

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

**Name of local authority:**

Wigan Council

**Contact address:**

Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH

**Name of the school it is proposed be discontinued:**

Lowton High School – A Specialist Sports College

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 31 August 2011

#### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows:

- adequate time was allowed: at least 6 weeks outside school holidays (5 May 2009 to 26 June 2009);
- sufficient information was provided: in the consultation document, at drop-in sessions for parents and the community and at meetings with the staff and governors of the school;
- it was made clear in the consultation document, on the council website and at the drop-in sessions and meetings how consultees could express their views: in writing, by completing the response form in the consultation booklet or by making comments at meetings;
- all the views expressed were presented within a report to elected members at the Cabinet meeting on 30 July 2009 at which the

decision to publish the proposals was made;

- all parties specified in school organisation guidance were consulted; and
- pupils were consulted.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) List of persons and parties consulted: appendix 1

b) Minutes of the drop-in sessions for parents and the community: appendix 2a

Minutes of the staff meeting: appendix 3a

Minutes of the governors' meeting: appendix 4a

Minutes of the meeting with pupils: appendix 5a

c) The views of the persons consulted: appendix 6

d) Copies of the consultation documents:

Consultation booklet: appendix 7

Consultation with pupils: appendix 8

Details of how these documents were made available are included in appendix 1. The student consultation was made available to pupils online. The School Council and the Headteacher were requested to publicise the unique URL in school. Students could access the consultation online either at school or at home.

### **Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to close Lowton High School and Golborne High School so that one new secondary school can be established.

Through the Building Schools for the Future Programme Wigan Council intends to invest in the Lowton, Golborne and Pennington communities by

providing a new purpose-built secondary school to serve these three communities. The new school will replace the existing Lowton and Golborne High Schools and will form part of a brand new state-of-the-art learning campus for children and young people aged 0-16 years. The learning campus will ease transition from early years to primary and through to secondary and is proposed to provide the following in addition to the new secondary school:

- A primary school for children aged 4-11 (it is proposed that the existing Lowton J+I school be relocated onto the campus site and enlarged);
- A Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0-4; and
- Community and Leisure facilities.

The reasons the new school is considered necessary are as follows:

- There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Pennington areas to support one secondary school with a long-term future. If two smaller schools are maintained they may not have sufficient student numbers in the longer term to have a robust and flexible budget, creating difficulties in the delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum.
- The creation of one school for the Lowton and Golborne communities will aid community cohesion.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Educational standards are not an issue at either Lowton High School or Golborne High School and both schools perform well above the floor target of 30% of students achieving five A\*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics. However, a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both. If the school is co-located with a primary school it would help children in their move to the new secondary school and to improve educational outcomes at year 7.

An assessment of the premises of both Lowton and Golborne High Schools has concluded that it is not viable to remodel or improve them. They need to be rebuilt in order to deliver the modern curriculum in a high quality environment.

The new school will be established by a new school competition and the local authority will not be proposing a new community school. The establishment of a new educational provider will increase the diversity of provision in the area.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable.

### Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The new school proposed to replace Golborne High School and Lowton High School will provide 300 places in each year group. This school is part of a wider reorganisation of secondary school provision in the east of the borough as phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Wigan. This reorganisation includes changes to admission arrangements to include a feeder primary school system.

It is proposed that the new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne will serve pupils living in Lowton, Golborne and Pennington and the admission arrangements will give priority to pupils living in those areas and attending the following non-Catholic feeder primary schools: Golborne Primary; Golborne St Thomas C E Primary; Lowton West Primary; Lowton J+I; Leigh Gilded Hollins; Lowton St Luke's C E; and Lowton St Mary's C E. Catholic pupils living in the area already have guaranteed places at designated Catholic secondary schools.

Current pupil numbers at the proposed feeder primary schools are as follows:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Y6</b>
Golborne Primary	45	44	43	43	47	38	42
Golborne St Thomas C E	30	29	20	22	24	30	28
Lowton West	60	60	60	59	60	60	59
Lowton J+I	19	17	16	17	16	19	17
Gilded Hollins	28	30	30	30	30	30	30
Lowton St Luke's C E	30	30	29	29	31	30	35
Lowton St Mary's C E	29	30	26	26	22	27	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>237</b>

All pupils in the designated feeder primary schools can therefore be accommodated within the admission number of 300 for the new school in the future and there will be flexibility for some additional pupils who live in the area but do not attend one of the feeder schools or live outside the area

to also access places if this is their parents preference.

Consultation is taking place on a proposal to enlarge Lowton J+I school to admit 30 pupils. If this goes ahead and all the feeder primary schools are filled to their admission number, the total pupils in each cohort would be:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Admission number</b>
Golborne Primary	45
Golborne St Thomas C E	30
Lowton West	60
Lowton J+I	30 (proposed)
Gilded Hollins	30
Lowton St Luke's C E	30
Lowton St Mary's C E	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>

**Pupils who will be attending Lowton High School at the proposed date of closure.**

Current pupil numbers:

<b>School</b>	<b>Y7</b>	<b>Y8</b>	<b>Y9</b>	<b>Y10</b>	<b>Y11</b>
Golborne High	163	151	166	154	161
Lowton High	180	188	197	225	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>374</b>

Current parental preferences Year 7 in September 2010 are:

<b>School</b>	<b>No: of first preferences received</b>
Lowton High	164
Golborne High	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>

Pupils in current years 10 and 11 will have left school before the proposal is implemented on 31 August 2011.

Pupils in current year 9 will leave school in June 2012, before the new school moves into its new premises. These pupils can therefore easily be accommodated in the current school buildings.

All pupils who are attending Lowton High School and Lowton High School at the date of closure are guaranteed a place at the new school. It is therefore predicted that when the two schools first come together in one building in September 2012 there will be more than 300 pupils in years 9, 10 and 11. However, the proposed flexibility of the premises and the fact that some

students will be accessing off-site curricular activities in years 10 and 11 will ensure that the school is able to manage the numbers.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable.

#### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

#### **Number of pupils**

The school provides 1150 places in total. The admission number in each year group is 230.

Current pupil numbers are:

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
180	188	197	225	213	<b>1003</b>

#### **Age range of pupils**

The age range of the pupils is 11-16

#### **Sex of pupils**

The school caters for boys and girls

#### **Special educational needs**

The school does not have any specially resourced provision for special educational needs. There are 17 pupils with a statement of special educational needs that names Lowton High School. The school also provides for a number of non-statemented pupils who are receive additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding.

The needs of these pupils could be met at any mainstream school.

#### **Boarding provision**

There is no boarding provision at the school.

#### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

All pupils attending Lowton High School at the date of closure are guaranteed a place at the new secondary school to be established on 1 September 2011 to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools.

- a) None necessary.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Not applicable.

**Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

Lowton High School provides facilities for the community, such as adult learning, as part of its extended services. These services will be replicated and enhanced at the new school which will replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools.

The proposed site of the new school is 0.87 miles from the current Lowton High School site so will still be easily accessible to the community.

The new school building will also provide a performance space and sports facilities which will replace the community facilities currently available on the proposed new school site.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Lowton High School currently provides the full core offer of extended services as part of the council's cluster model.

These services include:

- a varied menu of activities for pupils;
- parenting support;
- swift and easy access/referral to other services; and

- appropriate adult learning experiences which include: personal, community and development learning, family learning programmes and accredited learning provision special interest/bespoke courses to respond to the expressed needs of the community.

The new school will provide the same services and also have high quality childcare for the over eights.

### **Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed site for the new school is 0.87 miles from Lowton High School by walking route.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

The proposed site of the new school is well located to take advantage of sustainable travel choices, all of which will be explored in the Travel Plan that will support the site.

To assist in sustainable travel choices, many of the residential roads adjacent to the site increase opportunities for walking and cycling, as does the Public Right of Way network. There are also many pedestrian links through adjacent residential areas allowing pedestrians to permeate through these residential areas, which will be detailed in the Active Travel Plan for the school.

Officers will work with the transport authorities to ensure that there is sufficient capacity on public services to provide for children accessing the new school and/or will investigate the feasibility of the introduction of dedicated school buses.

### **Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to the following proposals published on the same day:

- Proposal to discontinue Golborne High School; and
- Competition proposals to establish a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

Not applicable.

#### **Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:
- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
  - b) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
  - c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

#### **Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Lowton High School is a mainstream school and does not have any specially resourced provision for pupils with special educational needs. There are currently 17 pupils with statements of special educational needs attending the school and a number of non-statemented pupils who are receiving additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding. All pupils attending the school at the time of closure are guaranteed a place at the new school.

The new school will receive SIS funding through the council's formula and the management at the school will decide how this is best used to provide for pupils with special educational needs as already happens at the two existing schools. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming Lowton High School will have their statements amended to name the new school. The funding attached to their statements will follow them to

the new school.

The local authority believes that the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of educational provision for pupils whose special educational needs can be met in a mainstream setting as follows:

- The larger budget of the new larger school will allow greater flexibility in staffing.
- The new school building will be fully accessible with wide circulation spaces and there will be room in teaching areas for more than one adult to work with students on a one to one basis.
- Modern Information Communication Technology will facilitate more personalised learning.

In line with the council's Accessibility Strategy, the proposal supports the entitlement of all children to access mainstream education locally.

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**Contact address:**

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**Name of the school it is proposed be discontinued:**

Golborne High School

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 31 August 2011

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3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

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- adequate time was allowed: at least 6 weeks outside school holidays (5 May 2009 to 26 June 2009);
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- all the views expressed were presented within a report to elected members at the Cabinet meeting on 30 July 2009 at which the

decision to publish the proposals was made;

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4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

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a) List of persons and parties consulted: appendix 1

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Details of how these documents were made available are included in appendix 1. The student consultation was made available to pupils online. The School Council and the Headteacher were requested to publicise the unique URL in school. Students could access the consultation online either at school or at home.

### **Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to close Golborne High School and Lowton High School so that one new secondary school can be established. Through the Building Schools for the Future Programme Wigan Council intends to invest in the Lowton, Golborne and Pennington communities by providing a new purpose-built secondary school to serve these three communities. The new school will replace the existing Lowton and Golborne

High Schools and will form part of a brand new state-of-the-art-learning campus for children and young people aged 0-16 years. The learning campus will ease transition from early years to primary and through to secondary and is proposed to provide the following in addition to the new secondary school:

- A primary school for children aged 4-11 (it is proposed that the existing Lowton J+I school be relocated onto the campus site and enlarged):
- A Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0-4; and
- Community and leisure facilities.

The reasons the new school is considered necessary are as follows:

- There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Pennington areas to support one secondary school with a long-term future. If two smaller schools are maintained they may not have sufficient student numbers in the longer term to have a robust and flexible budget, creating difficulties in the delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum.
- The creation of one school for the Lowton and Golborne communities will aid community cohesion.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Educational standards are not an issue at either Golborne High School or Lowton High School and both schools perform well above the floor target of 30% of students achieving five A8-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics. However, a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both. If the school is co-located with a primary school it would help children in their move to the new secondary school and to improve educational outcomes at year 7.

An assessment of the premises of both Lowton and Golborne High Schools has concluded that it is not viable to remodel or improve them. They need to be rebuilt in order to deliver the modern curriculum in a high quality environment.

The new school will be established by a new school competition and the local authority will not be proposing a new community school. The establishment of a new educational provider will increase the diversity of provision in the area.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:
- a) the educational or training achievements;

- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable.

### Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The new school proposed to replace Golborne High School and Lowton High School will provide 300 places in each year group. This school is part of a wider reorganisation of secondary school provision in the east of the borough as phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Wigan. This reorganisation includes changes to admission arrangements to include a feeder primary school system.

It is proposed that the new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne will serve pupils living in Lowton, Golborne and Pennington and the admission arrangements will give priority to pupils living in those areas and attending the following non-Catholic feeder primary schools: Golborne Primary; Golborne St Thomas C E Primary; Lowton West Primary; Lowton J+I; Leigh Gilded Hollins; Lowton St Luke's C E; and Lowton St Mary's C E. Catholic pupils living in the area already have guaranteed places at designated Catholic secondary schools.

Current pupil numbers at the proposed feeder primary schools are as follows:

Primary School	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Golborne Primary	45	44	43	43	47	38	42
Golborne St Thomas C E	30	29	20	22	24	30	28
Lowton West	60	60	60	59	60	60	59
Lowton J+I	19	17	16	17	16	19	17
Gilded Hollins	28	30	30	30	30	30	30
Lowton St Luke's C E	30	30	29	29	31	30	35
Lowton St Mary's C E	29	30	26	26	22	27	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>237</b>

All pupils in the designated feeder primary schools can therefore be accommodated within the admission number of 300 for the new school in the future and there will be flexibility for some additional pupils who live in the area but do not attend one of the feeder schools or live outside the area to also access places if this is their parents preference.

Consultation is taking place on a proposal to enlarge Lowton J+I school to

admit 30 pupils. If this goes ahead and all the feeder primary schools are filled to their admission number, the total pupils in each cohort would be:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Admission number</b>
Golborne Primary	45
Golborne St Thomas C E	30
Lowton West	60
Lowton J+I	30 (new)
Gilded Hollins	30
Lowton St Luke's C E	30
Lowton St Mary's C E	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>

**Pupils who will be attending Golborne High School at the proposed date of closure.**

Current pupil numbers:

<b>School</b>	<b>Y7</b>	<b>Y8</b>	<b>Y9</b>	<b>Y10</b>	<b>Y11</b>
Golborne High	163	151	166	154	161
Lowton High	180	188	197	225	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>374</b>

Current parental preferences Year 7 in September 2010 are:

<b>School</b>	<b>No: of first preferences received</b>
Lowton High	164
Golborne High	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>

Pupils in current years 10 and 11 will have left school before the proposal is implemented on 31 August 2011.

Pupils in current year 9 will leave school in June 2012, before the new school moves into its new premises. These pupils can therefore easily be accommodated in the current school buildings.

All pupils who are attending Golborne High School and Lowton High School at the date of closure are guaranteed a place at the new school. It is therefore predicted that when the two schools first come together in one building in September 2012 there will be more than 300 pupils in years 9, 10 and 11. However, the proposed flexibility of the premises and the fact that some students will be accessing off-site curricular activities in years 10 and 11 will ensure that the school is able to manage the numbers.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable.

#### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

#### **Number of pupils**

The school provides 855 places in total. The admission number in each year group is 171.

