

**REPORT:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 12 December 2007  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Young People  
**SUBJECT:** Secondary School Re-organisation  
**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks to provide a summary of the process undertaken for the second round of pre-statutory consultation on the re-organisation of secondary and secondary special provision. It provides a summary of the responses received at the time the report was produced (30<sup>th</sup> November 2007) and identifies the key issues.
- 1.2 A further update on the outcome of the consultation, along with the recommended proposals for the next stage of consultation will be provided following the conclusion of the consultation period on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and the meeting of the Cross Party Members Advisory Working Group on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

**2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Executive Board consider the Building Schools for the Future proposals as set out in the additional report distributed following the Cross Party Members Advisory Working Group on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 Executive Board considered the outcome of the first phase of consultation on secondary and secondary special re-organisation across the Borough. It agreed to the recommendation of the Cross Party Member Advisory Group that revised proposals be considered and that a further pre-statutory stage of consultation be undertaken. It was decided that the second phase of pre-statutory consultation would commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 and run to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007. See Appendix A – for details of the revised proposals for the second phase of consultation)

- 3.2 As part of the consultation process the views sought included Elected Members, School Staff, Governors, the Public and Wider Community, Parents of Senior and Primary aged pupils, All Pupils in Halton primary, Secondary and Special schools, the Youth Forum, Trade Unions, Alliance Board, Neighbouring Authorities and Schools in Neighbouring Authorities which Halton pupils attend, Riverside College, NHS representatives, the Learning and Skills Council, MPs and Council staff.
- 3.3 Letters were sent to all parents and governors detailing the date, time and venue for each of the consultation meetings. In addition, all meetings were widely advertised through the local press, on the website, with posters displayed at all schools; Children's Centres, at each Direct Link and in many doctors' surgeries.
- 3.4 Staff and governors meetings were held in each of the secondary schools affected by the secondary and secondary special re-organisation proposals. In addition, consultation meetings were held with primary, secondary and special headteachers, secondary, special and primary governors and primary staff.
- 3.5 Nine public consultation meetings were held four in Widnes and five in Runcorn, with Diocesan representatives available to answer specific questions at one of the Runcorn and one of the Widnes public meetings. In addition, to the public meetings the opportunity was provided to book a personal meeting with Officers (surgeries). Five were offered in Widnes and five in Runcorn generally at the local Children's Centre or Direct Link.
- 3.6 A range of pamphlets were produced providing additional information on the key issues. These topics covered included:
- Feedback Summary from the first round of consultation;
  - How the pupil numbers have been calculated;
  - Zoning in Widnes;
  - Co-located schools;
  - Proposed Federations arrangements between Fairfield High and Wade Deacon;
  - All-Through Schools and Trust Schools; and
  - Halton Academy Pack

The pamphlets were available at each meeting and also placed on the website.

- 3.7 All secondary and secondary special staff were provided with the opportunity to book a confidential meeting with the BSF Personnel Officer.

The key issues identified through these meetings will be used to inform the BSF Workforce Strategy.

3.8 The response to the consultation up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 is summarised below. A further update will be distributed following the close of the second consultation period.

- 763 people attended the consultation meetings and surgeries;
- 64 feedback forms were returned
  - Widnes – 34 forms returned, 13 agreeing, 8 disagreeing and 13 with general comments or questions;
  - Runcorn – 30 forms returned, 19 agreeing, 5 disagreeing and 6 with general comments or questions;
  - 11 letters, (1 general comment, 1 objection to the Widnes proposal and 9 objections to the Runcorn proposal);
  - 20 e-mails were received;
  - 1 petition against the re-location of Halton High; and
  - One primary school response from pupils.

No alternative responses had been submitted up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

3.9 The main themes that have emerged from the consultation include:

- The closure of Fairfield;
- Location of Halton High (new Academy);
- School Size;
- Pupil Numbers; and
- Workforce

3.10 The Cross Party Members Advisory Working Group will meet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 to consider the key themes from the consultation and how to address these. They will evaluate each of the consultation proposals along with any alternative proposals that have been received. For each proposal the statutory consultation process will be outlined in detailed. The recommendations of the Cross Party Members Advisory Committee will then be distributed following the meeting and prior to Executive Board on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The re-organisation of secondary provision will change the balance of the numbers, knowledge, skills and experience of the staff required in Halton Schools. A Workforce Strategy is therefore being developed in collaboration with the Trade Unions.

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The re-organisation of secondary provision requires a comprehensive review of the transport and access across the borough to ensure there is safe, accessible and sustainable provision to all schools.
- 5.2 Building School for the Future will provide in the region of £100 million of capital investment in Halton Schools. Funding for the programme will be delivered as conventional capital grant and/or private finance initiative (PFI) credits. There will be revenue costs for establishing a team and ongoing revenue consequences of PFI. Exact costs cannot be identified at this stage, however, there is provision within the programme to produce a detailed business case which demonstrates affordability.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People**

By undertaking a secondary school re-organisation and entering into the BSF Programme the authority aim to transform secondary provision for all children and young people and improve the facilities for the secondary workforce.

### **6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

Through access to an excellent secondary school for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

In developing its secondary schools for the future the authority will demonstrate how it will enable schools to meet the school sport Public Service Agreement through its capital investment and achieve high nutritional standards and encourage healthy eating.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Schools for the future will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban**

Through the BSF Halton schools will become a major resource for communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community

facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Secondary school re-organisation must be completed in order that the authority can enter Building Schools for the Future Programme. A full risk register is available for the BSF Programme.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The proposals for the re-organisation of Halton's secondary and secondary special provision seek to provide choice and diversity, promote inclusion and access.

