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| **CABINET** |

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| **Date of Meeting** | Tuesday 18th March 2025 |
| **Report Subject** | Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme -Proposal to Modernise Education Provision for the Flintshire Catholic School Network |
| **Cabinet Member** | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |
| **Report Author** | Chief Officer (Education and Youth) |
| **Type of Report** | Strategic |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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| This report seeks Cabinet approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultation for the proposal to amalgamate a number of schools in the Catholic schools network in Flintshire by:   * Opening a new Voluntary Aided 3-18 all-through school for St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on the St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school site in Flint. * Closing St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. * Closing St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School by September 2026 as the falling level of pupil numbers is making it unsustainable. This site would not be retained in the Flintshire Catholic school network in advance of the new 3-18 facility being constructed in Flint. Primary aged learners in Saltney who wish to access a primary Catholic education would be offered a place at their nearest Catholic primary school which for St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School learners would be Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School, Shotton. Historically, learners in the Saltney area who wish to continue to a Catholic secondary education transfer to Chester Catholic High School, which is a short distance away, rather than St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School   Whilst the new all-through building is approved and constructed, all schools impacted by the 3-18 proposal will continue to operate as separate establishments on their individual school sites.  This report seeks to open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders on how best to secure resilient sustainable high-quality Catholic education in Flintshire for future reporting to Cabinet.  This proposal will be reviewed in line with the requirements of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018.  This report seeks Cabinet approval to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for a new 3-18 all-through Catholic School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to a new 3-18 all-through Catholic for a number of schools currently in the Flintshire Catholic school network.  Approval for a capital investment for the 3-18 all-through Catholic school will be brought back to Cabinet in future for determination in line with the Council’s governance requirements.  This proposal is part of the Council’s Transformation Programme which has been developed to address its challenging financial position and longer-term sustainability. It will be captured in the Programme under the project section ‘P4 - Better Schools’. |

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| **RECOMMENDATIONS** | |
| 1 | Cabinet notes the contents of the report. |
| 2 | Cabinet approves to commence consultation with relevant stakeholders on the proposal to close St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and open a new 3-18 all-through Catholic school to provide for learning provision for the Catholic community. |
| 3 | Cabinet notes the consultation proposal includes for the closure of St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School by September 2026 in advance of the new 3-18 facility being constructed in Flint to address sustainability of the school. |
| 4 | Cabinet approves to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for new 3-18 all-through Catholic School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to the new 3-18 all-through school facility for the Catholic school network. |
| 5 | It is noted that any new capital project will be brought back to Cabinet for further determination. |