Current pupil numbers are:

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
163	151	166	154	161	<b>795</b>

#### **Age range of pupils**

The age range of the pupils is 11-16

#### **Sex of pupils**

The school caters for boys and girls

#### **Special Educational Needs**

The school does not have any specially resourced provision for special educational needs. There are 16 children with a statement of special educational needs which names Golborne High School. The school also provides for a number of non-statemented pupils who receive additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding.

The needs of these pupils could be met at any mainstream school.

#### **Boarding provision**

There is no boarding provision at the school.

#### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;

- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

All pupils attending Golborne High School at the date of closure are guaranteed a place at the new secondary school to be established on 1 September 2011 to replace Golborne and Lowton High Schools.

- a) None necessary.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Not applicable.

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

Golborne High School provides facilities for the community, such as adult learning, as part of its extended services. These services will be replicated and enhanced at the new school which will replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools.

Some of the facilities at Golborne High School could be retained for community use provided that a viable proposal is brought forward and subject to council approval.

The new school building will also provide a performance space and sports facilities which will replace the community facilities currently available on the proposed new school site.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Golborne High School currently provides the full core offer of extended services as part of the council's cluster model.

These services include:

- a varied menu of activities for pupils;
- parenting support;
- swift and easy access/referral to other services; and

- appropriate adult learning experiences.

The new school will provide the same services and also have high quality childcare for the over eights.

### **Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed site for the new secondary school is 2.04 miles from Golborne High School by walking route.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

The proposed site of the new school is well located to take advantage of sustainable travel choices, all of which will be explored in the Travel Plan that will support the site.

To assist in sustainable travel choices, many of the residential roads adjacent to the site increase opportunities for walking and cycling, as does the Public Rights of Way Network. There are also many pedestrian links through adjacent residential areas allowing pedestrians to permeate through these residential areas, which will be detailed in the Active Travel Plan for the school.

Officers will work with the transport authorities to ensure that there is sufficient capacity on public services to provide for children accessing the new school and/or will investigate the feasibility of the introduction of dedicated school buses.

### **Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to the following proposals published on the same day:

- Proposal to discontinue Lowton High School – A Specialist Sports College; and
- Competition proposals to establish a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA

or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

Not applicable.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

### **Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Golborne High School is a mainstream school and does not have any specially resourced provision for pupils with special educational needs. There are currently 16 children with Statements of Special Educational Needs attending the school and a number of non-statemented pupils who are receiving additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding. All pupils attending the school at the time of closure are guaranteed a place at the new school. The new school will receive SIS funding through the council's formula and the management team at the school will decide how this is best used to provide for pupils with special educational needs as already happens at the two existing schools. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming Golborne High School will have their statements amended to name

the new school. The funding attached to their statements will follow them to the new school.

The local authority believes that the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of educational provision for pupils whose special educational needs can be met in a mainstream setting as follows:

- The larger budget of the new larger school will allow greater flexibility in staffing.
- The new school building will be fully accessible with wide circulation spaces and there will be room in teaching areas for more than one adult to work with students on a one to one basis.
- Modern Information Communication Technology will facilitate more personalised learning.

In line with the council's Accessibility Strategy, the proposal supports the entitlement of all children to access mainstream education locally.

**List of those consulted at Stage 1 and the ways in which the consultation document was made available to them**

The consultation was part of the wider consultation on phase one BSF proposals and therefore the consultation document had a wide circulation. It was also available on the Wigan Council website.

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Way in which the consultation document was made available</b>
The local authority	Copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system.
Staff of all schools including Lowton and Golborne High Schools	The headteachers distributed copies to all members of staff.
Governors of all schools including Lowton and Golborne High Schools	Copies were posted to governors' home addresses.
Parents of nursery, primary and secondary pupils currently attending all Wigan schools including Lowton and Golborne High Schools	A copy was sent to each family by 'pupil post'.
Parents of other pre-school children in the area	A number of copies were sent to Children's Centres and voluntary and private providers. Managers were asked to place them where they would be accessible to parents and staff.
MPs for the area	Copies were posted.
Trade Unions and other professional associations	Copies were posted.
Local Diocesan authorities	Copies were posted.
Neighbouring local authorities	Copies were posted
Local Colleges	Copies were posted
The Learning and Skills Council	A copy was posted
The NHS Trust and the PCT	Copies were posted
Other members of the community	Copies of the document were made available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Halls</li> <li>• All libraries</li> <li>• Children and Young People's Services reception</li> </ul>

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Lowton High School – Drop In Sessions
<b>Date:</b>	21 May 2009
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm
<b>Present:</b>	A number of officers from Wigan Council
<b>Sessions attended:</b>	A total of 24 sessions were attended

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***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **2 Parents of Y7 children and 2 parents of child year group unknown:**

- Booklet did not explain totally what was going to happen to my child in 2012.
- How likely is all this to happen? Has the funding already been received?
- What will happen about additional costs of uniforms for pupils attending the new school part way through their education?
- Will classes in the new school be a mixture of students from the two current schools?
- Will my son's GCSE years be adversely affected?
- Will the same teachers be in the new school?
- How will the schools cope with the amalgamation?
- Questions about the wisdom of creating Trusts. How will schools be able to do this alongside looking after their own institutions?
- Concerns over Y7 and Y8 pupils.
- Will children be involved in the design of the new building?

#### **Parent of Y8 child:**

- I don't want her going to a larger school (son & daughter).
- School too big – too many students.
- Feels too far to walk.
- Too much traffic.
- Don't see why things have to change.
- Child loves it at Lowton and is being given a good education.
- Disruption.
- Getting communities together is the last thing on people's minds – getting people a decent education is the main thing.
- What about behaviour?
- What is the guarantee of all staff here having jobs in the new school?

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- What will happen to teachers?
- Worries that the children's education will be affected due to the changes.
- It is a pity either school can't keep Y10 and Y11's at the school and let their education run out at the current buildings.
- Concerned about Y10 in old premises and Y11 in new premises. What if course work gets lost in transition?
- Special needs – needs assurances around this.
- Will they have enough time to actually visit the school and get to know it if doing GCSE's?
- Transport and traffic issues.
- Need another access to the school from Golborne.
- Yellow buses – parent feels they are a good idea.
- In a few years time, there will not be enough places due to lots of houses being built.

### **Parent and of a child in Y7 at Golborne High and Mum works as a Teaching Assistant at Golborne High:**

- Traffic issues – very bad congestion. Got to make a new road.
- Not convinced about site – not right.
- It will be a very large school – may not be a good thing and may be daunting.
- Positive about a primary school being on site.
- Positive about a Y7 base.
- Thinks it would be a fantastic building and opportunity.

### **Local resident:**

- Not very happy about the primary school proposals – taking them further away from where they live.
- Accepts the transition will be better for the primary children.
- Wants to see the control go back to the LA so that they can have a longer term view.
- Worried about the physical location – traffic congestion.
- Make traffic speed limit 20mph to encourage people to not use their cars.
- Not sure that economies of scale should be driving proposals.
- Not happy about Trusts and Foundations – despair of people's ability to co-operative.
- There may be less opportunities for moving around (staff).
- Likes the idea of community facilities – extended services and 24/7 facilities.
- Likes the idea of Sure Start facilities.

### **Parent of Y4 and Y9 children:**

- Checking that the Y4 child will be in the catchment area for the new school.
- Concerns about transition arrangements.
- Traffic arrangements and impact on traffic congestion.
- Will there be alternative access?
- Safety on walkways and stairways – can the banisters be a little higher. Concerns over children pushing each other.

- Not adverse to the principle of the proposals – building would be fantastic.
- Integration of pupils – would help if not competitive things like sport.

**Parent of Y6 child:**

- Do you not have a plan B if you don't get BSF?
- Concerns over a rise in pupil numbers and possible overcrowding.
- Really concerned about the size of the school.
- Pastoral care is the key.
- School within a school system is much better than one large school.
- Staff / pupils need to know each other.
- Concerns surrounding transition.
- Essential that LA communicates with parents.
- Approves of the chosen site and can see the logistics.
- Parent chose Golborne because it is a small school.

**Parent of Y9 and Y6 children:**

- Could children in Y10, at the point when the new school comes into existence, continue with the old arrangements in the current premises?

**Parents of Y5 child:**

- Need to decide which school to send their child to.
- Concerns surrounding traffic issues.
- Agree, yellow buses are a good idea.
- Do not have a problem with the new school in principle.
- Main concern is the location of the new school.
- Golborne and Lowton communities do not get on. However, feel they will get over this in time.

**Local residents:**

- Issues surrounding trees, access road, location of building and parking.

**Local residents:**

- Concerns surrounding access and parking.
- Residents' car park – The Oaklands.
- Green Meadows – First Steps Nursery being built – opens September 09 (nursery and primary provision).
- Queries surrounding the existing Lowton High and Golborne High sites.

**Local resident:**

- Access to the site – lives at Beech walk.
- Use of car.
- Supports the facilities.

- Provision of bus for reception age children.

**Local residents:**

- Consultation on planning and design.
- Location of building and access.
- Raised concerns about the hours of use, cars, access and parking.

**Councillor:**

- Concerns surrounding access to / from Hesketh Meadow, states a preference from the bridge.

**Local resident – school teacher in Bolton:**

- Concerns surrounding the size of the school and 1500 places.
- Local residential developments – increased number of students.
- Access to site and car parking issues.
- Y6 to Y7 transition concerns.

**Local resident:**

- Green space loss.
- Nature / wildlife issues.
- Large number of pupils / students in a large environment.
- Access to site.
- Preference to smaller schools.
- Fall back option for site?
- Ecological concerns.
- Public use of space.

**Parent of Y9 child:**

- 14-19 Centres

**Local residents:**

- Trees.
- Access – Hesketh Meadow Lane.
- Very narrow road. Concerned about traffic

**Local residents:**

- Parking issues. Where do teachers park? Could residents have parking rights on Oaklands
- Green Meadows – primary
- First Steps Nursery

**Local residents:**

- Buses access
- Civic Hall
- Wind turbines
- PFI
- Community hall

**Township Forum:**

- Traffic – but no access from Slag Lane
- Happy with footpath upgrade
- Drop off zone – Slag Lane and walking routes
- Support facilities

**Parent of Y7 child:**

- Not got document via school
- Concern re transition to new school in 2012 when Year 11 GCSE year
- Staff – will they stay

**Local residents:**

- Doesn't like size 2000 pupils!
- Doesn't like idea of campus
- Worried about green places
- Access
- Worried about volume of traffic
- Worried about wild life
- Money spent on existing schools
- Keep two separate schools
- Rebuild two on existing sites
- Accepted that green spaces in Wigan or Pennington

**Parent of Y9 child:**

- Why raise standards
- 14-19
- Trust – talked about Governing Bodies
- Questioned numbers
- Access to site

**Drop-in session attendants were provided with comment cards during their appointment. Comments are detailed below:**

14 were received:

1. *Congestion, I feel another road would have to be built and even then I feel congestion could be a problem. The general public need to be kept informed about developments. Is the Civic Hall being knocked down? Is another road being built?*
2. *Resident of Pennington. I have concerns regarding access to the new site and the volume of traffic to the site. What bus routes are available?*
3. *Parents of young children. Opinion: Happy with the new school proposal have young children. Concerns: Having the right layout for the building considering the residents. Access: cards and students. Evening entertainment: Will the noise be contained? Would like to be involved where possible in meeting with residents, etc.*
4. *Access will be a major problem. Surely this proposal will increase the numbers who have to travel to the area. Do we need a facility this large with the likelihood of future development and even greater numbers. A school this size will have no identity. Can we assume even more housing developments will arise on some or all of the former school sites, hence even greater traffic problems.*
5. *Please consult residents. I don't think the new build on the Civic Hall should go ahead. The access for 2000 pupils and parents cannot be sustained. Congestion is already an issue along Newton Road and Church Lane and the Lane Head junction can result in tail backs at rush hour already. The Norwood Avenue estate will be even more of a rat run than it is now. Also, one of the last (or the last large area of common ground will disappear). No dog walking, no kids, kick-arounds. Also, prepare for the school to increase in size from over 200 to more, as the 650+ houses at the Slag Lane swing bridge and the four areas left by the 4 schools (2 secondary and 2 primary) are also used for housing – rolls won't fall, they will increase. Also big schools need smaller schools within them to operate successfully. This is a very difficult task and very easy to get wrong. Why does the school have to be so big? Why not have the primaries on this site only?*
6. *Local resident, not a parent. Concerns: Access to the facility via Hesketh Meadow Lane. Increase pedestrian activity on the estate.*
7. *We have an issue as a local resident to the proposed site with access. We feel that it is far too small an access road on Hesketh Meadow Lane to accommodate the amount of traffic this proposal will cause. As it stands at the moment, we have a problem whenever there is a large event at the Civic hall with traffic and parking.*
8. *Having now had the conversation, we are more comfortable that we understand the proposal going forward. We are still very unsure about the proposals for the Golborne and Lowton secondary provision. Particularly in the light of the school site. It is essential that communications are kept clear and give us a view of possible options as they become clear.*

9. *Local resident principal points of objection to the proposed development are:*
- *That it will destroy a large area of Greenfield site which at present supports a variety of wild life the land is used by local people for recreation.*
  - *A school housing 2000 pupils would create massive problems in light of vehicular access, particularly along Hesketh Meadow Lane which already carries a high volume of traffic. In my opinion this would be a prohibitive factor in the decision making process.*
  - *It would be far more sensible to demolish and re-build the existing schools which are already proven sites in terms of access and location.*
10. *I felt that the consultation meeting went well and addressed my concerns. The representatives answered all my concerns in a knowledgeable and professional manner.*
11. *I felt as if I was trying to be sold of this idea. I was not. I am very against this merger – are you on commission? Lowton high is a fantastic school that has fantastic education. This new build will cause a lot of children to be unsettled. As far as I am concerned, all that was being said, 'it's good for the community, bringing communities together'. In this day and age that does not work. I want my children to have their education at Lowton High not anywhere else, if this goes ahead, I will pull my children out of the school and have them taught at home.*
12. *Local residents: We are concerned about how much of the existing green fields and woodland would be lost. Also, the amount of extra traffic down Hesketh Meadow Lane which is hardly wide enough to take existing traffic volumes.*
13. *Please consult residents on access and position of buildings during every stage. No objections to the school as long as residents are happy with the access arrangements, ample parking facilities and noise reduction. Also that litter is kept under control.*
14. *During the consultation meeting no answers were available for any of what we think are the important questions, namely: how are you going to guarantee continuity of education particularly for pupils who will be in their GCSE years at the time of the proposed merger? What transport arrangements will be made to get children to and from the new site in a morning, after school and for pupils who stay behind for extra curricular activities? How is access to and from the site going to be improved as current access is unsuitable? How are the community facilities going to be replaced after closure of the existing schools? As none of the above questions could be answered, it is clear that a lot more thought and planning needs to be given as to whether the merger is viable and for the pupils who will be affected it appears to be a disaster waiting to happen. I am not paying for bus fares as now our child can walk to school which is what I thought the government wanted children to do.*

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Golborne High School – Drop In Sessions
<b>Date:</b>	04 June 2009
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm
<b>Present:</b>	A number of officers from Wigan Council
<b>Sessions attended:</b>	A total of 16 sessions were attended

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### *Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.*

#### **Grandparent and member of the community:**

- Concerned about travel distances for Golborne children
- Concerned about loss of open land at Civic Hall and loss of open land at Golborne and Lowton High school sites (public open space)
- Does not wish to see housing development at Golborne site
- Have reservations about PFI.

