.	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
7	The local authority need to attend the other amalgamated schools in the area and see what a shambles they are. I have attended both the one in shotton and Connahs quay and I can say that the level of education, care and welfare of the children is of a much lower standard of that of Lixwm school, due to the sheer number of pupils. Having 30 pupils in one class and three classes per year group is	<p>In 2018 Ysgol Ty Ffynnon was rated “good” in all five of the inspection areas, these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards;</li> <li>• Wellbeing and attitudes to learning;</li> <li>• Teaching and learning experiences;</li> <li>• Care, support and guidance;</li> <li>• Leadership and management.</li> </ul>

<b>Impact on Education</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
	clearly over stretching the staff and resources.	In 2014 Ysgol Cae'r Nant's current performance was rated "good" whilst its prospects for improvement were also rated as "good".  In 2016 Lixwm Community Primary School was rated "good" for current performance and "adequate" for its prospects for improvement.
	I am extremely concerned, as are other parents, regarding this process; if FCC get their way, can you provide assurance regarding the stability and quality of my child's education at this critical time?	See point 1.

<b>Impact on Environment</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	The environment will be negatively impacted due to the increase in traffic.	Point noted.
2	FCC have targets to reduce Council energy consumption, increase usage of environmentally efficient vehicles, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions to meet Welsh Government targets and help address the consequences of climate change. Closing Lixwm school will add thousands of new bus-miles to the FCC annual reporting measure, and as minimum costs will be a contractual factor these buses that will be operated will not be the newest pollution efficient type.	Point noted.

<b>Impact on Parental Preference</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	I strongly believe that as a parent we should have a choice as to how and where our children are educated.	Parents/Carers are able to express a preference for a pupil place at any school. Admission applications will be processed in line with Flintshire County Council's admissions Policy.

Impact on Parental Preference		
Number	Comment	Response
2	I understand that some schools are over subscribed with children attending from outside their local community. If parents opt for a school outside of their local community should they only have the option of selecting school which is not over subscribed.	Admission applications will be processed in line with Flintshire County Council's Admissions Policy

Impact on Traffic and Transportation		
Number	Comment	Response
1	Child safety is a concern due to the hazardous road between Lixwm and Brynford; it is dangerous to walk with children.	Free home to school transport would be provided based in current transport policy
2	More travelling will increase cost for families.	Point noted.
3	Have there been any consideration to the cost of transporting the children to and from Brynford, How could this result in a cost saving ?	A Transport Impact Assessment was produced as part of the consultation in which this issue was considered. The conclusion was that transport costs could increase but they are not anticipated to rise significantly due to the number of children currently accessing the service.
4	Transport - how will that work? Bus provided at £50k. What about Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs.	It is not statutory to provide transport for non-statutory school hours. Transport will be provided to children who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the School Transport Policy <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport.aspx</a>
5	Parking at Brynford school is currently dangerous how on earth can this situation improve any by doubling figures of the children. No parking facilities are included in the planning.	Parking and drop off areas/issues will be developed with Transport and Planning professional as part of the design phase of the proposed school project.
6	Major concern on parking outside Brynford school. This was brought up at meeting but no idea if a Risk Assessment has been carried out.	A Traffic Impact Assessment or Traffic Survey will be a requirement of the planning process. Any issues derived from these surveys will then be fed into the design brief.

<b>Impact on Traffic and Transportation</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
7	Are the council willing to provide transport?	Transport will be provided to children who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the School Transport Policy <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport.aspx</a>
8	Bus services in this area are appalling. If you are going to shut down local community living then you need to improve transport links between villages and towns. We can get a bus out of Lixwm to Holywell in the mornings and connect to Chester but no bus back in the afternoon. Doesn't make sense to reduce facilities without the necessary transport options.	Point noted. We would take this issue up with the Council's Integrated Transport Unit to investigate whether public or community transport provision could be improved

<b>Political Comment</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Incompetence in the political area with Flintshire and WAG is worth considering.	Point noted.
2	As a labour local council rather than accepting the cuts in education the council should be taking the grievance of the people back to Cardiff and Westminster.	Point noted.
3	Labour Councillors should seek to work more collaboratively with the rural areas of the Flintshire local authority.	Point noted.
4	The Lixwm community are determined to either convince FCC to abandon this change-project or to overturn the FCC decision through the legal appeals process.	Point noted.