**REPORT DETAILS**

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| **1.00** | **EXPLAINING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO MODERNISE THE FLINTSHIRE CATHOLIC SCHOOL NETWORK** |
| 1.01 | The School Modernisation Programme is required because we need to ensure the following:  • That education provision is both high quality and sustainable.  • Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities.  • Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.   * That building assets are designed and built to withstand the impacts of a changing climate.   • Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure.  • Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces.  • Ensure that we can maximise external funding through the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. |
| 1.02 | The key ‘drivers’ or criteria for modernisation which underpin the above are:  • Educational improvement  • Resilient school leadership  • Suitable buildings  • Unfilled places, and  • Diminishing resources |
| 1.03 | The primary school portfolio as of January 2024 currently has 2,742 unfilled places and the secondary school portfolio has 1,124 unfilled places. There are currently a total of 19.33% surplus places (January 2024) in primary schools, whilst the national and local target is to reduce this level to under 10%. |
| 1.04 | The Council’s school modernisation programme has made good progress in modernising our school estate, meeting demand for places and expanding pupil places where required, including early years provision. The Council has been building new schools, remodelling, and redeveloping schools across the Flintshire network providing inspiring and modern learning environments for our learners, staff, parents/carers and the wider community. The Council has invested over £140m over the last ten years into the Flintshire school estate. |
| 1.05 | As part of the continuation of the programme, investment has been identified in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and Welsh Government. This would provide an area school for the current Catholic School network in the Council’s next phase of strategic infrastructure funding from the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. |
| 1.06 | In order to secure the required funding for capital investment for the Catholic school network, it is proposed in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham to amalgamate St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, which are amongst the highest ranked schools requiring school modernisation and investment in the education portfolio. |
| 1.07 | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School are situated in different locations across Flintshire.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **School** | **Address** | | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School | High Street, Saltney, Chester, CH4 8SG | | St David’s Catholic Primary School | 1 Saint David’s Lane, Mold, CH7 1LH | | St Mary's Catholic Primary School | Ffordd Llewelyn, Flint, CH6 5JZ | | St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School | Albert Avenue, Flint, CH6 5JZ | |
| 1.08 | On the 24th April 2024, Cabinet approved the submission of the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the next phase of the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment for schools and colleges programme. This included for significant capital investment for the Catholic school network. Welsh Government approved the submission of the SOP on 11th October 2024. |
| 1.09 | **Background**  **St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School**  St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School is located in the town of Saltney. The school is a single storey school of system build modular type construction. |
| 1.10 | Details of the current school capacity & pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | School | Capacity | Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024) | Pupil Numbers Including  Nursery (Sept 2024) | Surplus Places | Age Range | | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School | 152 | 68 | 74 | 84 (55.26%) | 3-11 | | Revenue allocation - £415,462  School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,852 | | | | | | |
| 1.11 | By 2029/30, St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 72.37%. |
| 1.12 | A condition report was carried out in May 2024 graded at condition score B (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest) the building receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas. |
| 1.13 | A suitability survey report was carried out in 2016 and graded the school at suitability score C (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest) and made further recommendations and observations. The location of the school, on the busy main High Street into Chester and bordering a residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers. |
| 1.14 | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £16k. |
| 1.15 | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School currently has an acting Executive Headteacher which has been agreed with the Governing Body whilst a review of the Catholic school network is undertaken. |
| 1.16 | St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of E. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 25,322kWh of electricity and 59,087kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 19,554kgCO2e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council’s carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.  The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however, sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible. |
| 1.17 | An Estyn review inspection carried out in January 2019 judged that St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School was judged as ‘good’ across most areas of the inspection framework. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations made by Estyn. A link to the Estyn report can be found below.  [Inspection report St Anthony's R.C. Primary School 2019](https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Inspection%20report%20St%20Anthony%27s%20R.C.%20Primary%20School%202019.pdf) |
| 1.18 | **St David’s Catholic Primary School**  St David’s Catholic Primary school is located on the outskirts of the town of Mold, situated between residential and retail properties. The school is a single storey school of system build modular type construction. |
| 1.19 | Details of the current school capacity & pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | School | Capacity | Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024) | Pupil Numbers Including  Nursery (Sept 2024) | Surplus Places | Age Range | | St David’s Catholic Primary School | 144 | 71 | 79 | 73 (50.69%) | 3-11 | | Revenue allocation - £405,961  School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,678 | | | | | | |
| 1.20 | By 2029/30, St David’s Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 64.58%. |
| 1.21 | A condition report was carried out in June 2013 graded at condition score B (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest) with most of the blocks receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas. |
| 1.22 | A suitability survey was carried in 2016, graded the school at suitability score C (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest), and also made for further recommendations and observations. |
| 1.23 | St David’s Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £148k. |
| 1.24 | St David’s Catholic Primary School currently has an acting Executive Headteacher which has been agreed with the Governing Body whilst a review of the Catholic school network is undertaken. |
| 1.25 | St David’s Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of C. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 22,765kWh of electricity and 118,312kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 31,474kgCO2e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council’s carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.  The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible. |
| 1.26 | An Estyn review inspection carried out in March 2020 judged that St David’s Catholic Primary School was judged as ‘good’ across all areas of the inspection framework. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations made by Estyn. A link to the Estyn report can be found below.  [Inspection report St David's Catholic Primary School 2020](https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-01/St%2520David%2527s%2520Catholic%2520Primary%2520School_1.pdf) |
| 1.27 | **St Mary’s Catholic Primary School**  St Mary’s Catholic Primary school is located on the outskirts of the town of Flint, situated in a residential area neighbouring St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school. The school is a single storey building of modular, and brick cavity wall construction. |
| 1.28 | Details of the current school capacity & pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | School | Capacity | Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024) | Pupil Numbers Including  Nursery (Sept 2024) | Surplus Places | Age Range | | St Mary’s Catholic Primary School | 317 | 232 | 261 | 85 (26.81%) | 3-11 | | Revenue allocation - £1,042,659  School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £4,381 | | | | | | |
| 1.29 | By 2029/30, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 29.97%. |
| 1.30 | A condition report was carried out in July 2024 graded at condition score C (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest) with the building receiving satisfactory to poor score with recommendations for improvement work in most areas. |
| 1.31 | A suitability survey was carried in 2016, graded the school at suitability score B (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest), and also made for further recommendations and observations. |
| 1.32 | St Mary’s Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £253k. |
| 1.33 | St Mary’s Catholic Primary School has a permanent Headteacher. |
| 1.34 | St Mary’s Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 51,980kWh of electricity and 206,712kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 58,345kgCO2e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council’s carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.  The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however, sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible. |
| 1.35 | An Estyn review inspection carried out in February 2018 judged that St Mary’s Catholic Primary School was judged as ‘good’ in three areas of the inspection framework and judged as ‘adequate and needs improvement’ in two area of the inspection framework. It was placed in the non-statutory category of Estyn Review. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations. The school received a follow up monitoring visit in December 2019, and it was judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection. As a result, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales removed the school from the list of schools requiring monitoring.  A link to the Estyn report can be found below.  [Inspection Report Template](https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/St%2520Mary%2527s%2520R.C.%2520Primary%2520School_3.pdf)  [Outcome of Estyn review St Mary's RC Primary School 2019](https://estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Outcome%20of%20Estyn%20review%20St%20Mary%27s%20RC%20Primary%20School%202019.pdf) |
| 1.36 | **St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School**  St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school is located on the outskirts of the town of Flint, situated in a residential area neighbouring St Mary’s Catholic Primary school. The school has been constructed across multiple blocks that vary from traditional brick-built ground floor building to three floor traditionally built brick build buildings. |
| 1.37 | Details of the current school capacity & pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | School | Capacity | Pupil (Y7-11) Numbers | Pupil Numbers Including  Post 16 (Sept 2024) | Surplus Places | Age Range | | St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School | 969 | 699 | 794 | 175 (18.06%) | 11-18 | | Revenue allocation - £4,178,871  School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,413 | | | | | | |
| 1.38 | By 2029/30, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is currently projected to have surplus places of 26.62%. |
| 1.39 | A condition report was carried out in April 2018 which graded it at condition score C (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest) with the building receiving poor to satisfactory scores across the blocks with recommendations for improvement work in most areas. |
| 1.40 | A suitability survey was carried in 2016 graded the school at suitability score B (where ‘A’ is the highest and ‘D’ is the lowest), and made further recommendations and observations. |
| 1.41 | St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £14k. |
| 1.42 | St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has a permanent Headteacher. |
| 1.43 | St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 245,094kWh of electricity and 808,630kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 239,717kgCO2e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council’s carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.  The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible. |
| 1.45 | An Estyn review inspection carried out in April 2024 judged that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School was judged as ‘In Need of Significant Improvement’. The school has drawn up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations and is working closely with the local authority and the regional consortium. Estyn will visit the school again to monitor progress about 12-18 months following the publication of the inspection report.  A link to the Estyn report can be found below.  [Inspection report St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School 2024](https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2024/07/Inspection-report-St-Richard-Gwyn-Roman-Catholic-High-School-2024-1.pdf) |
| 1.46 | **The Proposal**  It is proposed that a new all-through Catholic school (3-18) is developed on the existing sites of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and St Mary’s Catholic Primary School to improve and expand facilities, remove surplus places and support continued school improvement. |
| 1.47 | This investment would include:   * modern, flexible learning environments for all learners; * hall/dining area, and a multi-purpose learning resource area; * accessible internal and external facilities for wider community use; * enhanced outdoor spaces to support the full range of curriculum activities, including an outdoor classroom and a ‘forest schools’ area; and, * improved traffic management including consideration of an onsite drop -off facility (subject to further surveys and the transport and traffic assessment) and on-site staff parking; and * subject to funding a dedicated early years facility to support much needed childcare options for families. |
| 1.48 | The new school would be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 98 and 99 and would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and would meet Net Zero Carbon in operation requirements. The carbon emissions from energy alone from each of the existing premises totals approximately 349tCO2e. As the net zero carbon requirement of the Sustainable Communities for Learning, the buildings are required to produce zero or negative carbon emissions as part of their operational energy, therefore this total would largely be removed from the Council’s carbon footprint. |
| 1.49 | There are currently pupils attending the Catholic School network who use Home to School Transport. Given the proximity of the existing schools and the proposed development site, it is anticipated that this will change the transport arrangements for some learners should the proposal be implemented subject to parental choice and will likely increase transport costs. The transport costs have yet to be fully captured as we are not able to accurately determine these at this stage. |
| 1.50 | The investment would also include a review of safe routes to school.  If required, an investment in improvements to walkways, road crossings and traffic calming measures will be introduced to ensure the required safety standards are met. This is the approach the Council has implemented in other communities through delivering the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. |
| 1.51 | To achieve these proposals, the Council is seeking to close St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, St David’s Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and open a new 3-18 all through Catholic school to operate on respective sites moving into a single new school site to provide for learning provision for the Catholic community.  Following discussions with the Diocese the proposal is seeking early implementation of the closure of St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School by September 2026 and not be retained in the Catholic school network in advance of a new 3-18 facility being constructed to address sustainability of the school.  Primary aged learners in Saltney who wish to access a primary Catholic education would be offered a place at their nearest Catholic primary school which for St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School learners would be Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School, Shotton. |
| 1.52 | **The Proposed Site**  The new school building is proposed to be built on the existing St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, subject to necessary approvals, would include the existing St Mary’s Catholic Primary School site. Given the limitations of both existing school sites, the number of options available for a 3-18 all through school for consideration were limited. |
| 1.53 | Searches of the nearby areas of the Catholic School network were undertaken to identify a suitable site which met the following criteria:   * Have an adequate site area. * Have satisfactory access which is capable of being improved. * Considered the proximity to the current schools. * Be a viable development opportunity subject to a detailed feasibility study. * Be free from any flood risks which wouldn’t impede construction activities. |
| 1.54 | Following the site assessment, a new site which includes the existing St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School site and St Mary’s Catholic Primary School site was chosen as the preferred location for the new 3-18 all-through school. The identified site is of suitable size to accommodate a school building with appropriate external space and facilities, has good infrastructure and is in a prominent position in the town. |