#### **Parent Y6 child:**

- Timing of consultation vis a vis school admissions process.
- Assurances about quality of staff leadership team sought.
- Concerns about pastoral quality of new school.
- Size of the new school is a concern.
- Why choose the Civic Hall site, as it is a long way for Golborne residents to come.
- Concerns surrounding the 14-19 Centres and whether there will be enough pupils / students to make them viable – need 800+.
- A new school will be fantastic – mainly concerned about transition arrangements and quality of staff.

#### **Parents of pre-school children:**

- Does not agree with the catchment areas.
- Possible loss of curriculum time due to travel time to the Centres.
- Distance of travelling.
- How do you know standards will be improved?

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- Concerned about standards.
- Feels that the school is too large.
- Does not like the idea of 3 schools in one.
- Worries about pastoral care and children getting lost in the system.
- Concerns about what will happen to the existing sites.
- Who will decide on governance?

### **Local residents:**

- Centralising schools serving different areas – does not believe this will benefit the children.
- Catchment areas queried.
- Taking away diversity by closing schools.
- Losing day time facilities of Civic Hall. Does not agree with sharing with school.
- Worried about housing developments creating extra children and there not being enough school places.
- Traffic congestion is a major issue.
- Losing smaller schools.

### **Parents of Y4 and Y8 children:**

- Huge issue – child will be in Y11 at September 2011 – concerns about continuity and impact on standards due to upheaval.
- Transport will be an issue if Lowton High is chosen as Y7 base for September 2011.
- Change management.
- Transition arrangements.

### **Parent of Y2 child:**

- Lives in Harvey Lane which is 3 miles from the new site.
- Does not want child to travel on school buses.
- There will be no local school for Golborne.
- Loss of community facilities for Golborne.
- The new school will be very large and parent feels that it will be too large. What evidence is there that large schools are better?
- School will not have enough places.
- Traffic congestion.
- Want child to walk to school and 3 miles is too far.
- Golborne is a deprived community and the school is a focal point that people feel proud of and it unites people.
- Will affect local businesses as the local school children will no longer walk past.

### **Parent of Y7child:**

- Travelling distances too far.

- Concerned about transition arrangements.
- After school activities will be curtailed because the children cannot get home afterwards.
- Want to retain school in Golborne.
- Community of Golborne being left with nothing.
- Taking away Golborne identity.
- Likes this school because it is a small and friendly school that has good leadership.

### **3 Parents:**

- Parents do not want the new school to be on the Lowton site. They want a local school.
- Parents want their children to walk to school and not go on a bus.
- The new site is not a central location.
- Parents want any new school to be on a Golborne site.
- Will add to traffic congestion.
- As children cannot get to school on their own, they will be late if they miss the bus.
- Concerns that their children will not get into the new school as it may be oversubscribed and Golborne residents will not get in.
- There will be nothing left for the community of Golborne.
- Lowton and Golborne communities do not get on.
- Golborne has not got the same traffic issues that Lowton has.
- Uniform and cost of buying new.
- Continuity for Y10 pupils at the change over.

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- Y7 transition from Golborne Junior School into new facility.
- Unisex toilets.
- Transportation of Golborne children to new school.
- Safe access / journey to school.

### **Local residents:**

- Local adjacent playing field – park, housing and ownership.
- Location of building.
- Access to site.

### **Governor:**

- Needs of high school age children not given sufficient priority, needs watered down to fit in with other aspirations – health centre.
- Logistics of new site; may be bus routes, and buses every 10 minutes, means children would need to start queuing for buses 1½ hours before school. Plus the cost of three children per family (no other choice).
- Out of hours access to 'non local' children, buses less often and walkways not safe at age 8-11 in the dark.

- Map of Pg 23 shows only half of Golborne, where in central location of all postcodes included – Some postcode areas will be closer to Ashton schools as crow flies – will admission policy change to exclude or include these areas?
- Future number trends for nursery / primary available in 2020, these feed through to predict to 2025. This shows an upward trend. Why are lowest point figures being used if it's a 'school for the future'!
- Where are sports facilities going? Both schools have good facilities and similar sized areas, (quart in a pint pot comes to mind).
- Mixing health centres etc with school environment can cause other issues. No control over who is on site; causes extra potential risk.
- Transition from primary to secondary – sold as positive. For many students, high school is a second chance, a clean slate. Vulnerable children, those who have struggled or had 'temporary issues' must carry the baggage all through their school years. Not necessarily an advantage as very few children encounter problems during transition phase.
- Land release: Recreational land is being taken for education; this should result in 110% payback in land. Where will this be? Bearing in mind the state park proposed will cover a fraction of the land being used. Will ex-educational land be available as land swap?
- Is there a plan B in terms of site. If after consultation, it does not meet requirements what happens?
- What is to determine a successful / unsuccessful consultation? What will impact the plans (not details) if anything.
- What are primary criteria for the site chosen? Access – not good (both schools after better access, with GHS being more central). Fit health centre? One facing GHS – on same bus route (mountain to Mohamed). Single site – why? To gain first round funding – all affected would prefer quality of education over speed. Why is speed so important – why do we have to be in phase 1?
- Does the value added equal £275 million to everyone, i.e. those outside the project team, teachers, parents, children, etc.

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- Funding arrangements due to changes in government.
- Rationale for the proposal queried.
- Transition arrangements in these critical year groups.
- Feels like choice has been reduced via 'organised learning' etc.
- Needs to know early on in Y6.
- 2011 transition arrangements discussed. Different options for transition.
- One school site.
- Two schools one site.
- Options for a different site.
- Transition issues.
- Unhappy and doesn't want it to happen – linked to transition at Y10.
- Transport and distance an issue.
- Catchment area.
- Cost and uniform.
- Extra traffic in Lowton – main access is Newton Road.
- Catchment – Queen Anne, Golborne and Beech Walk.

### **Parent of Y10 child:**

- Transition and disruption.
- Smaller school – does not want a large school.
- We do not know if it is going to work.
- Taking away parental choice.
- Transport.
- Staff retention and turnover.
- Taking the school out of the community as the chosen site is 'not even half way' (comment from student).

### **Parent of Y11 child:**

- Transition concerns.
- Options.
- Staffing retention – can we keep staff?
- Head teacher appointment process.
- Y7 – personalised learning.

### **Governing body representative and parent of child in Y11:**

- Site logistics.
- Concerned about buses.
- Catchment area: Harvey Lane, Golborne – will they get in?
- Risk managing numbers.
- Transition worries from Y6 to Y7 – for some children it is a new start.
- Access and restrictions.
- Value-added – for the children and staff and not for money.
- Continuity for learners not accessing the new school.
- Can we look at resourcing staffing from other schools with quality staff to provide continuous provision for learners not moving to the new build?
- Can we offer incentives for quality staff? Plans and structure need to be in place as soon as possible to ensure we retain quality staff.
- Catchment areas – non-denominational only. Where are the children who live further away going?

**Drop-in session attendants were provided with comment cards during their appointment. Comments are detailed below:**

**Three were received:**

- 1. Unisex toilets – not suitable for girls, they need their own away from boys. Bus routes, will they cost or will the school provide them, as most children walk to school. What will the class sizes and classrooms sizes, will they be bigger. What transition practice will there be for the children at Golborne primary schools. Why is this happening as primary schools numbers are rising.*
- 2. Unisex toilets: not suitable for young girls to share a private space with potentially older boys. Bus routes: buses should be provided by the authority and not at a cost to the parent. Classrooms: ensure that they are big enough and that there are plenty of them. Transition: a structured programme for Golborne junior children needs to be put in place to ensure their standards do not fall. GCSE pupils also need to be catered for. Do not really want the two schools to amalgamate.*
- 3. If this school gets to go ahead the teachers at Golborne High will have to re-interview for their jobs. They are going to instead of waiting to see if they get the job look for new ones at other schools. Meanwhile, our children while waiting for this new school will end up losing out on their education because their teachers will move on and they will end up with supply staff who many will not know what to teach that child to help that child progress.*

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Members of Staff of Lowton High School  
**Date:** 11 June 2009  
**Time:** 3.30 pm

**Present:** Approximately 33 members of staff  
Trade Union Representative - Unison  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Lowton High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

*Q. What will happen to the specialism?*

A. It is likely that the specialisms of both schools will transfer over to the new school i.e. visual arts and sports.

*Q. Could it continue with the double specialism?*

A. Yes.

*Q. The school will be built for 1500 places; will it mean that 1500 students will be allowed in?*

A. Yes. The new school will have a published admission number of 300 and will have admission criteria to apply if it is oversubscribed. The Appeals Panel could over-admit.

*Q. Are there plans for moving schools to the new site in 2012? Would you move all 5 year groups together?*

A. We would prefer to move all together over summer with a couple of days either side of the holidays to move equipment and furniture.

*Q. Will you take the existing Y10 pupils to the new site though?*

A. We will plan the transition. There are a number of different ways to do this. The head teacher and management team will be involved in the transition.

*Q. Is it possible to have more than one site operating in 2012?*

A. We prefer just one site for 2012.

*S. We need to explore other ways of doing this.*

A. The head designate will formulate a transition plan in consultation with the LA.

*Q. Half of the children come from Pennington. Where will the cut off be?*

A. We haven't consulted yet on admissions. We are doing detailed work on this. We cannot do one school in isolation. No decisions have been taken.

*Q. Will the sibling rule still exist?*

A. Yes. We are not looking to change this.

*Q. Given the current economic situation and we do not get funding, is there an alternative plan?*

A. A good source tells us a decision on funding is due in a few weeks. We will not take the report to Cabinet until we hear about funding. We are expecting a July announcement on LA's who have succeeded.

*Q. Before 2011 a new staffing structure will be established. How it will work in practice?*

A. Existing staff will be ring-fenced and we will continue to work with all other Wigan schools so that they will have early consideration for any available vacancies.

*Q. Will there be redundancies with protection of pensions?*

A. We are not currently considering this as we want to protect staff first and foremost.

*Q. We were told differently at the Gilded Hollins parent drop in. It was said that there will be packages on the table.*

A. The exact same message was given at Gilded Hollins staff and governors meeting. We will look at the notes from the parent drop-in to see if we can clear this up.

*Q. Will teaching learning responsibilities be protected?*

A. The normal 3 year protection will apply.

*Q. How can we have priority for other vacancies if we are not made redundant?*

- A. We are asking all schools to sign up to the staffing protocol.
- S. *But then there will be no security for anyone. People will not wait for 2 years to find out if they have a job or not, they will move before then.*
- A. A temporary governing body will be established in March 2010. The head designate will be in post as soon as possible and will draw up a staffing structure to be in place 12 months before schools are closed and a new one opened. There will be restructuring across the Borough and all our neighbouring LA's are doing the same. This is a national programme and all staff are going through similar processes elsewhere. Opportunities can come out of this change process. Human Resources and Unions will pick up any threats.
- S. *Unison TU Representative: The staffing protocol does not guarantee you a job. You will have to be interviewed for a post and will have to apply for a post in the new school. Teachers need to get Unions to insist that if you have a job today, you will have one at the end of the process.*
- A. Lowton High and Golborne High will no longer exist. The new school will have a new structure.
- S. *People could be slotted into the structure.*
- A. There will be promotion opportunities.
- S. *That does not convince us. There will only be one head teacher, etc.*
- A. There could be jobs in the new schools that are not currently occupied by existing schools because of the changing curriculum. We cannot instruct your new governing body to appoint existing staff into ring-fenced posts, but would expect them to do so and would investigate if they didn't. We cannot say that 100% of jobs will be filled by existing staff. The LA cannot give guarantees as it will be up to the governing body. Past experience is that governing bodies do appoint to ring-fenced posts and the vast majority of staff get what they wanted and some got a promotion. The governing body will decide whether to ring-fence the headship post to the two existing head teachers. The LA will be there to oversee the appointment process. There would need to be a very good reason not to appoint existing staff.
- Q. *There would be 2 heads of maths, for example. What will happen to the one that is not appointed to the new head of maths?*
- A. They could apply for other posts in school and will get 3 years protection if necessary.
- Q. *How will the governing body be made up?*
- A. Prescribed categories apply depending on what type of school. They would be drawn in the first instance from Golborne and Lowton governors.
- Q. *What about appointments?*
- A. The governing body can decide on the appointment of the head teacher.

Other staff will be ring-fenced as the school has signed up to the protocol. There would have to be a very good reason not to appoint one of the ring-fenced staff.

