

Policy 10: Future Use of Surplus Assets

Given the significant capital investment needs arising from the Modernisation of Education and the need for the Council to focus its limited resources on the assets which it owns and must provide (such as roads, community school buildings and so on), disposal of sites that are being closed will form a key part of the funding package. Any receipts generated will be reinvested in the Modernisation of Education provision.

Where a school site is closed, the following approach will be taken:

1. If the site is owned by the Church in Wales, Roman Catholic Church or Trust, the future of the site and the building will be a matter for the church or organisation concerned, in consultation with the local community. The County Council would not want to take on any additional assets because it faces significant challenges in maintaining its core assets. If there were a desire for buildings to be retained for community use, this would be a matter for the local Town or Community Council or other community organisations to pursue and to fund;
2. In the case of sites owned by the County Council, the Council will consider proposals for retention of the building and the minimum necessary land for access/car parking / playing fields for community use on the following basis only:
 - (a) There is no alternative provision in the community for community events and meetings such as a community or village hall, church institute or sports club. Evidence suggests that communities have difficulty in properly funding and supporting more than one such facility;
 - (b) Responsibility for running and maintaining the building would be passed in full to the local Town or Community Council or other community organisation. Community facilities should be funded by local residents in line with the arrangements which exist in many other communities across the county. The County Council is prepared to consider transferring the freehold of the building at nil consideration;
 - (c) The County Council will sell any playing field/surplus land for the best possible consideration (including development)