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| **2.00** | **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS** |
| 2.01 | Long term the amalgamation of the Catholic schools would result in more efficient and effective use of resources with the school funding calculations changing from four to one school budget and significantly reducing surplus places across the Catholic network. Some other savings would also be achieved, for example because the new schools would be Net Zero Carbon in operation once a new build is delivered reducing the current repair and maintenance costs of ageing buildings. However other costs, such as business rates, are likely to increase. |
| 2.02 | One of the drivers for amalgamation is equality of funding for pupils and through the amalgamation of the four schools as the cost per pupil for the Catholic estate will be rationalised, as they will be funded on the same formula as other schools if they are part of an amalgamation. As part of the Council’s funding formula, schools are funded on the number of pupils and on other non-teaching costs. If the schools were to be merged to become a single school, the formula would calculate a single budget, which would be smaller than the budget of operating as four separate schools. |
| 2.03 | Short term there would be no significant financial implications for school budgets as a result of the recommendations in this report for a number of years as both sites would remain as they are until a new building is ready for them to occupy with the exception of St Anthony’s Catholic School who would be removed earlier from the school network by September 2026. |
| 2.04 | Should the proposal go ahead capital investment will be required. The estimated cost reviewed at initial feasibility stage undertaken in 2024 of constructing a new 3-11 primary school is £55.5m. If the proposals proceed this capital commitment would be majority funded at an intervention rate of 85% by the Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding the remaining 15% would be funded by Flintshire County Council prudential borrowing and land disposal receipts. Replacing all schools in their current forms on their separate sites is not financially viable. |
| 2.05 | Capital funding is subject to approval by Cabinet and by the Welsh  Government following the submission of the relevant Business Cases  and the receipt of finalised detailed costs which would be brought back  to Cabinet, should the proposals proceed. |
| 2.06 | The Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme is funded as follows:-  • Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA  • Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA  • Capital – Voluntary Aided Schools : 85% WG / 15% LA and/or  Diocese  • MIM is funded at an intervention rate of 81% Welsh Government  and 19% Council (through revenue budgets of both  organisations). |
| 2.07 | The estimated associated debt revenue costs arising from the programme are included in the Council’s Medium Term Financial strategy. |
| 2.08 | There will be associated school revenue costs linked to the proposal. As the project progresses and the size of the new school is determined, along with confirmed learner numbers following the completion of the statutory proposal process, the MTFS commitments will be updated and reported back to Cabinet accordingly.  Decisions to commit to capital expenditure investing in assets to deliver high quality services efficiently have long term implications for future revenue budgets. Consideration must be given to the programme and schemes within them are affordable, sustainable and therefore prudent. Capital and revenue implications will need regular review at key stages within this project as it develops as we are not able to accurately determine the revenue costs at this stage. |