- S. *We still feel like there are inconsistencies with the message and it is only fair to minute this. Whilst every attempt will be made to appoint staff from the two existing schools to the new school, no categorical assurance can be given.*
- Q. *What is the general feeling about the proposal?*
- A. There are still two weeks to go. Responses are coming in. Some are favourable, some have concerns, as you would expect as we are only at the early stages of detail.
- Q. *Will the primary and secondary school be separate?*
- A. We will arrange a series of visits to a 0 to 19 campus. Reserve judgement until you have seen them and spoken to those who work in them.
- S. *The quicker we can get the governing body set up and the head teacher appointed the better it will be for everyone. There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment. When will it happen?*
- A. The competition will run from September to December and notices will be issued from January to February 2010. The proposals will be determined in March 2010. We cannot pre-empt the outcome of the consultation. We cannot do anything before then.
- S. *Everyone is in limbo at the moment and there is no guarantee of a job. The staff will start to jump ship.*
- A. In a previous LA I was involved in a major reorganisation involved 2000 staff. A very tiny proportion left as a direct result of the change (jumped ship).
- Q. *What percentage of staff would you envisage would be employed by the new school?*
- A. We did not have any compulsory redundancies in the previous example. The alternative is if we do nothing we will still have falling rolls, a reducing budget and the staff will still be at risk year on year. Moving to the new school is a managed process.
- Q. *Who is responsible for setting up the new governing body?*
- A. The LA will work with the promoters of the new school to establish a new governing body.
- Q. *The new school will be on a reducing roll anyway because of lower numbers coming in and larger year groups moving out.*
- A. We will be budgeting and plan for a 300 intake. There will be a staffing pool until the school actually closes. If there are no jobs at the end, then there may be redundancies.
- Q. *Will training be offered for interviews?*

A. Yes. This will be part of the support package.

Q. *Will staff have any say in the design of the new building?*

A. If we get on the programme and Cabinet decides to proceed with a competition, the LA will be given a series of design workshops involving students and staff and the wider community. A series of visits to other premises will be arranged. This will take around 9 months.

Q. *How many forms of entry will it be?*

A. It depends on the budget and how the school is organised. The LA will work with the school to see what influence staff can have over the transition to new learning and how this impacts on the premises design.

Q. *Isn't the timescale optimistic for the new school?*

A. We have a Learning Education Partnership consortium in place, design teams, ICT specialists, etc. The team is in place to deliver the new premises including working up the design. We do not have to procure and tender as this is already in place.

Q. *This school has just over 1000 pupils and Golborne has 700 plus. Are you saying that the school is only going to be build for 10 years because you cannot foresee the future? What happens if the birth rate goes up?*

A. We can only deal with what we know at present and this is what we are charged with doing.

Q. *How much competition is there likely to be for the new school? Do you think the Trust will get it?*

A. The DCSF promotes competitions and approaches potential sponsors.

Q. *What happens to employment rights under a Trust school?*

A. This is done as a TUPE transfer – all rights transfer to your new employer. New staff may have different conditions, if the Trust decides it wants this. Pensions will continue with the same provider. We already have Hindley High as a Foundation school where staff have been through the same process and were TUPE'd over. Schools will still be bound by national conditions of service.

S. *Trust and Foundation schools are not part of the national conditions of service.*

A. Yes they are. The Foundation employs the staff.

S. *But conditions of service can be changed months later. PFI will own the school and they will want to make a profit.*

A. The employer will remain the governing body of the school. The private funder will make no difference to employment rights.

S. *Lots of staff feel that a school of 1500 is too large and what about traffic congestion?  
People send their children to private schools as they feel they get lost in a larger school.*

A. Learning and teaching depends on the organisation and structure rather than the size.  
OFSTED has no evidence that larger schools have a negative impact. The head teacher will need a large school to be able to offer a wide range of options at KS4.

We are working with Highways engineers on transport and travel and we will have to improve routes in order to succeed at the planning stage.

Meeting ended at 4:50pm.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Members of Staff of Golborne High School  
**Date:** 14 May 2009  
**Time:** 3.30 pm

**Present:** Approximately 50 members of staff  
Trade Union representative  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Golborne High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

- Q. Rationalisation of intake number will begin in 2010. School will be oversized in higher year groups.*
- A. The admission number will be reduced in 2011 and there will be larger year groups from Y9 to Y11. Some pupils will be at the 14-19 Centres. It is estimated that there will not be more than 10% overcrowding.
- Q. But the reducing rolls situation will cause redundancies.*
- A. Rolls are falling anyway. There is a transition process that we need to work with schools on. There will be opportunities for staff at 14-19 Centres. Proposals will come into affect in 2011. The head teacher will be appointed on year ahead to decide on the staffing structure with a temporary governing body. No-one is in a position to draw up a staffing structure yet. The LA will support the school through this process.
- Q. A new head teacher will have to manage the 10% reduction in staff – will there be a transition budget?*
- A. There will be a split site allowance for 2011. There are lots of different structures at LA level to support staff through this process. It is a borough wide process and is happening elsewhere.

S. *You are talking about two very lean schools in budget terms. There is a serious budgetary situation to start off with.*

Q. *Will there be voluntary redundancy or early redundancy?*

A. We will try to achieve reductions as far as possible through natural wastage. There are budgetary implications for voluntary redundancy and early redundancy. We will use the staffing pool to deal with the staff.

S. *Those over 60 can't be made to go and the LA will have to pay voluntary redundancy.*

Q. *When will the new staffing structure be known?*

A. In an ideal world, if we get a decision in March 2010, we can then establish a temporary governing body. The first job would be to appoint a head teacher for September 2010. The head Teacher's role is to plan for a new school including budgets and curriculum and the staffing structure.

Q. *Is the Head Teacher's job open to anyone or is it ring-fenced for existing head teachers?*

A. This will be a decision for the governing body to make.

Q. *How will the governing body be established for the new school?*

A. It depends on who promotes the new school.

Q. *Who would set the admissions criteria for the new school?*

A. It is a community school at present, so the LA will set the criteria based on associated areas to provide more certainty for parents. If the school becomes foundation, it will be its own admitting authority but it must consult with the LA and other schools and comply with Admissions Code of Practice.

Q. *What about transport arrangements for the new school?*

A. We have already looked at where pupils come from for both schools and where they will come from in the future. We have details of all current public transport and are looking at yellow buses. We will also consider for a limited period, assisting with the costs of transport. We are looking at the details of entrances to the school with Highways and have identified a network of cycle paths that will need updating (surface and lighting).

Q. *Hesketh Meadow Road is not wide and there a young families moving into the area with 2+ cars. Can an entrance be off Sandy Lane?*

A. We are looking at all the options at the moment, and appreciate the point you are making.

Q. *Is there money for roads in BSF?*

A. We have to have a traffic plan.

*Q. Is it cast in stone that it will be on that site?*

A. We are consulting on that basis at the moment. We have considered 7 sites in the area and the Civic Hall site best meets the criteria.

*Q. 14-19 Centre staffing – how will it work?*

A. There will be flexible staffing contracts.

*S. Concerns about how the staffing pool will operate.*

A. The staffing pool will act as a 'clearing house' for vacancies.

*Q. If people go into the pool and don't get a post that is vacant, what happens?*

A. Ring-fencing will apply to a wider pool. This is all part of phase one of the consultation process and we will actively try to seek employment for people. A significant percentage of schools have signed up to the staffing pool. Lowton and Golborne staff will get the first call at the new school; and then vacancies will be opened to a wider pool. Displacement will be minimal at first. This will happen over a period of years.

*Q. Will people have to be interviewed?*

A. It is up to the governing body.

*Q. What happens to those that can't get a job after the pool has finished?*

A. The process is designed to minimise redundancies, but there may still be some.

*Q. What happens if the governors do not sign up to the pool? Do we have to apply for our own jobs in competition with staff at Lowton High? For example, two heads of department going for one post?*

A. Yes, for new posts in new structures. The vast majority of schools have signed up to the protocol and we want them all in by the end of summer term. Staff will be in a worse position if they do not sign up as they can't then take advantage of being in the pool.

*Q. Who will the governing body be and how will it be decided?*

A. If the school becomes a joint Trust with Lowton High then it can enter a competition to run the new school and, if it is successful, the Trust will decide the governing body structure.

*Q. What about part time staff?*

A. It is difficult to imagine that part time staff will not be a feature of the new school.

*Q. We thought the two schools were being 'merged' – this is the first time we have heard of closure.*

A. We cannot merge the schools. We either have to close one and extend the other, or close both, and open a new school. The latter route is fairer to both sets of staff. We will look to match the skills of staff to the posts.

Q. *If there is a vacancy within the pool, how do you apply? It seems unfair to have to apply for our own job so formally.*

A. We still intend to have a formal process. We will ring-fence posts to people and there will be a formal selection process. We may be able to identify posts in the new school where people can be assimilated. Where 2 people are doing a job and only one vacancy, then they will be in a competitive situation. A 1500 school place with a new structure should offer more opportunities for staff with more allowances and room for promotion.

Q. *Should people be looking around for another job now?*

A. There are 3 phases in Wigan with further reorganisation, but also, all our neighbouring authorities are going through a similar process, but all do not have a staffing pool.

Q. *What are the criteria for winning a bid for a new school?*

A. The LA will set out what it wants and judge the bid if they don't enter themselves.

Q. *Suppose the governors that they appoint do not sign up to the pool?*

A. I do not think that it will get to that point.

Q. *Are you saying that if the joint Trust puts in they will win it?*

A. We cannot give that guarantee. It is Cabinet's decision.

Q. *St Helens BSF are asking staff to be more flexible in a working day so that they can do evening lessons.*

A. That is something that could happen, but it will be up to the governing body.

Q. *If we are offered a job through the pool that we do not really want, what happens then?*

A. The choice is yours. If you refuse it, consideration will be given to whether it was suitable or not and whether you could have redundancy.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Governors of Lowton High School  
**Date:** 11 June 2009  
**Time:** 5pm

**Present:** 3 Governors of Lowton High School  
Head Teacher Lowton High School  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Lowton High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, governors were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

*Q. Should there not be independent employment advice?*

A. The LA is independent and has no vested interest. The advice we give is based on experience and it would be difficult to find that level of experience anywhere.

*Q. But you can get policies where they will give you individual advice.*

A. Yes. But we do not know why you would need it. The LA has always advised schools. The school would have to purchase this advice.

*Q. What happens if the funds are not available? Is there an alternative plan?*

A. The LA will find out in June or July if they are invited to join the first phase. Cabinet will only move forwards if we have got on the programme. If we can only join the programme next spring, Cabinet will not want to move forward.

*Q. But if we are not invited in Phase 1, surely a strategy is in place for reporting back to all those with an interest in the school?*

- A. We cannot build a new school without the funds. We need to have structures in place for when we do get on the programme.
- Q. *Is it still your intention to create a new school on split sites (if we cannot get funding)?*
- A. We would need to explore this with the head teachers.
- S. *It would not make sense to have a split site school. If the funding does not come in, we are back to square one. The LA would need to move forward with surplus place removal but it would leave some schools in difficulties due to falling rolls. Doing nothing isn't an option.*
- Q. *At the moment, we are out to consultation and people are convinced a decision has already been decided. What would happen if nobody wanted the new school?*
- A. It is a consultation and there is a process to be gone through before we get to the final decision. Responses so far have been mixed. Those with concerns are residents rather than parents. We have probably only had 10 parents at the drop-in at Lowton High. It is not accurate to say everyone is against it.
- S. *I am an OSFTED inspector and have seen these new schools in action and they can be fantastic. But in this case, I cannot see why we cannot leave it alone. The buildings are fine. The local people will only wake up once it has been decided.*
- Q. *Will all staff be made redundant?*
- A. No. The governing body will decide how to appoint to the new school. The LA will recommend ring-fencing and TUPE. There will be a staffing protocol across all Wigan schools to protect employment as far as possible but we cannot guarantee that there will be no redundancies. The LA will pay redundancy even if a Trust is in place. 3 year salary protections apply to teachers.
- S. *The school needs fewer staff because of falling rolls and the age profile means that some will finish anyway. We do not think there will be many redundancies.*

*There are 3 issues:*

- 1. A temporary governing body will need to be established. They will need to appoint a new head teacher.*
  - 2. In September 2010 the new head teacher will need to decide the new staffing structure and make appointments. There is lots of work here for governors.*
  - 3. Do we move pupils all at once to the new school or do we phase it? What do we do with admissions in the meantime? There will be too many students for the new school. The following year the planned admission number will be 300, fewer students because of the fall in the number of students.*
- A. Lots of details need to be discussed and planned around transition arrangements. The LA is encouraged that schools want to begin this process now.
- S. *Members of staff are concerned about their jobs. It is imperative that mechanisms are in place to protect staff otherwise we will lose them. Having said that, we have not lost*

*anyone up to now and have actually appointed new staff whose attitude is that it is an opportunity.*

*Q. What about the head teacher's post?*

A. The new governing body will decide whether to ring-fence to the existing head teachers or go to national advertisement.

*Q. How are the new governors decided though?*

A. The existing governors will decide, usually most people that want to sit on the governing body are able to. Staff from Governor Services will support.

*Q. What happens about community facilities on the new school? There will not be enough provision.*

A. We have to have a sports hall and pitches, etc.

*Q. But both schools have community facilities that are fully utilised. The new school will only have one so you are taking away provision.*

A. We cannot sell off the pitches here as they are on safe-guarded land. There can be opportunities for local sports clubs to lease it. Golborne is looking at retaining some of its facilities also. This can only be done if it is a viable venture that can be maintained.

*S. But you will be reducing provision at the end of the day.*

A. We will not because of what I have just said. The Golborne community already has the Parkside Club that is suffering because of low usage. They will have the use of the facilities in the new school. What will happen with existing facilities is up for debate as no decisions have been made.

*S. It would be better if the facilities are under LA control though.*

A. But we will not have the budget. We will not be able to justify the expenditure on community facilities out of the schools funding block when we have created new facilities at the new school.

*S. But we should not be taking them away form the community if we can avoid it.*

JN thanked everyone for attending the meeting and informed members that the report will be open on the Website.

Meeting ended at 6pm.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Governors of Golborne High School

**Date:** 14 May 2009

**Time:** 5pm

**Present:** 14 Governors

A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Golborne High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

- Q. *Will the existing Civic Hall building be demolished? Could we look at facilities within the new school or current site?*
- A. The intention over the long term is to demolish because of its poor condition. Wigan Leisure Culture Trust are working with us to put in high quality performance spaces to be used by all the community, in addition to health, children's centre and primary school. We are looking at wider opportunities for WLCT as part of BSF. In an ideal world, we will keep the Civic Centre open whilst the school is being built, but we do not yet know whether this is possible.
- Q. *What will happen on the current Golborne site i.e. playing fields and leisure facilities?*
- A. Cabinet want to maintain a community facility on this site. They are looking at retaining the dining facility and car park as a community facility. They are also looking at play facilities.
- Q. *Hesketh Meadow Lane is not suitable for extra traffic. Will there be a cycle route?*
- A. We are working with Environmental Services on highways and they are assessing travel routes. They are satisfied that it can be used as an access route. They are looking at an access off Newton Road, but are in the early stages. We know that we have to address sustainable travel and cycle routes to schools.

