



**Executive Board**

**Thursday, 28 January 2010 2.00 p.m.  
Marketing Suite, Municipal Building**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**PART 1**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>(A) DECISION ON THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION TO CLOSE HALTON HIGH SCHOOL -KEY DECISION</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>

*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28 January 2010

**PRESENTED BY:** Strategic Director – Children and Young People

**SUBJECT:** Outcome of the Consultation on the Closure of Halton High (additional report)

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the response to the statutory consultation to close Halton High so that an Academy can be established.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 Proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in section 15 and Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 as amended and having had regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to consultation IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following proposals be approved:-**

**(a) With effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 Halton High School is closed subject to the Secretary of State's approval for an Academy to replace the school on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010;**

**(b) All pupils in Halton High at the time of closure on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 transfer to the Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010; and**

**(c) The capital development of the Academy continues as part of the BSF Programme.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation following the end of the representation period on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.
- 3.2 In total 9 responses were received to the statutory consultation. These responses were from staff, governors and parents. All the responses received were in support of the proposal to close Halton High so that an Academy can be established.
- 3.3 Copies of the notes of each of the consultation meetings which took place on 16<sup>th</sup> December and 12<sup>th</sup> January are available and will be tabled at the Executive Board meeting along with the notes of each of the pre-statutory

meetings and each of the responses received to the consultation.

### **4.0 DECISION**

4.1 The decision-maker (Executive Board) must decide the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. Appendix A is a copy of the published statutory proposal. Appendix B details the consultation undertaken. Appendix C outlines the issues the decision-maker needs to consider.

4.2 The decision-maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposals;
- Approve the proposals;
- Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the school closure date)
- Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition.

Conditional approval can only be granted in a limited number of circumstances related specifically to Academy provision or changes in admission arrangements relating to another school. A date by which the conditions should be met must be set.

4.3 The reason for the decision must be given whether it is approved or rejected it should also include the factors and criteria for the decision. A copy of the decision must be sent to:

- Each objector;
- The Secretary of State;
- LSC;
- Local C of E Diocese
- The Bishop of the RC Diocese; and
- The Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

## CLOSURE OF HALTON HIGH SCHOOL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ACADEMY

The Council is proposing the closure of Halton High school to establish an Academy for pupils aged 11 – 18 years old. This will be remodelled on the existing Halton High site as part of Halton's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme.

### Part 1:

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF intends to discontinue:

Halton High School , Barnfield Avenue, Runcorn WA7 6EP on 31st August 2010.

It is proposed that all the pupils from the Halton High will transfer to the newly formed Halton Academy which will be altered to expand the age range and become an 11 to 18 years old Academy from the 1st September 2010. Existing provision will continue. There will be no pupils displaced due to this re-organisation. Halton High currently has an EBD unit, following a statutory consultation earlier in the year it was agreed that the unit be discontinued from 31st August 2011. There are no pupils currently within the EBD Unit. It is proposed that all existing pupils will transfer to the Academy where provision will continue. There would be no impact on travelling as the new Academy is being established in the existing facilities with a refurbished facility being remodeled on the site of the existing Halton High School as part of the Halton BSF Programme. This proposal is subject to the successful completion of the current feasibility project and upon the agreement of the Secretary of State to the proposed establishment of a Halton Academy.

All Statutory consultation requirements have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children and Young People's Directorate, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2WD. Telephone Number 0151 471 7543. A full copy of the proposals can be found on <http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf>. Within **six weeks** from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr M Reaney, Operational Director (Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources) Municipal Buildings, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'ME Reaney'.

Publication Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Explanatory Notes:**

All written comments received at the above addresses will be acknowledged. In January 2010, comments will be submitted to the Executive Board of Halton Council in the form of a report, copies of which will be made available to the public on demand. It will not be possible to send detailed responses to individual letters. After a report has been submitted to the Executive Board, all written responses to the consultation exercise will become available for inspection by the public.