## **21. Appendix E - Estyn Response**

<p><b>Estyn response to the proposal amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.</p>
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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**

This consultation proposal is from Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to amalgamate Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School with existing pupils transferring to the proposed area school, subject to parental preference. If the current Proposal is agreed and implemented Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School will close on 31 August 2019. The new amalgamated area school would open on 1 September 2019 initially on a split site arrangement on the current Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community School sites (Phase 1) until capital investment is in place to develop a new area school (Phase 2) on one site. The phase 2 development would commence in April 2019 and projects will be scheduled over the five-year investment period.

## **Summary/ Conclusion**

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

## **Description and benefits**

The local authority's rationale for amalgamating Brynford Community Primary School and Lixwm Community Primary School is clear and is consistent with the local authority's revised School Modernisation Strategy.

The proposer has discussed with the head teachers and governors a good range of options, including:

- the status quo;
- an area school; and
- federation.

The schools were not able to agree to federation as an option.

The status quo has shortcomings. Currently Brynford Community Primary school is oversubscribed. The school does not have sufficient teaching space for nursery provision or for physical education compared to other primary schools.

Estyn judged Lixwm Community Primary School to have good current performance and adequate prospects for improvement at the last inspection in December 2016. Estyn continues to monitor the school's progress. The school is under-subscribed, with around 27% of unfilled places.



The local authority asserts that a 3-11 Area Primary school would help to alleviate the budgetary constraints that has limited both schools' development over many years. It argues that the new area school will have the staffing capacity and resources to enable them to provide a broader use of learning experiences including the use of new technologies. The plan is costed and takes good account of the risks involved.

The local authority has taken effective account of the impact on housing stock, and the sustainability of the school. It has also considered suitably the potential impact of the plan on other local schools. They have judged that the new school would not have a significant impact on the secondary provision within the area.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The local authority asserts that their preferred proposal would improve the quality of education within the area by improving facilities, strengthening the distribution of staff and the quality of leadership. It has taken good account of Estyn's most recent inspections of both schools to argue its case.

The proposal clearly explains how learners with additional learning needs will be supported in order that they will continue to receive resources to support them. For learners with an SLA or Statement, the named officer would offer support to parents/carers and pupils during the period of transition.

The local authority has conducted a transport impact assessment that shows that transportation costs are not anticipated to rise significantly due to the number of learners currently accessing the service.

## **22. Appendix F - Summary of Children and Young People's Response Forms**

<b>How would you feel if Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School were to close?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sad</li> <li>• Sad</li> <li>• Sad. Grumpy. Gross. ☹️</li> <li>• Really sad</li> <li>• Angry, sad and scared</li> <li>• I would be sad and worried</li> <li>• I would feel frustrated</li> <li>• I would feel very sad. I love my school. I enjoy walking every day</li> <li>• If Lixwm school closes I would be very sad and very upset</li> <li>• Even though I won't be here, some people go to this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sad</li> <li>• Sad.</li> <li>• Sad. Angry</li> <li>• Very sad.</li> <li>• Gutted</li> <li>• Sad</li> <li>• I would feel sad.</li> <li>• If Lixwm would close I would feel sad. I am settled and happy at my school.</li> <li>• I would feel very sad. I would miss my friends and my teachers very much.</li> <li>• I wouldn't like it and it would be really sad because our</li> </ul>

**How would you feel if Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School were to close?**

school because it's easier. So I would feel pretty mad. I would feel sick as well. I don't care what your aims are, you just want the money.

school has been there for 170 years.

- I would feel really sad heart broken because I know there won't be another school Ysgol Licswm

**Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?**

- Keep my school open
- One school.
- I want my school to stay open.
- Brynford stay the same and Lixwm stay the same
- I would like Lixwm school to stay open
- I like to see Ysgol Licswm open forever
- I would like to see them still open.
- Federation with another school to keep both schools open
- I want Lixwm school to stay in our village, it's so important to everyone not just the children like me.
- I want my school to stay open. I love my school. I love my teachers and I am happy and feel safe at school.

- Please keep open :)
- For it to stay open.
- I would like Licswm to stay open.
- Lixwm school to not shut down
- Lixwm school opening instead of closing.
- I would like Lixwm to stay same
- I would like the school to stay as they are.
- My school has been there for 170 years and I want it open longer.
- You make the house next to Lixwm school in to a couple of rooms
- I would like to see so many objections that the schools stay as they are and the council doesn't 'save money' by shutting our school.