## **9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

Secondary provision must be re-organised prior to entry in to the BSF programme.

## **10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The initial options along with the alternative options were all assessed considered and assessed against the government criteria.

## **11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The next phase of consultation will commence in January 2008.

## **12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Documents	Place of Inspection	Contact
<u>Second Consultation Summary – Halton Building Schools for the Future – Inspiring Children</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website <a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a>	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Consultation Meeting dates (Phase 2)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website <a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a>	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Consultation Presentations	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources

Pupil Numbers	<p>website  <a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a>  3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester  Building – Grosvenor  House, Runcorn and  website</p>	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Notes of Public Meetings	<p><a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a>  3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester  Building – Grosvenor  House, Runcorn and  website</p>	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Halton Building School for the Future Pamphlets All-Through Schools & Trust Schools Federation Pupil Numbers Co-located Schools Zoning The Academy Pack	<p><a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a>  3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Chester  Building – Grosvenor  House, Runcorn and  website  <a href="http://www.halton.gov.uk/bsf">www.halton.gov.uk/bsf</a></p>	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources

**HALTON SECONDARY AND SECONDARY SPECIAL RE-ORGANISATION PROPOSALS**

**Proposals**

Changes to Post-16 provision have not been included in the proposals as these will be the subject of a separate borough wide 14-19 review.

**The proposals for Widnes**

**The Bankfield School (Age range 11-16)**

**There is no change to the original proposal**

Proposed to rebuild/remodel The Bankfield School on the current site so that it can offer state of the art secondary provision. The school will offer 1050 places for 11-16 year old pupils.

**Chesnut Lodge (Age range 2-16 )**

**There is no change to the original proposal**

Proposed to co-locate and rebuild Chesnut Lodge on The Bankfield school site. Chesnut Lodge is a special school with 50 places for pupils aged 2-16.

**Fairfield High School (Age range 11-16)**

**It is proposed to close Fairfield High School**

This is due to the declining pupil numbers and the viability of the provision  
To support Fairfield High School pupils' and staff during the transition Fairfield and Wade Deacon High Schools would be encouraged to form a hard federation.

**School Organisation**

This would be subject to a Statutory Notice\* regarding the closure of Fairfield High

It is proposed to introduce zoning in Widnes. The proposed catchment zones will serve particular designated areas. This will remove the need for pupils to travel East to West or vice versa to access secondary provision.

**Wade Deacon High School (Age range 11-16)**

It is proposed to increase capacity at Wade Deacon as a response to the consultation and rebuild/remodel and expand Wade Deacon to 1500 pupils 11-16 (Previously proposed 1350).

**School Organisation**

This would be subject to a Statutory Notice

**Ashley (Age range 11-16)**

**There is no change to the original proposal**

Proposed to co-locate and rebuild Ashley on Wade Deacon school site. Ashley is a special school for 120 pupils, aged between 11 and 16 with cognition and learning combined with emotional and social difficulties.

**Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College (Age range 11-18 )**

This is a diocesan proposal to reduce the capacity of 11-16 places to 1350 in line with projected pupil numbers and to further develop Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College by enhancing capital investment in its 11-16 and sixth form provision.

**The Proposals for Runcorn**

**The Grange Comprehensive, Junior, Infant and Nursery School (Age range 0-16)**

It is proposed that The Grange Comprehensive, Junior, Infant and Nursery schools establish a 0 -16 All-Through Trust School, providing 750 secondary places plus primary and nursery provision. The All-Through school will be provided on the same site, providing extended services and linked to the City Learning Centre and aligned with the Primary Capital Strategy.

**School Organisation**

This proposal would require a statutory notice\*

**The Heath Specialist Technology College (Age range 11-16)**

It is proposed to rebuild/model the school on the current site to offer 21<sup>st</sup> century provision and to increase the capacity of the school to 1200 places for 11-16 year olds

**Halton High School (Academy Age range 11-19)**

It is proposed to explore the development of a new Specialist Academy in a state of the art building for a minimum of 900 (maximum of 1050) pupils aged 11-16 plus provision for 100 Post-16 places. Consultation will be undertaken on the three options for the location of the Academy in Runcorn. The proposed sites are the current school site, Wharford Farm and Halton Sports site.

**School Organisation**

This would require a statutory notice to close Halton High and establish an Academy

**Cavendish School (Age range 11-19)**

**No change to original proposal**

This is a special school with an age range 11-19, which will continue to offer 90 places on the current site for pupils with profound and severe cognition and learning needs, and pupils with communication and interaction needs including autistic spectrum disorder. Further investment will be made to this provision.



**The Bridge (KS3) Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)**

**No change to original proposal**

It is proposed that The Bridge Key Stage 3 PRU continue to offer 30 school places, with capital investment to ensure it can offer a broad and balanced curriculum and deliver 21<sup>st</sup> Century provision.

**St Chad's Catholic High School (Age range 11-18)**

**No change to original proposals**

This is a proposal by the Dioceses of Shrewsbury and Chester, who are exploring the opportunity of setting up a shared faith Anglican/Roman Catholic Secondary School in Runcorn, based at St Chad's Catholic High School. It is proposed that it will be an 11-18 provision and that there will be 1200 places for 11 –16 year olds.

**\*Statutory Notice** – as part of the formal consultation a statutory notice is published which details the proposed changes, the timescales for response and who to respond to.