Parents will continue to have the right to express a preference. It is recommended that for each of the years up to 2013 a degree of flexibility is retained at each of the three secondary schools in Runcorn to ensure all pupils can be accommodated in advance of the completion of the BSF Programme. The Published Admission Numbers (PAN) will be reviewed to ensure that by 2013 there are a total of 29 forms of entry in Runcorn with a total 870 pupils in each year group. For 2010 it is recommended, subject to approval by the Halton Admission Forum, that the Published Admission Numbers would be; Halton High - 180 (6 form entry plus sixth form); St Chad's Catholic High School - 240 (8 form entry plus sixth form); The Grange School - 180 (6 form entry); The Heath – A Specialist Technology College - 270 (9 form entry).

Academies are publicly funded independent schools with sponsors from the private and voluntary sectors. The establishment of an Academy is subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. It is proposed that the closure of Halton High school should be approved to take effect only if by the date of closure an agreement has been made under section 482(1) of the Education Act 1996 for the establishment of an Academy to replace Halton High school.

It is proposed to close Halton High School in order to enable an academy to be opened in the Halton High school buildings on 1 September 2010, subject to the signing of a funding agreement by the Secretary of State.

The sponsor for the proposed academy is the Ormiston Trust and the University of Chester. It is intended that the proposed academy will admit 180 pupils at age 11.

**Consultation**

**Appendix B**

Closure of Halton High School and the Establishment of a New Academy

Consultation on the pre-statutory proposal to close Halton High so that an Academy could be open was undertaken between the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009. There were no objections to the proposal. Executive Board agreed that statutory consultation could commence on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The consultation on the statutory notice commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and there was a six weeks representation period..

The following people were consulted as part of the consultation:

- The general public of Halton;
- Parents and pupils of Halton High School;
- Staff and governors of Halton High School;
- All Halton Schools;
- Trade Unions;
- 14-19 Partnership;
- Local Colleges;
- Executive Board;
- Other Neighbouring Authorities;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Health Authority;
- Children's Trust Board;
- PCT staff;
- Learning and Skills Council;
- Riverside College;
- Members of Parliament; and others.

Questions arising from the meetings were logged and have been placed on the internet.

The presentation used at the governors, staff and public meetings is available on request.

Each of the meetings outlined the objectives of the proposal and the previous consultation arrangements. They provided the opportunity for questions and concerns to be raised.

The response to the consultation is summarised below:

- Nine responses were received to the Statutory Notice – all in favour of the proposals;
- Letters were sent to all parents and governors detailing the date, time and venue of the consultation meeting. In addition, the public meeting was widely advertised through the local press, and posters were displayed at each of the other Runcorn high schools; all Children's Centres, Community Centres, Direct Links and the library, within the Runcorn area;
- Staff, governors and public consultation meetings were held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 as part of the pre-statutory consultation with a further meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November;
- Staff, governors and public consultation meetings were held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and a further governors and public meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Copies of the notes of each of the meetings is available on request along with copies of each of the feedback forms.

Copies of the letters sent to all those consulted are available, on request along, with a copy of the statutory notice. The consultation information was distributed to all schools, placed at key information points such as Children's Centres, Community Centres, Direct Links and also on the website.

## FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

## Appendix C

FACTORS	CLOSURE OF HALTON HIGH SCHOOL (SUBJECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ACADEMY)
<p><b>Complies with requirements</b></p> <p><b>Prior consultation</b></p> <p><b>Related to other proposals</b></p>	<p>Published statutory notice put together in line with advice and support from DSCF School Organisation Unit and Halton's Legal Services.</p> <p>Copies sent to School Governors and School, parents, all Schools, LSC Diocesan Authorities, Trade Unions, Trust Board Representatives, 14-19 Partnership, local Colleges, Ormiston Trust, University of Chester, Health Authority Representatives and Neighbouring Authorities and the Schools Organisation Unit. Published in local papers, schools and other public buildings and sent to each parent.</p> <p>Two rounds of consultation were held as part of the consultation on secondary re-organisation in Halton. First round in June and July 2007 and second round in November and December 2007. Full details of who was consulted, minutes of dates of public meetings and notes, Executive Board reports, a summary of the views of those consulted, copies of consultation documents are all included on the bsf pages on the local authority website. In addition, pre-statutory consultation was undertaken in November 2009 on the proposal to close Halton High School and establish an academy.</p> <p>It is proposed to close Halton High school on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to establish an Academy for pupils aged 11 – 18 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.</p>
<p><b>System shaped by Parents – new providers have the opportunity to share their energy and</b></p>	<p>Halton High school will be closed so that an 11-18 years Academy can be established. The Academy will build on the work of the predecessor school to raise standards and add value for students. The sponsors, Ormiston Trust and the University of Chester intend that the hallmarks of the Academy will be excellence in learning. The lead Sponsor, the Ormiston Trust has been established over forty years and works to promote the well-</p>