**Would you like to say anything else?**

- No.
- I like this school very much.
- Please don't close my school

- No.
- No thanks.
- I really enjoy walking to school.
- Because no-one wants to federate with us, to save our

<b>Would you like to say anything else?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All my friends have been here.</li> <li>• My teachers help me learn to read. I don't want to go to new school. Keep Lixwm open.</li> <li>• I love my school and all my teachers and want things to stay how they are.</li> <li>• I went to Brynford school when I was younger and I did not like it at all. Brynford school scared me. Please keep my school open.</li> <li>• I like to walk to school and play in the park with my friends after school. I do not want to lose my life here.</li> <li>• Please let my school open please.</li> </ul>	<p>school, it makes me sad and no-one cares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knock down Brynford school and build onto Lixwm. We will not be able to go to the park with our school friends straight from school.</li> <li>• I really don't want the school to close because it is an amazing school and I think it is the best one.</li> <li>• When I grow up I don't want to think of my childhood school as a pile of rubble or a new building to 'help' us. The teachers are really nice too and they will have to find another place to work.</li> <li>• I love my school</li> </ul>

## 23. Appendix G - School Council Views

### 23.1. Views of Brynford CP School Council




<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brand new friend to hang out with</li> <li>• There will be more room</li> <li>• New games to play</li> <li>• New teachers and new headteacher</li> <li>• New ideas</li> <li>• New people to play with</li> <li>• Making people happy</li> <li>• Bigger classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lovely teachers and children</li> <li>• New friends</li> <li>• They could be friendly</li> <li>• Using old Lixwm building as something new</li> <li>• New friends new teachers</li> <li>• Bigger school</li> <li>• Different people to talk to</li> </ul>
<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New rules</li> <li>• A lot bigger school</li> <li>• Less places to play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They might upset you</li> <li>• They could push you over</li> <li>• They could punch you</li> </ul>

<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot more people</li> <li>• They could hurt your feelings</li> <li>• They could be mean</li> <li>• They could tell on you and get you into trouble</li> <li>• They could kick you</li> <li>• It would make you get new friends</li> <li>• There will not be enough room for parents to park at the end of the day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding possibility</li> <li>• Not much room for an extension</li> <li>• Lots of changes</li> <li>• There might be a lot of people in one class</li> <li>• A lot of money</li> <li>• They might not want to play with you;</li> <li>• Long time to build the extension so no school for a while</li> </ul>

<b>How would you feel about meeting new people?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nervous / Scared</li> <li>• Happy to get new friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They could be nice</li> <li>• Neutral</li> </ul>

<b>How would you feel about new teachers?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scared / Frightened / Worried / Nervous</li> <li>• New teachers might be strict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New teachers might be friendly</li> <li>• Happy for new teachers</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ☺;</li> <li>• The council could make our area massive;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a new school;</li> <li>• Could move into a different school.</li> </ul>

<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	6
 Not Sure	3
 No	0

## 23.2. Views of Lixwm CP School Council

23.2.1. Prior to the discussion, pupils provided the pre-prepared views of their classmates. These will be provided to Cabinet.

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New friends to grow up with them to high school</li> <li>• Easier for the Wendy house to pick up children</li> <li>• Bigger games</li> <li>• Good idea to get involved in more</li> <li>• Bigger classrooms</li> <li>• Good idea to get more space in the classes and make new friends</li> <li>• We would have more teachers</li> <li>• You will have more space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might get more computers and books</li> <li>• I think we'll make new friends</li> <li>• New school equipment</li> <li>• Bigger classrooms to work in</li> <li>• New books</li> <li>• You will get to join bigger school tournaments for sports</li> <li>• We would have more places to run around</li> <li>• Might win more events</li> </ul>

<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It might affect properties sold in Lixwm</li> <li>• I think the children from the schools wont mix</li> <li>• It's older than Brynford</li> <li>• Angry</li> <li>• New school</li> <li>• Parents might not send their children there</li> <li>• What will happen to our field because it's not ours</li> <li>• We want to carry on this tradition</li> <li>• We've made lots of friends</li> <li>• Younger brothers and sisters won't get hand-me-down uniforms so we'll have to spend money on new</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be sad to close it on families</li> <li>• We won't be allowed to go in the forest</li> <li>• Mad</li> <li>• Sad</li> <li>• Well' miss the equipment</li> <li>• We would have as much support</li> <li>• The end is not the way they wanted it to be</li> <li>• The more further they are it will be difficult</li> <li>• Our hearts will be broken</li> <li>• The younger children might not be with a familiar teacher and will feel uncomfortable</li> </ul>