Q. *How many children do you estimate would walk to school?*

A. We have not got to that level of detail yet. There will be a full impact assessment done to ensure suitable travel is in place. We are considering the use of yellow buses. If Cabinet decides to publish notices, we can then look at transport in a lot more detail. The number 600 bus runs every 10 minutes.

S. *People in Hesketh Meadow Lane are enraged about the increase in traffic. They are getting increasing traffic now going to First Steps Nursery and the sheltered accommodation scheme. Traffic is constant; to put more on will be intolerable for residents.*

A. We have to work with highways engineers and be guided by them.

S. *An alternative entrance would be better because buses will add to traffic issues also.*

Q. *There is a major concern about people getting to the new school. Shouldn't we have full details so that we can be properly consulted? Feel frustrated.*

A. We understand your frustrations. It is a consultation exercise and is not a done deal. All responses will go to Cabinet. We will appoint design teams and consultants once we get to the statutory notice stage. We know already that pupils travel huge distances to get to schools.

S. *You imply that the number 600 bus can get all children to the new school. Need to have proper facts and we won't have any other feedback opportunities if you can't give us the full details.*

A. We are consulting. We are here to listen and take your views back to Cabinet. We are already doing a lot of work on travel, but have not got down to firm details yet. Your concerns will help to move forward and highlight areas that need to be addressed. We will come back to the governing body with more information.

S. *There is no way that you can expect any child from Golborne to walk to Lowton. They will have to pay £1.60 per day to get there because it is less than 3 miles away.*

A. Cabinet will not give unlimited free transport but will consider assistance with transport for those already on roll.

S. *But there will be no choice. People will have to send their children to school on a bus.*

Q. *Schools are being built in the heart of the communities. Lowton Civic site is not at the heart, but is on the edge of the Golborne community. The estate is full of cul-de-sacs, and people will have to use the main road.*

A. We have spent a lot of time in considering the 7 sites. Cabinet did not take the decision on the preferred site lightly.

S. *Local knowledge is very important. There needs to be a direct route through from here to Slag Lane, back of Scot Road / Haddon Road. Lowton High is only 30 years old. Golborne*

*site is a good site and could accommodate a new school. Why has Golborne site not been chosen?*

- A. We would need to build behind the existing school on playing fields. The Lowton Civic site provides opportunities of bringing on all the additional facilities. We couldn't do that on the Golborne site. We will share the rationale for the site option appraisals if the governors want it.
- Q. *Feel that well being of Golborne students has been compromised by site decision.*
- A. We look at the well being of all students – co-location delivers better outcomes for all and is not a health and safety consideration. It improves transition and there will be more than one access point into the building. We have past experience in building similar facilities; they have improved outcomes and been very successful.
- Q. *What evidence is there that parents want a 0-16 campus?*
- A. Discussions with the two primary schools who feel it will significantly deliver better outcomes. We are consulting parents about it during this process including parents of primary children.
- S. *Appended statement from Chair of Governors and Vice Chair: We are against proposal. Golborne has lost a lot and is becoming a ghost town. The loss of the school will make this worse. The proposed new site is remote and there are traffic issues. There are lots of facilities at Lowton Civic that will also be lost. The catchment area should include Golborne and Lowton and extend to St Helens Road and Atherleigh Way. The Leigh side should go to Leigh schools. We need to include Abram children. The school size is too big.*
- Q. *Two Lowton junior schools were shown on the map, why were Golborne schools not shown?*
- A. Cabinet got all of the information and all of the primaries were shown on their Cabinet report. What you are looking at is the consultation document and the schools affected.
- S. *Gilded Hollins was only built 35 years ago.*
- Q. *We have not seen any evidence about admissions and catchment areas. The children living at the far end of Golborne and Abram wont get in on distance.*
- A. We feel that there are enough places for all people living in the catchment areas that want a place. We work on births in the area and estimate forward. We cannot second guess parental preferences, but we will consider All Saints and St Catherine's pupils given what is happening in St Helens.
- Q. *But one yellow bus won't be enough for the Abram children.*
- A. When firm proposals are made, we will commission transport from the providers. We are doing this for other parts of the Borough also.
- Q. *Are we saying that a rebuild of a school in Golborne is not feasible?*

A. Yes. It will not meet the criteria as a strong viable school. To meet the outcomes, we need a school that is larger than 750. This would be very vulnerable if the rolls fall. There is more certainty and flexibility in a large school.

S. *It is the location that we are mainly not happy with, which is being based on other matters and not educationally based. Can only accept there is probably a need for only one school.*

A. We have assessed the site on the basis of educational outcomes.

S. *The school was built because there was a need for a school in Golborne, but the building does need to be rebuilt. The site is good for access. LOGOS group have been in existence since 1981. The proposed 14-19 education sites and sites of colleges - need a site more local as Golborne children still have a long way to travel. There is always a healthy replacement of new families and the birth rate is rising naturally. Lowton Common land is very near Lowton Civic. We also will have lots of children together, 1500 plus other people. Looking at a superb development, but not convinced it is the right spot. Short-sighted to lose Lowton site because may need it in the future. It is a shame to concentrate all our ideas on the Lowton Civic site.*

S. *In 2014 when the birth rate starts to rise again, there will only be 100 pupils different than what they are now. We may not have enough places after that. Golborne High is now getting a lot of Lowton primary school children. The school is fully subscribed this year. There is a case for a school in Golborne. Should not be closing schools after 30+ years.*

S. *Important that after school facilities are considered. Additional transport is needed to get these children home.*

A. That is part of our plans and proposals. We agree with you.

S. *What will happen to this site? Need facilities for young people to use an outside facility e.g. a skate park, which is what young people want. Campaigned for years for it and it never happened. Do not want the site to be an area where young people just stand around – need a facility for them.*

S. *Alarmed by the sound of employee resource pool and term 'ring-fenced' – haven't even talked about staffing here. Do the head teachers know about the staffing pool?*

A. Yes.

S. *Lowton and Golborne children fight.*

A. Need to achieve community cohesion through proposals.

## Consultation for Wigan Schools for the Future: Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Lowton High School – Student Council

**Date:** 21 May 2009

**Attendance:** 12 Members of the School Student Council (mixed year groups)  
Assistant Head Teacher, Head of Pastoral Care  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introductions:**

Before the Council can decide what it is going to do about the future of this school, it needs to ask everyone what they think. It is very important that we know what students think as they are the ones most affected by what we are doing.

Members of the student council were thanked for attending and an overview of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and what it will mean for Lowton High School was given:

- BSF, a multi million pound investment programme in school buildings.
- An opportunity to make things better for learners so that they can:
  - Enjoy school life;
  - Do they best they can in exams; and
  - Are able to choose from lots of courses at age 14 and 16 at a centre that they are able to travel to easily.
- We need to make sure that:
  - Schools are in the right place and of the right size
  - Schools are large enough to deal with falling pupil numbers
  - Educational standards are raised by the use of ICT (personalised any time any place learning) and;
  - Modern buildings for a modern curriculum with social spaces (some rebuilt, some modernised and made better)
  - Locate schools with other services and encourage extended services so that everyone can use schools

There were no questions following this section of the consultation process.

**The following are in response to the question: How do you think we could make school life more enjoyable for learners?**

- *New facilities at the moment, everything seems ok. New gym, astro-turf and new courses.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think of a centre for students aged 14-19:**

- *No members on diploma courses at the moment.*
- *Good idea. Some courses are only available at school, but other courses that people are interested in are not available. Access to other courses can help with career choices.*
- *Centres are a good idea rather than travelling to Winstanley College for example.*

**The following are in response to the question: What it means for your school:**

- *If we merge Golborne and Lowton schools together, where would other pupils go to who do not live in Golborne, Lowton or Abram?*
- *Answer, the admission criteria will prioritise Abram, Lowton and Golborne communities. Other areas will be prioritised for other schools.*
- *One member has a sibling who starts at the beginning of the process and asks: Would it happen half way through the year for year 7 for pupils?*
- *Answer, no, we would start at the beginning of a new academic year.*
- *Do we think this is definitely going to happen then?*
- *Answer: details of consultation process given.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you like about this school:**

- *At moment things are going well at school and feel that we would lose some of these things if we merge with Golborne.*
- *I live in Leigh but I am C of E and cannot go to St Mary's as it is Catholic. What would happen to me? My sister starts next year and I'm worried that she'll have to go elsewhere further away.*
- *Answer, the admission criteria will not be changed for next year, and will not affect your sister.*

- *You have mentioned falling pupil numbers, what happens if they rise, what will happen then?*
- Answer, we need to build some slack in the system using projections. If they do rise, we will look for surplus places in other schools.
- *Quite a lot of people in Lowton and Golborne don't get on, this may affect their learning.*
- *There is a bit of rivalry between Lowton and Golborne, but this is mainly in sports.*
- *It would be a shame, because this school works really well, new facilities that have just come in, for these to suddenly stop.*
- Answer, we will need to consider what your school currently has and works well and incorporate this into the design of the new school. A lot of the current staff of Lowton High will come to the new school.
- *It's not necessarily the staff, the layout is different than anywhere else and I like having the little blocks.*
- *I like the blocks as we get a break walking outside between lessons.*
- *Going outside between lessons makes me feel better when going to a new lesson.*
- *It only takes 3 minutes from the furthest building away to walk to a new lesson.*
- Answer: Students will be involved in the design of the new building.
- *What is the school going to be called?*
- Answer: that will be for the schools to decide. Sometimes the schools ask the students for ideas and suggestions.
- *Do you think if you have primary and high schools on the same site, that some of the primary children may pick up the bad habits of the older children, e.g. smoking, shouting? If they see the bigger kids do it, they'll do the same thing.*
- Answer: Another thought would be that it might be easier for primary children when moving up to high school and there are good examples for them to follow as well as bad ones.
- *It would be easier for primary children to go to induction days.*
- *Only one primary school comes for induction.*
- *It may be daunting for little children coming to such a huge building. We have adult learners coming as well.*

- *Is it sort of like a complex?*
- Answer, pupils will be consulted on the design of the new building.
- *Will the class sizes be the same?*
- Answer, yes that won't alter, just the curriculum.
- *Would the classrooms be smaller?*
- Answer, bigger than what they are here. Look at flexible spaces.
- *At this school, the staff know all the children, if there are so many children in one place, they won't have the same relationships and the rapport will go.*
- Answer: this will depend on how the school is managed, example of Y7 and Y8 base or a house system, may be have three individual groups of 500 pupils. There are ways of managing it.
- *If the Y7 and Y8 separate through one of these systems, they won't necessarily have the same ethos, if they are separated, each year they moved up; for them, it would be like starting a new year or school.*
- *In sets of 500, you may not know the other teachers.*
- *I know lots of teachers and they know me, if there are sets of 500, I'll not know the new teachers until I move up into that group.*
- *Houses, rivalry could cause competition. Although it's good to have some competitiveness, but it may go too far.*

**The following are in response to the following question: What do you want to see at the new school?**

- *We like sports facilities here at Lowton.*
- *Would it still be sports at the new school?*
- *Golborne has an art specialism.*
- *That would be quite good to have more specialisms.*
- *Would we still have the same amount of good sports facilities?*
- *Specialist sport and art – it will be less focussed on both if there are more than one specialism.*
- *When it was a sports college, they didn't want to go because they don't like sport.*

- *This is the same as Golborne, as not everybody likes art.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think could be changed?**

- *Better sports pitches as they have to walk to the civic for sport.*
- *Some of classrooms are a bit dated. Some of the white boards do not work properly, that could be better.*

**The following in response to the question: Do you have any suggestions on how to manage the process through, particularly for Y7?**

- *Year 7s need to be with same teachers that they have now as they will be in year 11 when this happens and will be doing their GCSEs. They should stay with the Lowton teachers until they finish.*
- *You learn best with the people you like.*
- *What would happen to the teachers? You can't have 160 teachers in one school.*
- *Answer: Staffing pool explained.*
- *The house things, not all the lessons, but a few, with the Lowton teachers teaching the Lowton students. Not all the lessons, just a few so that you can get used to the Golborne teachers as well. You might like your teachers and your forms as well.*

**The following are in response to the question: Will you be able to use the school assembly to talk about this to other students?**

- *We have a full school assembly every Friday*
- *At the minute, the sports hall is being used for exams – there will be no full assembly until end of the school year.*
- *Suggestions of individual year assemblies and a newsletter.*

Slips were distributed to members of the student council with details of how to access the website and complete an on-line questionnaire.

## Consultation for Wigan Schools for the Future: Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Golborne High School – School Council
<b>Date:</b>	04 June 2009
<b>Attendance:</b>	9 Members of the School Council Two Y10 pupils, two Y9 pupils and five Y7 pupils A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introductions:**

Before the Council can decide what it is going to do about the future of this school, it needs to ask everyone what they think. It is very important that we know what students think as they are the ones most affected by what we are doing.

Members of the student council were thanked for attending and an overview of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and what it will mean for Golborne High School was given:

- BSF, a multi million pound investment programme in school buildings.
- An opportunity to make things better for learners so that they can:
  - Enjoy school life;
  - Do they best they can in exams; and
  - Are able to choose from lots of courses at age 14 and 16 at a centre that they are able to travel to easily.
- We need to make sure that:
  - Schools are in the right place and of the right size
  - Schools are large enough to deal with falling pupil numbers
  - Educational standards are raised by the use of ICT (personalised any time any place learning) and;
  - Modern buildings for a modern curriculum with social spaces (some rebuilt, some modernised and made better)
  - Locate schools with other services and encourage extended services so that everyone can use schools

The following questions were asked:

- *Will pupils have their own laptop?*

- Answer: This is likely to happen in the future. It can be incorporated as part of the Building Schools for the Future initiative.