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| **3.00** | **IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT** |
| 3.01 | There are strategic links to Flintshire County Council Plan for the period between 2023 to 2028, specifically the priority:  Education & Skills – Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities and  Learning Environments: Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments. |
| 3.02 | Due regard has been made to all seven Well-being Goals and the Five  Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.  This proposal would contribute to achieving the Well-being Goals by:   * Improving sustainability of school buildings in the Council portfolio through a commitment to achieving a Net Zero Carbon in operation school with a BREEAM rating of ‘Excellent’. * Providing new community facilities that can be used by local people. |
| 3.03 | This proposal would achieve the Five Ways of Working by:   * Creating a new school environment that can deliver the new curriculum for Wales as set out in the national mission statement. * Provide first class learning facilities for pupils and the wider community and contribute towards a healthier Wales by providing additional outdoor sport facilities for learners. * Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible to build the new school. * Engaging with the community on a thorough consultation with opportunities for all stakeholders in the community to engage throughout the process. |
| 3.04 | Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Ways of Working Principle | Impact | | Long-term | Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network. | | Prevention | Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners. | | Integration | Positive – ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children from varying backgrounds. | | Collaboration | Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies. | | Involvement | Positive - The proposed programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery. | |
| 3.05 | Well-being Principle Impacts  Against the seven Well-being Goals of the Act, the potential impact of the  report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:-   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Prosperous Wales | Positive impact  Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. Ensuring our schools are in the right place and of the right type. | | Resilient Wales | Positive impact  Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions. | | Healthier Wales | Positive Impact  Improved physical infrastructure and facilities which positively impact on the wellbeing of the schools and its community. | | More Equal Wales | Positive Impact  Equalities Impact Assessments are already embedded in school cultures. Opening up more education places to those who need them. | | Cohesive Wales | Positive Impact  School network widens/reduces its number of places for education provision through delivery of new and refurbished facilities of the right type in the right place. | | Vibrant Wales | Positive Impact  Enables new and refurbished facilities to improve, both curricular, extra-curricular and community use of school buildings. | | Globally Responsible Wales | Positive Impact  Capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships, work experience in construction. | |
| 3.06 | An initial integrated impact assessment has been completed, attached as Appendix 1. The impact assessment has identified that there will be a potential negative impact on the Saltney and Mold Catholic communities which will be mitigated by the delivery of new education learning facilities which serve the wider Catholic network. |
| 3.07 | Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council fully recognises the above, however it is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high-quality primary education offer which can be sustained and afforded. |
| 3.08 | An Integrated Impact Assessment which would include further detail on  the contribution of the proposal to the Wellbeing of Future Generations  Act would form an integral part of the consultation document in relation to the Catholic school network proposals. This would be available for all stakeholders to view and comment upon as a part of the consultation process. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment will also be undertaken as part of the consultation. |
| 3.09 | Equality, Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments will be prepared in respect of these proposals. The proposal will be published on the Council’s website in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018) (the “Code”). |
| 3.10 | The programme and all projects within the Councils School Modernisation programme are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a programme contingency. Any high-level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio. |