<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The little ones might get upset because they might not have the same teachers</li> <li>• We might get bullied in a new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work with Cilcain and Caerwys and if we merge we might not work with them</li> </ul>

<b>How would you feel about meeting new people?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sad;</li> <li>• Happy;</li> <li>• Mad;</li> <li>• Angry;</li> <li>• Mad;</li> <li>• I not why</li> <li>• 1 x unreadable;</li> <li>• Anxious;</li> <li>• ☹️</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good and sad;</li> <li>• Nervous;</li> <li>• Happy;</li> <li>• Excited;</li> <li>• Happy;</li> <li>• 😊 😊 😊 😊</li> <li>• Wouldn't make friends if I went;</li> </ul>

<b>How would you feel about new teachers?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scared</li> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• Mad</li> <li>• A bit excited</li> <li>• ☹️</li> <li>• Scary</li> <li>• Weird</li> <li>• Nervous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxious</li> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• A bit happy</li> <li>• Scary</li> <li>• A bit sad</li> <li>• Mad</li> <li>• Kind of happy and scared; Scary and sad. You get to know more teachers</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave the schools as they are</li> <li>• We could convert the old headmasters house into a classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why can't we stay in Lixwm and build up</li> <li>• I like Lixwm very much and don't think we would get along</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'd like to keep the schools separate</li> <li>• Build a separate school x 2</li> <li>• Use the money on something else</li> <li>• Happy</li> <li>• * I will miss friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not want the school to close</li> <li>• I like this school very much</li> <li>• * run raising (Fundraising?) for more money</li> <li>• I will make new friends</li> <li>• * 2 unreadable</li> </ul>
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<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	2
 Not Sure	4
 No	3




### 23.3. Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor, School Council

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less lonely people</li> <li>• More positive relations</li> <li>• They will learn more amazing things</li> <li>• There would be a larger selection of teachers</li> <li>• People can make more friendship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make new friends</li> <li>• It is not as far</li> <li>• Children would make new friends</li> <li>• Pupils would create more friendships</li> <li>• More children can ask for help</li> </ul>

<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel further</li> <li>• Spend more money for parents</li> <li>• Could be too far for parents to travel</li> <li>• Some children might not want to move</li> <li>• Parents would be unhappy to buy new uniform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More negative relations</li> <li>• Children would be scared to move schools</li> <li>• It would cost a lot to build an extension</li> <li>• It might take a long time to build</li> <li>• Maybe there is not enough teachers</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nervous pupils</li> <li>• Some people doesn't like to _____ (unreadable)</li> <li>• More crowed school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might be a lot of talking</li> <li>• It would be a bit difficult to move all the things to the new school</li> </ul>
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<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can swap schools;</li> <li>• To make a change;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can mix some children</li> <li>• 1 x unreadable</li> </ul>

<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	4
 Not Sure	3
 No	1




#### 23.4. Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell, School Council

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better stationery</li> <li>• There will be better sports facilities</li> <li>• You can get more class and more teachers</li> <li>• More friends</li> <li>• Easier for infants and juniors to move up</li> <li>• You can make more friends</li> <li>• You get more people to come to the school</li> <li>• You don't have to move far to get from primary to high school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends x 2</li> <li>• You can see if anyone has got hurt in other school</li> <li>• You can play with people you don't know</li> <li>• Make new friends</li> <li>• More _____ teachers in the new school</li> <li>• 1 picture</li> <li>• Going to the headmaster for good reason not bad reason</li> <li>• Make different friends</li> </ul>



<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be harder to go to a different high school</li> <li>• Cramped classroom</li> <li>• You don't want too many people to go to the school</li> <li>• More supply teachers</li> <li>• There will be less space</li> <li>• If two schools weren't together there would have to be more people to look after the schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If lots of people come here may bully each other</li> <li>• Less toys for juniors</li> <li>• More crowded at the end of the day</li> <li>• More traveling for parents</li> <li>• 2 x unreadable</li> <li>• You do not want any bullying</li> <li>• They need to make the school a bit bigger</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift between the two schools</li> <li>• Keep each open</li> <li>• Bad weather both close</li> <li>• One of them can be a swim place so they go to swim there</li> <li>• Large school in the middle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants in one school juniors in the other</li> <li>• Build one in the middle</li> <li>• Create two floors</li> <li>• They could visit their old school when they are about to go to high school;</li> <li>• Extend Lixwm's land</li> </ul>