**The following are in response to the question: How do you think we could make school life more enjoyable for learners?**

- *Pupils should have more freedom during lessons instead of traditional ways of teaching.*
- *Good idea if Y10 and Y11 pupils have a couple of 'free periods' each week to catch up with coursework or socialise with friends.*
- *Teachers should teach in a variety of ways and take into consideration learning styles. Most teachers teach in the same way and not all pupils learn this way.*
- *More group work during class because some pupils perform better in groups when their ideas can be discussed.*
- *Planned learning doesn't allow time for pupils to ask questions.*
- *Some teachers don't let us ask enough questions because of their lesson plans.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think of a centre for students aged 14-19:**

- *Pupils will have more direction.*
- *Diplomas and apprenticeships will encourage non academic children.*
- *Will the new school have a sixth form?*
- Answer: No, the 14 – 19 centres will offering 6<sup>th</sup> form courses.
- *Could we do a diploma and A Levels if we like?*
- Answer: Possibly but this may be too much. Diplomas and apprenticeships will prepare you for working life.
- *What will happen to the way we are taught in years 7 and 8?*
- Answer: There are currently no major changes to KS3 curriculum.
- *What is happening with SATS?*
- Answer: KS3 SATS are being abolished.

**The following are in response to the question: What it means for your school:**

- *Does this mean Abram children will go to the new school?*

- Answer: Yes, priority will be given to children living in Golborne, Lowton and Abram areas.
- *Will transport to the new school be free?*
- Answer: Only to some children depending upon how far away they live from the school. We are investigating the possibility of having 'yellow buses' with the same driver each day.
- *I think it will be a good idea to start mixing year 7 pupils from both schools to start building relationships.*
- *I know of schools that have merged in Burnley and pupils didn't mix well, this caused huge problems.*
- *Will there be 'protection' for pupils who have changed from Lowton to Golborne because they were being bullied at Lowton?*
- Answer: The new school will manage bullying under the bullying policy.
- *There is huge rivalry between Lowton and Golborne communities and there are large gangs that fight against each other.*
- *We no longer have a community policeman.*
- *There is a lot of tension between the communities.*
- *Sports day and induction days should be used to build relationships with each other.*
- *When the schools merge there needs to be a 'clean slate' otherwise GCSEs could be affected.*
- *Y10 are the worst for rivalry.*
- *There are already 1200 pupils on roll at Lowton. Golborne pupils will feel the size of the new school more because there are only 700 on roll.*
- *Y6 pupils from both schools should be mixed on induction days to the new school.*
- *I am still friends with pupils who go to Lowton who I went to primary school with.*
- *There is a park near to the new site where 'bad gangs' congregate.*
- *2 or 3 policemen need to patrol the new site because 'gangs hang around' carrying knives and taking drugs.*
- *Lowton Civic Hall site is a known area for drug dealing.*
- *Will pupils from Gilded Hollins be at the new school?*
- Answer: Yes but there will be separate parts for primary and secondary children.

- *This will be better for primary children when they move up to secondary school.*
- *Will there be clear walking path routes? There is a path way to the new school but it goes past the 'bad park'.*
- Answer: The LA will ensure there are walking and cycle routes to the new school that are well lit, paved and safe for pupils to use.
- *Some pupils don't care about the new school because they will have left but it is important because it will affect me and my siblings.*
- *Will we move into the new school at the beginning of the academic year?*
- Answer: The existing buildings will be open until the new school is complete. The LA will aim for the beginning of the academic year but this cannot be guaranteed.

**The following are in response to the question: What do you like about this school:**

- *We are a very close community and have very good relationships with our teachers. There are lots of good teachers, what will happen to their jobs?*
- Answer: There will be a staffing pool and the governing body of the new school will be responsible for the appointments of teachers. .
- *What happens if the 'bad' teachers from both schools are appointed to the new school?*
- Answer: The governing body are responsible and would have failed their duty if this were to happen.

**The following are in response to the following question: What do you want to see at the new school?**

- *Pupils should be able to vote for the teachers they want at the new school.*
- *What happens to pupils from Golborne who have Lowton teachers?*
- Answer: Teachers have a professional responsibility to get to know pupils from both schools.
- *Will we still be taught in the same way?*
- Answer: Teachers will be trained to deal with the changes associated with the changing curriculum and more personalised learning.
- *What will the new uniform be like?*
- Answer: The new Governing Body decides this. Hopefully pupils from both schools can be involved in designing the new uniform; it will be different to Golborne and Lowton current uniforms.

- *Y10 and Y11 pupils should be able to keep the same teachers when they go to the new school?*
- *Will we still have CAT tests?*
- Answer: CAT tests are unlikely to change.
- *Will we lose our Arts College status?*
- Answer: Lowton has a sports specialism and it is likely that the new school will have Arts and Sports specialisms.
- *The new school should have a house system. This works well at Golborne and helps pupils to get to know each other. .*
- *The new school building should have lockers for pupils.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think could be changed?**

- *The rivalry between the 2 communities is bad but could disappear if primary children are mixed together from now on.*

**The following in response to the question: Do you have any suggestions on how to manage the process through, particularly for Y7?**

- *I think it is a good idea to start mixing Golborne and Lowton primary children now so any rivalry is lost by the time they go to the new school.*
- *Rivalry between the communities is likely to disappear over time.*

**The following are in response to the question: Will you be able to use the school assembly to talk about this to other students?**

- Yes.
- *Slips were distributed to members of the student council with details of how to access the website and complete an on-line questionnaire.*
- *The school council suggested they would put up posters to encourage pupils to comment.*

Pupils were thanked for their time and positive input to the meeting.

Questionnaires	Questions	1. Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools with a new secondary school?			2. Do you understand how to make your views known?			3. Do you think that a new secondary school in Lowton should be opened to replace the current Lowton and Golborne High Schools?			
		Type of Respondent	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Not Stated	Yes	No	Not Stated
6	Parents Y7 & Y8 at Lowton	3	3	0	0	5	1	0	2	3	1
4	Parents of Y9 - Y11 at Lowton	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0
4	Parents at Lowton -year group not stated	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	3	0
<b>14</b>	<b>Total number of parents</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
8	Parents Y7 & Y8 at Golborne	6	2	0	0	6	2	0	0	8	0
3	Parents Y9 - Y11 at Golborne	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	0
1	Parents at Golborne - year group not stated	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>12</b>	<b>Total number of parents</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
14	Parents at another school (in local area)	8	6	0	0	13	1	0	2	11	1
9	Parents at another school (not in local area)	6	1	2	2	9	0	0	4	5	0
4	Parents at another school (unknown)	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	1
1	Staff at another school	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	Governor at Golborne High School	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5	A Governor at another school	4	1	0	0	5	0	0	3	2	0
8	Member of the community	5	3	0	0	7	1	0	1	6	1
2	Other	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
<b>70</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>

Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton and Golborne High Schools

Type of response Email	Type of Respondent	Type of response		Type of Respondent	Type of response		Type of Respondent	Type of response		Type of Respondent
		Individual	Circular		Circular	Governor				
3	Parents	4	3	Parents	Other	24	Other	1	Lowton High School	
17	Lowton residents	5		Local Residents				1	Golborne High School	
4	Other	6		Other						
1	Environmental Sub Group									
<b>25</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	

Responses	Question 13: Do you agree with the proposal to build a new school to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools on the Lowton Civic Hall site with a primary school, children's centre and leisure facilities on the same site?			
	School	Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Golborne High School	1	0	0
1	Lowton High School	1	0	0
<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

05 May 2009 – 26 June 2009

**Analysis of questionnaires in response to:****Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton and Golborne High Schools.**

A total of 70 consultation response forms and 69 written responses were received on the proposal to provide a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne.

A wide range of comments were received, the most frequent are reported below together with the number of respondents that made the same or similar comment.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Positive Comments</b>
Disturbance to education and the effect on pupils and class sizes	1	15	
Prefer post 16 provision on site		12	
New catchment area		13	
Parental choice		5	
Health and Safety		5	
Site, location, buildings and access		32	
Co-location		8	
School too big		23	
Staffing		3	
Too far to walk / travel and increased		58	

traffic to new site.			
Bullying		4	
Biased towards Lowton community		6	
Splitting communities		8	
Rivalry		4	
Green space / community use		24	
Environmental		8	
No justification for Proposal	5		
Not opposed to the proposal			4
Happy with standards at Golborne High	2		
Good facilities at Lowton High	6		
Standards may drop at new school		2	
Demand for places in the area in the future		6	
Leave schools as they are	4		
Standards at Lowton may effect Golborne pupils		2	
Proposal will effect communities		6	
Stage 1 consultation process	1	23	
Improve existing schools and sites	11		

Future use of land at Golborne site	4		
Build new school on Golborne site	3		

### **Circular Letter**

The main issues on the circular letter received were:

- Increased traffic and road congestion
- Largest piece of public land left in Lowton
- What other options have been considered?
- How are people moving into the area and new housing taken into account when projecting pupil numbers for the catchment area?
- What is the life span of the new school?
- How far into the future have pupil numbers been projected?
- In which year, do projected pupil numbers exceed 300 per year group?

### **Circular Letter**

The main issues on the circular letter received were:

- Traffic
- Access to the site
- Destroying green space
- Existing schools already providing high standards of education
- Effective use of resources if monies are spent elsewhere

### **Environmental Sub-group**

There main issues were:

- The consultation process
- What other options have been considered?
- What facilities are going to replace the Lowton Civic Hall site?
- Traffic impacts

- Loss of green space
- Worried that if consulted at planning stage the proposal may have been agreed
- Residents want an open and honest forum

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Members of Staff of Golborne High School  
**Date:** 14 May 2009  
**Time:** 3.30 pm

**Present:** Approximately 50 members of staff  
Trade Union representative  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Golborne High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

- Q. *Rationalisation of intake number will begin in 2010. School will be oversized in higher year groups.*
- A. The admission number will be reduced in 2011 and there will be larger year groups from Y9 to Y11. Some pupils will be at the 14-19 Centres. It is estimated that there will not be more than 10% overcrowding.
- Q. *But the reducing rolls situation will cause redundancies.*
- A. Rolls are falling anyway. There is a transition process that we need to work with schools on. There will be opportunities for staff at 14-19 Centres. Proposals will come into affect in 2011. The head teacher will be appointed on year ahead to decide on the staffing structure with a temporary governing body. No-one is in a position to draw up a staffing structure yet. The LA will support the school through this process.
- Q. *A new head teacher will have to manage the 10% reduction in staff – will there be a transition budget?*
- A. There will be a split site allowance for 2011. There are lots of different structures at LA level to support staff through this process. It is a borough wide process and is happening elsewhere.

S. *You are talking about two very lean schools in budget terms. There is a serious budgetary situation to start off with.*

Q. *Will there be voluntary redundancy or early redundancy?*

A. We will try to achieve reductions as far as possible through natural wastage. There are budgetary implications for voluntary redundancy and early redundancy. We will use the staffing pool to deal with the staff.

S. *Those over 60 can't be made to go and the LA will have to pay voluntary redundancy.*

Q. *When will the new staffing structure be known?*

A. In an ideal world, if we get a decision in March 2010, we can then establish a temporary governing body. The first job would be to appoint a head teacher for September 2010. The head Teacher's role is to plan for a new school including budgets and curriculum and the staffing structure.

Q. *Is the Head Teacher's job open to anyone or is it ring-fenced for existing head teachers?*

A. This will be a decision for the governing body to make.

Q. *How will the governing body be established for the new school?*

A. It depends on who promotes the new school.

Q. *Who would set the admissions criteria for the new school?*

A. It is a community school at present, so the LA will set the criteria based on associated areas to provide more certainty for parents. If the school becomes foundation, it will be its own admitting authority but it must consult with the LA and other schools and comply with Admissions Code of Practice.

Q. *What about transport arrangements for the new school?*

A. We have already looked at where pupils come from for both schools and where they will come from in the future. We have details of all current public transport and are looking at yellow buses. We will also consider for a limited period, assisting with the costs of transport. We are looking at the details of entrances to the school with Highways and have identified a network of cycle paths that will need updating (surface and lighting).

Q. *Hesketh Meadow Road is not wide and there a young families moving into the area with 2+ cars. Can an entrance be off Sandy Lane?*

A. We are looking at all the options at the moment, and appreciate the point you are making.

Q. *Is there money for roads in BSF?*

A. We have to have a traffic plan.

*Q. Is it cast in stone that it will be on that site?*

A. We are consulting on that basis at the moment. We have considered 7 sites in the area and the Civic Hall site best meets the criteria.

*Q. 14-19 Centre staffing – how will it work?*

A. There will be flexible staffing contracts.

*S. Concerns about how the staffing pool will operate.*

A. The staffing pool will act as a 'clearing house' for vacancies.

*Q. If people go into the pool and don't get a post that is vacant, what happens?*

A. Ring-fencing will apply to a wider pool. This is all part of phase one of the consultation process and we will actively try to seek employment for people. A significant percentage of schools have signed up to the staffing pool. Lowton and Golborne staff will get the first call at the new school; and then vacancies will be opened to a wider pool. Displacement will be minimal at first. This will happen over a period of years.

*Q. Will people have to be interviewed?*

A. It is up to the governing body.

*Q. What happens to those that can't get a job after the pool has finished?*

A. The process is designed to minimise redundancies, but there may still be some.

*Q. What happens if the governors do not sign up to the pool? Do we have to apply for our own jobs in competition with staff at Lowton High? For example, two heads of department going for one post?*

A. Yes, for new posts in new structures. The vast majority of schools have signed up to the protocol and we want them all in by the end of summer term. Staff will be in a worse position if they do not sign up as they can't then take advantage of being in the pool.

*Q. Who will the governing body be and how will it be decided?*

A. If the school becomes a joint Trust with Lowton High then it can enter a competition to run the new school and, if it is successful, the Trust will decide the governing body structure.

*Q. What about part time staff?*

A. It is difficult to imagine that part time staff will not be a feature of the new school.

*Q. We thought the two schools were being 'merged' – this is the first time we have heard of closure.*

A. We cannot merge the schools. We either have to close one and extend the other, or close both, and open a new school. The latter route is fairer to both sets of staff. We will look to match the skills of staff to the posts.

Q. *If there is a vacancy within the pool, how do you apply? It seems unfair to have to apply for our own job so formally.*

A. We still intend to have a formal process. We will ring-fence posts to people and there will be a formal selection process. We may be able to identify posts in the new school where people can be assimilated. Where 2 people are doing a job and only one vacancy, then they will be in a competitive situation. A 1500 school place with a new structure should offer more opportunities for staff with more allowances and room for promotion.

Q. *Should people be looking around for another job now?*

A. There are 3 phases in Wigan with further reorganisation, but also, all our neighbouring authorities are going through a similar process, but all do not have a staffing pool.