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| **4.00** | **CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT** |
| 4.01 | Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of  general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in  section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s  powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and  physical development of the community by securing that efficient  primary education and secondary education are available to meet the  needs of the population of their area. |
| 4.02 | Section 14 of the 1996 Act then provides that the Council shall secure  that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary  education are available in the Council’s area. Schools available for an  area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in  number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the  opportunity for appropriate education. |
| 4.03 | Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are  governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013  and the Code. Local Authorities must, when exercising functions under  Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant  requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any  relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here:  <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf> |
| 4.04 | Informal consultation with Wrexham Diocese Trustees has been completed. Trustees are supportive of the proposal. |
| 4.05 | The proposed consultation period, if it is agreed to progress this proposal,  would run from Spring term 2025 to Summer term 2026. Details regarding engagement opportunities will be added to the consultation documents. |
| 4.06 | The proposed potential timetable for completion of the statutory  process is set out in Appendix 2. |

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| **5.00** | **APPENDICES** |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment |
| 5.02 | Appendix 2 - Proposed Consultation Timetable |

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| **6.00** | **LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS** |
| 6.01 | School Organisation Code 2018 – The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013  <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf> |

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| **7.00** | **CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS** |

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| 7.01 | **Contact Officer:** Jennie Williams, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision  **Telephone:** 01352 704015  **E-mail:** [jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk) |

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| **8.00** | **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**  **These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office** |
| 8.01 | **Sustainable Communities for Learning** - Is a collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales. |
| 8.02 | **MIM** - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government’s new form of Public Private Partnership. |
| 8.03 | **Capital funding** - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings. |
| 8.04 | **Revenue funding** - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment. |
| 8.05 | **School Organisation Code** – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2018) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. |
| 8.06 | **Estyn** – education and training inspectorate for Wales. Their vision is to  improve the quality of education and training, and outcomes for all learners  in Wales and their mission is to support education and training providers to  develop a self-improving and learning culture through advice, inspection and capacity building. |
| 8.07 | **GwE** - North Wales regional school improvement service working alongside and on behalf of the North Wales local authorities – Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey. |
| 8.08 | **Voluntary Aided Schools -** Voluntary Aided schools are maintained jointly by Flintshire County Borough Council and either Church in Wales, or the Catholic Church. The school building belongs to the diocese, the school site is owned by Flintshire County Council. |