<p><b>talents by establishing new schools such as Academies</b></p>	<p>being of children and young people especially those in disadvantaged areas. The University of Chester is one of the older providers of higher education in the country with a strong learning tradition stretching back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
<p><b>Boosts standards and opportunities for young people and matches school place supply as closely as possible to pupils and parents wishes</b></p>	<p>The proposal has been supported by parents, staff and governors and there have been no objections to either the pre-statutory or the statutory proposal.</p> <p>One of the key aims of the new Academy is to be the first choice for families in East Runcorn. The Academy will have six forms of entry (180 per year group) and could accommodate up to 900 11 – 16 years old. With 200 Post 16 places. Projections for secondary places required by 2018 show that there will be an increase in demand in Runcorn. In addition, over a 100 pupils who live in Halton choose to be educated outside the borough.</p> <p>In addition, the Academy intends to encourage more students to stay on until the age of 18 through curriculum innovation and a wider curriculum offer.</p>
<p><b>Assists in delivering principles of Every Child Matters</b></p>	<p>The Academy will work closely with local partners to promote lifelong learning, raise aspirations and strengthen confidence in the local community. The Academy intends to have a strong community focus and contribute towards addressing the effects of deprivation and overcoming the barriers to learning.</p>

<p><b>Ensures sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils – including future demand for places</b></p>	<p>There will be no displaced pupils as a result of this proposal. The current pupils will transfer to the Academy. The Academy will have a capacity for 900 11-16 years old and 200 post 16 pupils. These numbers take into consideration the predicted growth in pupils numbers in Runcorn by 2018 and takes account of the number of pupils currently educated outside the borough.</p>
<p><b>Diversity</b></p>	<p>The Academy will contribute towards the diversity and choice within the borough.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum</b></p>	<p>The Academy will evolve to be a centre of excellence for Applied Learning with strong links to business and industry and have a specialist subject status for English and Applied Learning. It will provide a good academic/vocational balance and secure a strong emphasis on the proficiency in literacy and numeracy. It will develop an ethos underpinned by the major theme of Enterprise and build a curriculum supported by the innovative use of new technologies.</p>
<p><b>Impact on Community Cohesion and Race Equality</b></p>	<p>This proposal should enhance community cohesion. The Academy would have a strong community focus with an Extended Services Strategy that would seek to include strategies that could support the local community and also address the effects of deprivation. The Academy will include the wards that are amongst the most deprived nationally. The Ormiston Trust is committed to transformation of learning and the regeneration of communities in collaboration with other agencies.</p>
<p><b>Considers travel and accessibility for all</b></p>	<p>As part of the BSF Programme the current school will be remodelled on the existing site. The remodelling will increase the accessibility of the school. All current pupils will transfer to the existing school, there will therefore be no travel implications.</p>

<b>Equal Opportunity Issues</b>	There are no sex, race or disability issues arising from the proposal.
<b>Rural School</b>	N/A .
<b>Pupil Numbers and Admissions</b>	The January 2009 Plasc showed Halton High as having 528 pupils. There were 16 pupils with SEN. The Academy will have 900 places 11 -16 years and 200 Post 16 places. The Academies admission policy and arrangements are in accordance with admissions law, the Schools Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice.
<b>14-19 Curriculum and Collaboration – opportunities for students are not being reduced</b>	In Halton 14-19 provision is being developed borough-wide. This ensures that the contribution of a range of partners is maximised. Partners include the schools, college, City Learning Centres and work based providers. Through the development of collaborative arrangements the 14-19 Partnership is seeking to extend the range of 14-19 provision offered.
<b>Capital</b>	The current school will be remodelled on the same site as part of the BSF Programme.
<b>Views of interested parties</b>	Extensive consultation has been undertaken. No alternative proposals were submitted during the statutory consultation.