Q. *What are the criteria for winning a bid for a new school?*

A. The LA will set out what it wants and judge the bid if they don't enter themselves.

Q. *Suppose the governors that they appoint do not sign up to the pool?*

A. I do not think that it will get to that point.

Q. *Are you saying that if the joint Trust puts in they will win it?*

A. We cannot give that guarantee. It is Cabinet's decision.

Q. *St Helens BSF are asking staff to be more flexible in a working day so that they can do evening lessons.*

A. That is something that could happen, but it will be up to the governing body.

Q. *If we are offered a job through the pool that we do not really want, what happens then?*

A. The choice is yours. If you refuse it, consideration will be given to whether it was suitable or not and whether you could have redundancy.

**Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1**

**Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley**

**Meeting:** Members of Staff of Lowton High School  
**Date:** 11 June 2009  
**Time:** 3.30 pm

**Present:** Approximately 33 members of staff  
Trade Union Representative - Unison  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

**Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Lowton High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

**In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

*Q. What will happen to the specialism?*

A. It is likely that the specialisms of both schools will transfer over to the new school i.e. visual arts and sports.

*Q. Could it continue with the double specialism?*

A. Yes.

*Q. The school will be built for 1500 places; will it mean that 1500 students will be allowed in?*

A. Yes. The new school will have a published admission number of 300 and will have admission criteria to apply if it is oversubscribed. The Appeals Panel could over-admit.

*Q. Are there plans for moving schools to the new site in 2012? Would you move all 5 year groups together?*

A. We would prefer to move all together over summer with a couple of days either side of the holidays to move equipment and furniture.

*Q. Will you take the existing Y10 pupils to the new site though?*

A. We will plan the transition. There are a number of different ways to do this. The head teacher and management team will be involved in the transition.

*Q. Is it possible to have more than one site operating in 2012?*

A. We prefer just one site for 2012.

*S. We need to explore other ways of doing this.*

A. The head designate will formulate a transition plan in consultation with the LA.

*Q. Half of the children come from Pennington. Where will the cut off be?*

A. We haven't consulted yet on admissions. We are doing detailed work on this. We cannot do one school in isolation. No decisions have been taken.

*Q. Will the sibling rule still exist?*

A. Yes. We are not looking to change this.

*Q. Given the current economic situation and we do not get funding, is there an alternative plan?*

A. A good source tells us a decision on funding is due in a few weeks. We will not take the report to Cabinet until we hear about funding. We are expecting a July announcement on LA's who have succeeded.

*Q. Before 2011 a new staffing structure will be established. How it will work in practice?*

A. Existing staff will be ring-fenced and we will continue to work with all other Wigan schools so that they will have early consideration for any available vacancies.

*Q. Will there be redundancies with protection of pensions?*

A. We are not currently considering this as we want to protect staff first and foremost.

*Q. We were told differently at the Gilded Hollins parent drop in. It was said that there will be packages on the table.*

A. The exact same message was given at Gilded Hollins staff and governors meeting. We will look at the notes from the parent drop-in to see if we can clear this up.

*Q. Will teaching learning responsibilities be protected?*

A. The normal 3 year protection will apply.

*Q. How can we have priority for other vacancies if we are not made redundant?*

- A. We are asking all schools to sign up to the staffing protocol.
- S. *But then there will be no security for anyone. People will not wait for 2 years to find out if they have a job or not, they will move before then.*
- A. A temporary governing body will be established in March 2010. The head designate will be in post as soon as possible and will draw up a staffing structure to be in place 12 months before schools are closed and a new one opened. There will be restructuring across the Borough and all our neighbouring LA's are doing the same. This is a national programme and all staff are going through similar processes elsewhere. Opportunities can come out of this change process. Human Resources and Unions will pick up any threats.
- S. *Unison TU Representative: The staffing protocol does not guarantee you a job. You will have to be interviewed for a post and will have to apply for a post in the new school. Teachers need to get Unions to insist that if you have a job today, you will have one at the end of the process.*
- A. Lowton High and Golborne High will no longer exist. The new school will have a new structure.
- S. *People could be slotted into the structure.*
- A. There will be promotion opportunities.
- S. *That does not convince us. There will only be one head teacher, etc.*
- A. There could be jobs in the new schools that are not currently occupied by existing schools because of the changing curriculum. We cannot instruct your new governing body to appoint existing staff into ring-fenced posts, but would expect them to do so and would investigate if they didn't. We cannot say that 100% of jobs will be filled by existing staff. The LA cannot give guarantees as it will be up to the governing body. Past experience is that governing bodies do appoint to ring-fenced posts and the vast majority of staff get what they wanted and some got a promotion. The governing body will decide whether to ring-fence the headship post to the two existing head teachers. The LA will be there to oversee the appointment process. There would need to be a very good reason not to appoint existing staff.
- Q. *There would be 2 heads of maths, for example. What will happen to the one that is not appointed to the new head of maths?*
- A. They could apply for other posts in school and will get 3 years protection if necessary.
- Q. *How will the governing body be made up?*
- A. Prescribed categories apply depending on what type of school. They would be drawn in the first instance from Golborne and Lowton governors.
- Q. *What about appointments?*
- A. The governing body can decide on the appointment of the head teacher.

Other staff will be ring-fenced as the school has signed up to the protocol. There would have to be a very good reason not to appoint one of the ring-fenced staff.

- S. *We still feel like there are inconsistencies with the message and it is only fair to minute this. Whilst every attempt will be made to appoint staff from the two existing schools to the new school, no categorical assurance can be given.*
- Q. *What is the general feeling about the proposal?*
- A. There are still two weeks to go. Responses are coming in. Some are favourable, some have concerns, as you would expect as we are only at the early stages of detail.
- Q. *Will the primary and secondary school be separate?*
- A. We will arrange a series of visits to a 0 to 19 campus. Reserve judgement until you have seen them and spoken to those who work in them.
- S. *The quicker we can get the governing body set up and the head teacher appointed the better it will be for everyone. There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment. When will it happen?*
- A. The competition will run from September to December and notices will be issued from January to February 2010. The proposals will be determined in March 2010. We cannot pre-empt the outcome of the consultation. We cannot do anything before then.
- S. *Everyone is in limbo at the moment and there is no guarantee of a job. The staff will start to jump ship.*
- A. In a previous LA I was involved in a major reorganisation involved 2000 staff. A very tiny proportion left as a direct result of the change (jumped ship).
- Q. *What percentage of staff would you envisage would be employed by the new school?*
- A. We did not have any compulsory redundancies in the previous example. The alternative is if we do nothing we will still have falling rolls, a reducing budget and the staff will still be at risk year on year. Moving to the new school is a managed process.
- Q. *Who is responsible for setting up the new governing body?*
- A. The LA will work with the promoters of the new school to establish a new governing body.
- Q. *The new school will be on a reducing roll anyway because of lower numbers coming in and larger year groups moving out.*
- A. We will be budgeting and plan for a 300 intake. There will be a staffing pool until the school actually closes. If there are no jobs at the end, then there may be redundancies.
- Q. *Will training be offered for interviews?*

A. Yes. This will be part of the support package.

Q. *Will staff have any say in the design of the new building?*

A. If we get on the programme and Cabinet decides to proceed with a competition, the LA will be given a series of design workshops involving students and staff and the wider community. A series of visits to other premises will be arranged. This will take around 9 months.

Q. *How many forms of entry will it be?*

A. It depends on the budget and how the school is organised. The LA will work with the school to see what influence staff can have over the transition to new learning and how this impacts on the premises design.

Q. *Isn't the timescale optimistic for the new school?*

A. We have a Learning Education Partnership consortium in place, design teams, ICT specialists, etc. The team is in place to deliver the new premises including working up the design. We do not have to procure and tender as this is already in place.

Q. *This school has just over 1000 pupils and Golborne has 700 plus. Are you saying that the school is only going to be build for 10 years because you cannot foresee the future? What happens if the birth rate goes up?*

A. We can only deal with what we know at present and this is what we are charged with doing.

Q. *How much competition is there likely to be for the new school? Do you think the Trust will get it?*

A. The DCSF promotes competitions and approaches potential sponsors.

Q. *What happens to employment rights under a Trust school?*

A. This is done as a TUPE transfer – all rights transfer to your new employer. New staff may have different conditions, if the Trust decides it wants this. Pensions will continue with the same provider. We already have Hindley High as a Foundation school where staff have been through the same process and were TUPE'd over. Schools will still be bound by national conditions of service.

S. *Trust and Foundation schools are not part of the national conditions of service.*

A. Yes they are. The Foundation employs the staff.

S. *But conditions of service can be changed months later. PFI will own the school and they will want to make a profit.*

A. The employer will remain the governing body of the school. The private funder will make no difference to employment rights.

S. *Lots of staff feel that a school of 1500 is too large and what about traffic congestion?  
People send their children to private schools as they feel they get lost in a larger school.*

A. Learning and teaching depends on the organisation and structure rather than the size.  
OFSTED has no evidence that larger schools have a negative impact. The head teacher will need a large school to be able to offer a wide range of options at KS4.

We are working with Highways engineers on transport and travel and we will have to improve routes in order to succeed at the planning stage.

Meeting ended at 4:50pm.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Governors of Golborne High School  
**Date:** 14 May 2009  
**Time:** 5pm

**Present:** 14 Governors  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Golborne High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, members of staff were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

- Q. Will the existing Civic Hall building be demolished? Could we look at facilities within the new school or current site?*
- A. The intention over the long term is to demolish because of its poor condition. Wigan Leisure Culture Trust are working with us to put in high quality performance spaces to be used by all the community, in addition to health, children's centre and primary school. We are looking at wider opportunities for WLCT as part of BSF. In an ideal world, we will keep the Civic Centre open whilst the school is being built, but we do not yet know whether this is possible.
- Q. What will happen on the current Golborne site i.e. playing fields and leisure facilities?*
- A. Cabinet want to maintain a community facility on this site. They are looking at retaining the dining facility and car park as a community facility. They are also looking at play facilities.
- Q. Hesketh Meadow Lane is not suitable for extra traffic. Will there be a cycle route?*
- A. We are working with Environmental Services on highways and they are assessing travel routes. They are satisfied that it can be used as an access route. They are looking at an access off Newton Road, but are in the early stages. We know that we have to address sustainable travel and cycle routes to schools.

*Q. How many children do you estimate would walk to school?*

A. We have not got to that level of detail yet. There will be a full impact assessment done to ensure suitable travel is in place. We are considering the use of yellow buses. If Cabinet decides to publish notices, we can then look at transport in a lot more detail. The number 600 bus runs every 10 minutes.

*S. People in Hesketh Meadow Lane are enraged about the increase in traffic. They are getting increasing traffic now going to First Steps Nursery and the sheltered accommodation scheme. Traffic is constant; to put more on will be intolerable for residents.*

A. We have to work with highways engineers and be guided by them.

*S. An alternative entrance would be better because buses will add to traffic issues also.*

*Q. There is a major concern about people getting to the new school. Shouldn't we have full details so that we can be properly consulted? Feel frustrated.*

A. We understand your frustrations. It is a consultation exercise and is not a done deal. All responses will go to Cabinet. We will appoint design teams and consultants once we get to the statutory notice stage. We know already that pupils travel huge distances to get to schools.

*S. You imply that the number 600 bus can get all children to the new school. Need to have proper facts and we won't have any other feedback opportunities if you can't give us the full details.*

A. We are consulting. We are here to listen and take your views back to Cabinet. We are already doing a lot of work on travel, but have not got down to firm details yet. Your concerns will help to move forward and highlight areas that need to be addressed. We will come back to the governing body with more information.

*S. There is no way that you can expect any child from Golborne to walk to Lowton. They will have to pay £1.60 per day to get there because it is less than 3 miles away.*

A. Cabinet will not give unlimited free transport but will consider assistance with transport for those already on roll.

*S. But there will be no choice. People will have to send their children to school on a bus.*

*Q. Schools are being built in the heart of the communities. Lowton Civic site is not at the heart, but is on the edge of the Golborne community. The estate is full of cul-de-sacs, and people will have to use the main road.*

A. We have spent a lot of time in considering the 7 sites. Cabinet did not take the decision on the preferred site lightly.

*S. Local knowledge is very important. There needs to be a direct route through from here to Slag Lane, back of Scot Road / Haddon Road. Lowton High is only 30 years old. Golborne*

*site is a good site and could accommodate a new school. Why has Golborne site not been chosen?*

- A. We would need to build behind the existing school on playing fields. The Lowton Civic site provides opportunities of bringing on all the additional facilities. We couldn't do that on the Golborne site. We will share the rationale for the site option appraisals if the governors want it.
- Q. *Feel that well being of Golborne students has been compromised by site decision.*
- A. We look at the well being of all students – co-location delivers better outcomes for all and is not a health and safety consideration. It improves transition and there will be more than one access point into the building. We have past experience in building similar facilities; they have improved outcomes and been very successful.
- Q. *What evidence is there that parents want a 0-16 campus?*
- A. Discussions with the two primary schools who feel it will significantly deliver better outcomes. We are consulting parents about it during this process including parents of primary children.
- S. *Appended statement from Chair of Governors and Vice Chair: We are against proposal. Golborne has lost a lot and is becoming a ghost town. The loss of the school will make this worse. The proposed new site is remote and there are traffic issues. There are lots of facilities at Lowton Civic that will also be lost. The catchment area should include Golborne and Lowton and extend to St Helens Road and Atherleigh Way. The Leigh side should go to Leigh schools. We need to include Abram children. The school size is too big.*
- Q. *Two Lowton junior schools were shown on the map, why were Golborne schools not shown?*
- A. Cabinet got all of the information and all of the primaries were shown on their Cabinet report. What you are looking at is the consultation document and the schools affected.
- S. *Gilded Hollins was only built 35 years ago.*
- Q. *We have not seen any evidence about admissions and catchment areas. The children living at the far end of Golborne and Abram wont get in on distance.*
- A. We feel that there are enough places for all people living in the catchment areas that want a place. We work on births in the area and estimate forward. We cannot second guess parental preferences, but we will consider All Saints and St Catherine's pupils given what is happening in St Helens.
- Q. *But one yellow bus won't be enough for the Abram children.*
- A. When firm proposals are made, we will commission transport from the providers. We are doing this for other parts of the Borough also.
- Q. *Are we saying that a rebuild of a school in Golborne is not feasible?*

A. Yes. It will not meet the criteria as a strong viable school. To meet the outcomes, we need a school that is larger than 750. This would be very vulnerable if the rolls fall. There is more certainty and flexibility in a large school.

