

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12th December 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director
Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Building Schools for the
Future - Statutory Notices

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report on the outcome of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Members Advisory Working Group of the 10th December 2007 and its recommendations to the Executive Board on the next stage of the BSF consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (i) The Building Schools for the Future proposals be agreed as set out below; as the basis for statutory consultation**
- (ii) Council be invited to support the Building Schools for the Future proposals as set out in the said report; and**
- (iii) Executive Board receive a report at its next meeting on any views expressed by Council in respect of the Building Schools for the Future proposals.**

Recommendation from Cross Party Members Advisory Group

Runcorn

1. The Grange Comprehensive

Recommendation for:-

A Change of the Lower Age Range Limit for Grange Comprehensive.

This would require a Statutory Notice issued in June 2008.

The four schools (The Grange Comprehensive; The Grange Junior; The Grange Infant; and The Grange Nursery) have proposed a new type of school known as an **all-through school**. The proposal is that an **all-through school** be established offering places for pupils aged 0-16 years old and seek trust status for the school. Further consultation with the four schools will take place in spring term 2008.

2. The Heath – A Specialist Technology College

Recommendation for:-

The Heath – A Specialist Technology College to expand to 1200 pupils using capital investment from BSF funding.

A Statutory Notice would not be required.

3. Halton High

Recommendation for:-

The closure of Halton High and develop a new Specialist Academy with provision for 11-19 year olds.

Further work to be carried out on securing a sponsor

Exploration of 3 site options for location.

To provide up to 1050 places for pupils age 11 – 16 plus 100 places for Post-16s.

A Statutory Notice would be required and issued in 2008 at a date to be agreed once a sponsor has been secured.

4. Cavendish Special School

No change to the designation of Cavendish agreed by the School Organisation Committee in April 2006.

5. St Chad's Catholic College

No recommendation

This is a proposal by the Diocese of Shrewsbury (Catholic) and Diocese of Chester (Church of England).

It is for information only.

The Diocesan authorities would be required to issue a Statutory Notice to close St Chad's Catholic College and establish a new shared faith school. The school would provide 1200 11-16 places plus sixth form provision. It would be located on the current site of St Chad's Catholic College.

A statutory notice will be required.

Widnes

6. The Bankfield and Chesnut Lodge

Recommendation for:-

The Bankfield to expand to 1050.

The rebuilding and co-location of Chesnut Lodge onto the Bankfield site through capital investment from BSF.

A Statutory Notice would not be required

7. Fairfield High

Recommendation to:-

Close Fairfield High. This would require a Statutory Notice.

The notice will be issued in January 2008 proposing the closure of Fairfield High School and listing Federation as a transitional safeguarding arrangement.

A hard federation will be encouraged and facilitated by the Local Authority with a view to it commencing as soon as is practicable.

A hard federation would need to be agreed by the two schools. It would have one governing body, a strong leadership team with an Executive Headteacher and associate Headteacher, a common set of goals and could continue to operate across split sites. Both schools would retain their separate identity, receive individual school budgets and Ofsted inspections and report separately on performance.

If a federation cannot be agreed alternative transitional safeguarding arrangement will need to be implemented.

The Statutory Notice will include information detailing that the last proposed admission to Fairfield will be September 2009. The school will close at the end of term in the Summer of 2010. All pupils in Fairfield High at the time of the closure will be transferred to an expanded Wade Deacon.

8. Wade Deacon

Recommendation for:-

The expansion of Wade Deacon High from 1125 to 1500 places for 11 -16 year olds funded through BSF capital investment.

A Statutory Notice would be required and this will be issued in February 2008.

The Notice will propose a planned admission number of 300 from September 2010.

From this date Wade Deacon will operate across two sites; the current site and Fairfield site until the building work on Wade Deacon is complete.

All Fairfield pupils at the time of the closure will become pupils attending at Wade Deacon.

9. Ashley School

Recommendation for:-

The co-location and rebuilding of Ashley School onto the Wade Deacon site.

A Statutory Notice would not be required.

Relocate and rebuild Ashley – 120 places for pupils with cognition and learning combined with emotional and social difficulties – aged 11 –16

10. Introducing Zoning Admission

Recommendation for-

The introduction of Zoning Admission Criteria in Widnes.

Consultation on the admission criteria will be undertaken as part of the annual consultation on Admission Arrangements.

Zoning is a widely recognised admission arrangement. A catchment zone serves a designated area in Widnes based upon historical and projected pupil data (allows variance) Ensures equal access for all children in Widnes and removing the need for pupils travelling East to West and vice versa to access secondary provision

11. Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College

No recommendation

It is for information only

This is a diocesan proposal, for information only, to reduce St Peter and Paul to 1350 places for 11-16 year olds in addition to its sixth form provision.

A Statutory Notice would not be required

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The revised proposal submitted by Fairfield High School received on 7th December does not appear to meet the current Government criteria. It lacks the following information which is considered critical to the proper evaluation of the proposal. The working Group identified the following information necessary for the evaluation:-

- Accurate pupil information
- Where pupils will come from
- Inter-relationship of 11 – 16 school and 16 – 19 Studio School
- Details of new governance model
- If other schools support the proposal
- Programme affordability – pressure on funding allocation if the model is to achieve transformational change and financial viability
- How this will help reduce surplus places
- No details of workforce remodelling

3.2 The proposal as submitted is incomplete and flawed.

3.3 A summary of the proposal has been shared with the Department for the Children, Schools and Families (Office of Commissioner) and in its current form they could not approve this as part of the 'Halton Strategy for Change.

3.4 This does not preclude Fairfield from making a further representation during the next Statutory consultation period.

3.5 The Building Schools for the Future Members Advisory Working Group meeting of the 10th December 2007 minutes are attached as the appendix to this report .

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 in Halton

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

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

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
-----------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Please refer to list in main BSF Executive Board report dated 12th December 2007

Name of Board:

Date of Meeting:

Report Title:

Author:

STANDARD SECTIONS – CHECKLIST

All reports must be submitted together with the following checklist fully completed

	Yes	No
Resource Implications The financial, manpower and land (buying or selling) considerations should be clearly detailed including any corporate implications of following the recommended course of action.		
Social Inclusion Implications Any implications relating to social inclusion/anti poverty should be highlighted		
Sustainability Checklist Any implications that affect the sustainability themes of economy society and the community and the environment should be included,		
Best Value Any Best Value implications should be included.		
Legal Implications Any Legal implications should be included.		
Crime and Disorder Issues Any crime and disorder implications should be included.		

Please review these potential effects, within the context set out overleaf, to compose your summary assessment

Summary assessment of Implications: *This wording will appear in the Board report.*