<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	7
 Not Sure	4
 No	0




### 23.5. Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain, School Council

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New friends</li> </ul>

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have new friends / playmates</li> <li>• Better sports team</li> <li>• More job offers</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• More staff, Lots of teams and after school clubs</li> <li>• more room</li> <li>• a class for each year</li> <li>• Teachers get paid better</li> <li>• Saving to I council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make new friends. Progress with new children</li> <li>• More room</li> <li>• Better football team</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Better advantage on competitions</li> <li>• More room</li> <li>• More clubs</li> <li>• Saving money</li> </ul>

<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• Children might get bullied more because there are more children</li> <li>• Bigger class more chance of getting silly</li> <li>• More chance of bullying</li> <li>• Children might not want to go to school because they might get bullied</li> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• People might not be friendly</li> <li>• Scared / weird</li> <li>• Young children might be scared of older children</li> <li>• Harder to get your views over</li> <li>• Less opportunity</li> <li>• Less opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More food options</li> <li>• Schools may not mix well and may gang up on each other</li> <li>• You might be late for school if you live in Lixwm</li> <li>• Less playground space</li> <li>• Young pupils will be scared because there are more people</li> <li>• Nervous</li> <li>• Less opportunities</li> <li>• Noise and bangs</li> <li>• Younger children will be scared</li> <li>• Building can distract people in the school</li> <li>• Less money e.g. need to pay for more equipment and furniture</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why can't community schools and church schools join?</li> <li>• Most people walk to their schools so they would have to get a bus or get up early</li> <li>• Most people would walk there</li> <li>• Too far to walk</li> <li>• New name Lixford;</li> <li>• Design logo on uniforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would make it hard for people to walk to school, buses would be needed</li> <li>• There could be a bus from Lixwm to Brynford but maybe too expensive</li> <li>• Children decide on school uniform</li> <li>• Design new uniform</li> <li>• People would have to go in a car to school</li> </ul>

<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	1
 Not Sure	5
 No	0


### 23.6. Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel, School Council

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More education will happen</li> <li>• Making new uniform for the school</li> <li>• They would have more friends to play with</li> <li>• The children will have more help with work if needed</li> <li>• Have more learning to do</li> <li>• Teachers will make friends with kids</li> <li>• More teachers</li> <li>• More learning properties</li> <li>• Travel becomes better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x pictures of buildings</li> <li>• The government don't have to fund more schools</li> <li>• More helping and more learning</li> <li>• School would join so there would be more children</li> <li>• More teachers after school</li> <li>• One school gets ____ One school making more room</li> <li>• More dinner people</li> <li>• More classes</li> <li>• More tables</li> </ul>

<b>What are the positives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New clothes</li> <li>• The children will make new friends</li> <li>• More eco and environmental things will happen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils will make friends easier</li> <li>• The popularity will increase so they can have more money for school trips and resources</li> </ul>

<b>What are the negatives if this happened (the schools joined)?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More pollution will come from the building</li> <li>• The building site will be a hazard</li> <li>• The people in Lixwm will be spending money to get their kids to school</li> <li>• Popularity could decrease</li> <li>• It will be further to travel</li> <li>• Bigger yard</li> <li>• Spending more money on the school, the people in Lixwm will have to travel further</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will take a long time to get used to new people</li> <li>• Making new uniforms for the school</li> <li>• It would be harder to travel if they lived in Brynford or Lixwm</li> <li>• Long queue for dinner hall</li> <li>• Uniform</li> <li>• Big line for dinner</li> <li>• Travel will be longer, 84 miles</li> </ul>

<b>Have you got any other suggestions you would like to see happen instead?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mascot for the school</li> <li>• Advertise to go to the school</li> <li>• Lixwm could be a nursery and a holiday club</li> <li>• The Lixwm school could turn into a nursey and Brynford stay as a primary</li> <li>• More land make new buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make work fun</li> <li>• Home school people move to the school</li> <li>• We could put posters up for Brynford and Lixwm school so more people will go there</li> <li>• Exchange student so people get a taster for their school and people may move there</li> </ul>

<b>Do you agree with Brynford CP School and Lixwm CP School joining together to make one area school?</b>	
 Yes	5

 Not Sure	1
 No	1