

Flintshire County Council Cabinet meeting, Tuesday 12 June

Information for Media Briefing, Friday 8 June

SECONDARY SCHOOL ORGANISATION

A report will be presented to the meeting of Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 12 June. For information, here is a summary of the report:

The informal public consultation was a 'live' discussion where it became clear as the meetings and discussions went on that:-

- certain options are more supportable for local communities, schools communities and local members than others
- certain options are more likely to be beneficial in achieving educational and community objectives than others
- certain options are more likely to meet Council and Welsh Government policy than others
- certain options are more likely to be affordable than others

Whilst the Council is yet to consider in full the detailed and rich feedback in the supporting paper to this report, and we should avoid pre-determining the outcome, a summary of a first position is as follows.

Holywell

An option to bring together local infant and junior schools as a new purpose built primary school co-located with the High School is an emerging preference for this area review. This would provide better continuity for learners throughout the full Primary School age range. Key consultation responses identify that Holywell also has a "once in a generation" opportunity to develop a new secondary school to serve local communities. The challenge remains over how to meet the expectations of Welsh Government to transform sixth form education for learners from the area.

Deeside

There is a high level of public opposition to amalgamation of John Summers High School with Connah's Quay High School. Consultees have presented a range of practical challenges and difficulties that make such an option difficult to support. There is strong interest in the creation of new Sixth Form centre at Connah's Quay to benefit learners from Deeside, for which there is funding available from the Welsh Government. There is also a creative option put forward by John Summers' High School Governors to work more closely with local primary school provision in a new community 3-16 arrangement. These options are the emerging preference for this area review.

Buckley, Mynydd Isa and Mold

Governors at Buckley's Elfed High School have requested reconsideration of options to federate or amalgamate with Mynydd Isa's Argoed High School; the views of the governors of Argoed have not changed since last year. The governors at Argoed High School are not supportive of either federation or amalgamation with Elfed High School. The views expressed in first community consultation in 2011 and the continuing view of the Argoed High School Governing Body represent major obstacles to pursuing such an option. Further consideration needs to be given to the options for secondary provision in the Buckley area.

There is a positive vision to develop and enhance Westwood Primary School on its current site together with a willingness to consider possible relocation of the Westwood Centre. There is an emerging preference for this option.