

Report to: Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny
Committee
Cabinet

Date: 14 January 2010
21 January 2010

Subject: Building Schools for the Future: New School
Competition for Lowton and Golborne

Report of: Executive Director of Children and Young People's
Services

Contact officer: Sue Wilkinson 01942 486238
Email: s.wilkinson@wigan.gov.uk
Lynn Mappin
Email: l.mappin@wigan.gov.uk

Purpose / summary: To update the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on the progress of the phase 1 Building Schools for the Future Proposals for Lowton and Golborne High Schools

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: There are no alternatives with this report.

Recommendation / decision: It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet note this report and approve the proposed make up of the Panel established to judge the proposal as outlined in section 1.2

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 2 February 2010.

Risks / Implications:

| | |
|---|------|
| Financial: | None |
| Staffing: | None |
| Policy: | None |
| Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment | No |

been conducted?
Wards affected:

Golborne and Lowton West; Lowton East

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

For Cabinet reports only :

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|
| Categorisation of the report: | | | |
| | | | |
| Discussion leading to a decision | | Discussion | |
| Monitoring | | Decision | |
| Sharing for corporate understanding | | Information | X |

Tracking/Process:

| | Consultation | Ward Members | Partners |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | |
| Committee | Overview & Scrutiny | Cabinet | Council |
| 14 January 2010 | | 21 January 2010 | |

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

| Title of document | Which meeting did it go to? | Date of meeting | Copy available from? |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings | | | School Place Commissioning Team, Children and Young People's Services, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH |

Proper Officer



Date

6 January 2010

1. Background

- 1.1 On 30 July 2009, Cabinet requested that statutory notices be published to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and establish a new school through competition procedures on the Lowton Civic Hall site. Cabinet also determined not to submit a proposal from the LA for the new school.
- 1.2 On 19 November, Cabinet adopted criteria and a procedure, including the scoring of each submission by a Panel, to be used in the judging of school competitions. It is suggested that the Panel consist of Elected Members and officers dealing with the relevant areas of work: community cohesion; curriculum; school improvement; Every Child Matters; Wigan Schools for the Future and a Legal representative.
- 1.3 This report seeks to update members on the timescales and statutory procedures to be followed in order to progress the Lowton and Golborne proposals and provide early information on the proposals received in response to the competition notice for the new school.

2. Competition

- 2.1 On 3 September 2009, the first competition notice was published in a national publication which specified the LA's requirements for the new school and invited interested parties to submit their proposals. The closing date for receipt of proposals was 4th January 2010. The Department for Children, Families and Schools appointed consultants whose role it was to seek out potential proposers and invite them to a meeting to discuss the LA's requirements and provide further information on the competition process.
- 2.2 The LA received just one submission in response to the competition by the closing date. This was from the Lowton and Golborne Co-operative Learning Partnership. The submission provides all of the information requested by the competition notice and required by The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance) (England) Regulations 2007.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 On 14 January 2010, statutory notices were published to discontinue both Lowton and Golborne High Schools and there is a statutory 6 week period for people to object or comment on the proposals. At the same time, the second competition notice was published which outlines the proposal received by the LA for the new school and invites comments within the same 6 week time frame. Copies of both notices are attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The LA must hold a meeting within two weeks of the publication of the second competition notice for the proposers to explain their proposals to the public. This meeting will be held on 26th January at 7.30 pm at Leigh Sports Village and has been widely publicised.

4. Decision Making

- 4.1 The Cabinet holds the decision making powers in respect of the discontinuation proposals for both schools. Because the LA has not entered the competition for the new school, Cabinet is also the decision making body in respect of determining the competition. Both decisions must be taken within 2 months of the closing date of the notices, that is, by 25th April. It is proposed that both decisions be taken at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 18th March.
- 4.2 Whilst only one proposal has been received, Cabinet must be satisfied that the proposer meets the LA's requirements for the new school and must also take into consideration the comments received in response to the second competition notice and the public meeting.
- 4.3 At the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 18th March, a report will be presented which will provide Cabinet with:
- The comments and objections received during the statutory notice period on the proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools;
 - The comments received on the proposals submitted for the new school;
 - The views of the panel, detailed in the Cabinet report outlined at 1.2 above, set up to judge the proposals. This will consist of the completed scoring matrix, contextual information about the proposal and how well it meets the LA's specification for the new school.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that Panel and Cabinet note this report.