S. *It is the location that we are mainly not happy with, which is being based on other matters and not educationally based. Can only accept there is probably a need for only one school.*

A. We have assessed the site on the basis of educational outcomes.

S. *The school was built because there was a need for a school in Golborne, but the building does need to be rebuilt. The site is good for access. LOGOS group have been in existence since 1981. The proposed 14-19 education sites and sites of colleges - need a site more local as Golborne children still have a long way to travel. There is always a healthy replacement of new families and the birth rate is rising naturally. Lowton Common land is very near Lowton Civic. We also will have lots of children together, 1500 plus other people. Looking at a superb development, but not convinced it is the right spot. Short-sighted to lose Lowton site because may need it in the future. It is a shame to concentrate all our ideas on the Lowton Civic site.*

S. *In 2014 when the birth rate starts to rise again, there will only be 100 pupils different than what they are now. We may not have enough places after that. Golborne High is now getting a lot of Lowton primary school children. The school is fully subscribed this year. There is a case for a school in Golborne. Should not be closing schools after 30+ years.*

S. *Important that after school facilities are considered. Additional transport is needed to get these children home.*

A. That is part of our plans and proposals. We agree with you.

S. *What will happen to this site? Need facilities for young people to use an outside facility e.g. a skate park, which is what young people want. Campaigned for years for it and it never happened. Do not want the site to be an area where young people just stand around – need a facility for them.*

S. *Alarmed by the sound of employee resource pool and term 'ring-fenced' – haven't even talked about staffing here. Do the head teachers know about the staffing pool?*

A. Yes.

S. *Lowton and Golborne children fight.*

A. Need to achieve community cohesion through proposals.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Governors of Lowton High School  
**Date:** 11 June 2009  
**Time:** 5pm

**Present:** 3 Governors of Lowton High School  
Head Teacher Lowton High School  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introduction:**

This is the first of a series of meetings that we will be holding with school.

A presentation was delivered on the vision, reasons for the review, specifics in relation to Lowton High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and reported to Cabinet.

#### **In response to the presentation and information given, governors were given the opportunity to ask questions:**

*Q. Should there not be independent employment advice?*

A. The LA is independent and has no vested interest. The advice we give is based on experience and it would be difficult to find that level of experience anywhere.

*Q. But you can get policies where they will give you individual advice.*

A. Yes. But we do not know why you would need it. The LA has always advised schools. The school would have to purchase this advice.

*Q. What happens if the funds are not available? Is there an alternative plan?*

A. The LA will find out in June or July if they are invited to join the first phase. Cabinet will only move forwards if we have got on the programme. If we can only join the programme next spring, Cabinet will not want to move forward.

*Q. But if we are not invited in Phase 1, surely a strategy is in place for reporting back to all those with an interest in the school?*

- A. We cannot build a new school without the funds. We need to have structures in place for when we do get on the programme.
- Q. *Is it still your intention to create a new school on split sites (if we cannot get funding)?*
- A. We would need to explore this with the head teachers.
- S. *It would not make sense to have a split site school. If the funding does not come in, we are back to square one. The LA would need to move forward with surplus place removal but it would leave some schools in difficulties due to falling rolls. Doing nothing isn't an option.*
- Q. *At the moment, we are out to consultation and people are convinced a decision has already been decided. What would happen if nobody wanted the new school?*
- A. It is a consultation and there is a process to be gone through before we get to the final decision. Responses so far have been mixed. Those with concerns are residents rather than parents. We have probably only had 10 parents at the drop-in at Lowton High. It is not accurate to say everyone is against it.
- S. *I am an OSFTED inspector and have seen these new schools in action and they can be fantastic. But in this case, I cannot see why we cannot leave it alone. The buildings are fine. The local people will only wake up once it has been decided.*
- Q. *Will all staff be made redundant?*
- A. No. The governing body will decide how to appoint to the new school. The LA will recommend ring-fencing and TUPE. There will be a staffing protocol across all Wigan schools to protect employment as far as possible but we cannot guarantee that there will be no redundancies. The LA will pay redundancy even if a Trust is in place. 3 year salary protections apply to teachers.
- S. *The school needs fewer staff because of falling rolls and the age profile means that some will finish anyway. We do not think there will be many redundancies.*

*There are 3 issues:*

- 1. A temporary governing body will need to be established. They will need to appoint a new head teacher.*
  - 2. In September 2010 the new head teacher will need to decide the new staffing structure and make appointments. There is lots of work here for governors.*
  - 3. Do we move pupils all at once to the new school or do we phase it? What do we do with admissions in the meantime? There will be too many students for the new school. The following year the planned admission number will be 300, fewer students because of the fall in the number of students.*
- A. Lots of details need to be discussed and planned around transition arrangements. The LA is encouraged that schools want to begin this process now.
- S. *Members of staff are concerned about their jobs. It is imperative that mechanisms are in place to protect staff otherwise we will lose them. Having said that, we have not lost*

*anyone up to now and have actually appointed new staff whose attitude is that it is an opportunity.*

*Q. What about the head teacher's post?*

A. The new governing body will decide whether to ring-fence to the existing head teachers or go to national advertisement.

*Q. How are the new governors decided though?*

A. The existing governors will decide, usually most people that want to sit on the governing body are able to. Staff from Governor Services will support.

*Q. What happens about community facilities on the new school? There will not be enough provision.*

A. We have to have a sports hall and pitches, etc.

*Q. But both schools have community facilities that are fully utilised. The new school will only have one so you are taking away provision.*

A. We cannot sell off the pitches here as they are on safe-guarded land. There can be opportunities for local sports clubs to lease it. Golborne is looking at retaining some of its facilities also. This can only be done if it is a viable venture that can be maintained.

*S. But you will be reducing provision at the end of the day.*

A. We will not because of what I have just said. The Golborne community already has the Parkside Club that is suffering because of low usage. They will have the use of the facilities in the new school. What will happen with existing facilities is up for debate as no decisions have been made.

*S. It would be better if the facilities are under LA control though.*

A. But we will not have the budget. We will not be able to justify the expenditure on community facilities out of the schools funding block when we have created new facilities at the new school.

*S. But we should not be taking them away form the community if we can avoid it.*

JN thanked everyone for attending the meeting and informed members that the report will be open on the Website.

Meeting ended at 6pm.

## Consultation for Wigan Schools for the Future: Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

**Meeting:** Lowton High School – Student Council

**Date:** 21 May 2009

**Attendance:** 12 Members of the School Student Council (mixed year groups)  
Assistant Head Teacher, Head of Pastoral Care  
A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introductions:**

Before the Council can decide what it is going to do about the future of this school, it needs to ask everyone what they think. It is very important that we know what students think as they are the ones most affected by what we are doing.

Members of the student council were thanked for attending and an overview of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and what it will mean for Lowton High School was given:

- BSF, a multi million pound investment programme in school buildings.
- An opportunity to make things better for learners so that they can:
  - Enjoy school life;
  - Do they best they can in exams; and
  - Are able to choose from lots of courses at age 14 and 16 at a centre that they are able to travel to easily.
- We need to make sure that:
  - Schools are in the right place and of the right size
  - Schools are large enough to deal with falling pupil numbers
  - Educational standards are raised by the use of ICT (personalised any time any place learning) and;
  - Modern buildings for a modern curriculum with social spaces (some rebuilt, some modernised and made better)
  - Locate schools with other services and encourage extended services so that everyone can use schools

There were no questions following this section of the consultation process.

**The following are in response to the question: How do you think we could make school life more enjoyable for learners?**

- *New facilities at the moment, everything seems ok. New gym, astro-turf and new courses.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think of a centre for students aged 14-19:**

- *No members on diploma courses at the moment.*
- *Good idea. Some courses are only available at school, but other courses that people are interested in are not available. Access to other courses can help with career choices.*
- *Centres are a good idea rather than travelling to Winstanley College for example.*

**The following are in response to the question: What it means for your school:**

- *If we merge Golborne and Lowton schools together, where would other pupils go to who do not live in Golborne, Lowton or Abram?*
- *Answer, the admission criteria will prioritise Abram, Lowton and Golborne communities. Other areas will be prioritised for other schools.*
- *One member has a sibling who starts at the beginning of the process and asks: Would it happen half way through the year for year 7 for pupils?*
- *Answer, no, we would start at the beginning of a new academic year.*
- *Do we think this is definitely going to happen then?*
- *Answer: details of consultation process given.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you like about this school:**

- *At moment things are going well at school and feel that we would lose some of these things if we merge with Golborne.*
- *I live in Leigh but I am C of E and cannot go to St Mary's as it is Catholic. What would happen to me? My sister starts next year and I'm worried that she'll have to go elsewhere further away.*
- *Answer, the admission criteria will not be changed for next year, and will not affect your sister.*

- *You have mentioned falling pupil numbers, what happens if they rise, what will happen then?*
- Answer, we need to build some slack in the system using projections. If they do rise, we will look for surplus places in other schools.
- *Quite a lot of people in Lowton and Golborne don't get on, this may affect their learning.*
- *There is a bit of rivalry between Lowton and Golborne, but this is mainly in sports.*
- *It would be a shame, because this school works really well, new facilities that have just come in, for these to suddenly stop.*
- Answer, we will need to consider what your school currently has and works well and incorporate this into the design of the new school. A lot of the current staff of Lowton High will come to the new school.
- *It's not necessarily the staff, the layout is different than anywhere else and I like having the little blocks.*
- *I like the blocks as we get a break walking outside between lessons.*
- *Going outside between lessons makes me feel better when going to a new lesson.*
- *It only takes 3 minutes from the furthest building away to walk to a new lesson.*
- Answer: Students will be involved in the design of the new building.
- *What is the school going to be called?*
- Answer: that will be for the schools to decide. Sometimes the schools ask the students for ideas and suggestions.
- *Do you think if you have primary and high schools on the same site, that some of the primary children may pick up the bad habits of the older children, e.g. smoking, shouting? If they see the bigger kids do it, they'll do the same thing.*
- Answer: Another thought would be that it might be easier for primary children when moving up to high school and there are good examples for them to follow as well as bad ones.
- *It would be easier for primary children to go to induction days.*
- *Only one primary school comes for induction.*
- *It may be daunting for little children coming to such a huge building. We have adult learners coming as well.*

- *Is it sort of like a complex?*
- Answer, pupils will be consulted on the design of the new building.
- *Will the class sizes be the same?*
- Answer, yes that won't alter, just the curriculum.
- *Would the classrooms be smaller?*
- Answer, bigger than what they are here. Look at flexible spaces.
- *At this school, the staff know all the children, if there are so many children in one place, they won't have the same relationships and the rapport will go.*
- Answer: this will depend on how the school is managed, example of Y7 and Y8 base or a house system, may be have three individual groups of 500 pupils. There are ways of managing it.
- *If the Y7 and Y8 separate through one of these systems, they won't necessarily have the same ethos, if they are separated, each year they moved up; for them, it would be like starting a new year or school.*
- *In sets of 500, you may not know the other teachers.*
- *I know lots of teachers and they know me, if there are sets of 500, I'll not know the new teachers until I move up into that group.*
- *Houses, rivalry could cause competition. Although it's good to have some competitiveness, but it may go too far.*

**The following are in response to the following question: What do you want to see at the new school?**

- *We like sports facilities here at Lowton.*
- *Would it still be sports at the new school?*
- *Golborne has an art specialism.*
- *That would be quite good to have more specialisms.*
- *Would we still have the same amount of good sports facilities?*
- *Specialist sport and art – it will be less focussed on both if there are more than one specialism.*
- *When it was a sports college, they didn't want to go because they don't like sport.*

- *This is the same as Golborne, as not everybody likes art.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think could be changed?**

- *Better sports pitches as they have to walk to the civic for sport.*
- *Some of classrooms are a bit dated. Some of the white boards do not work properly, that could be better.*

**The following in response to the question: Do you have any suggestions on how to manage the process through, particularly for Y7?**

- *Year 7s need to be with same teachers that they have now as they will be in year 11 when this happens and will be doing their GCSEs. They should stay with the Lowton teachers until they finish.*
- *You learn best with the people you like.*
- *What would happen to the teachers? You can't have 160 teachers in one school.*
- *Answer: Staffing pool explained.*
- *The house things, not all the lessons, but a few, with the Lowton teachers teaching the Lowton students. Not all the lessons, just a few so that you can get used to the Golborne teachers as well. You might like your teachers and your forms as well.*

**The following are in response to the question: Will you be able to use the school assembly to talk about this to other students?**

- *We have a full school assembly every Friday*
- *At the minute, the sports hall is being used for exams – there will be no full assembly until end of the school year.*
- *Suggestions of individual year assemblies and a newsletter.*

Slips were distributed to members of the student council with details of how to access the website and complete an on-line questionnaire.

## Consultation for Wigan Schools for the Future: Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Golborne High School – School Council
<b>Date:</b>	04 June 2009
<b>Attendance:</b>	9 Members of the School Council Two Y10 pupils, two Y9 pupils and five Y7 pupils A number of officers from Wigan Council

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### ***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **Introductions:**

Before the Council can decide what it is going to do about the future of this school, it needs to ask everyone what they think. It is very important that we know what students think as they are the ones most affected by what we are doing.

Members of the student council were thanked for attending and an overview of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and what it will mean for Golborne High School was given:

- BSF, a multi million pound investment programme in school buildings.
- An opportunity to make things better for learners so that they can:
  - Enjoy school life;
  - Do they best they can in exams; and
  - Are able to choose from lots of courses at age 14 and 16 at a centre that they are able to travel to easily.
- We need to make sure that:
  - Schools are in the right place and of the right size
  - Schools are large enough to deal with falling pupil numbers
  - Educational standards are raised by the use of ICT (personalised any time any place learning) and;
  - Modern buildings for a modern curriculum with social spaces (some rebuilt, some modernised and made better)
  - Locate schools with other services and encourage extended services so that everyone can use schools

The following questions were asked:

- *Will pupils have their own laptop?*

- Answer: This is likely to happen in the future. It can be incorporated as part of the Building Schools for the Future initiative.

**The following are in response to the question: How do you think we could make school life more enjoyable for learners?**

- *Pupils should have more freedom during lessons instead of traditional ways of teaching.*
- *Good idea if Y10 and Y11 pupils have a couple of 'free periods' each week to catch up with coursework or socialise with friends.*
- *Teachers should teach in a variety of ways and take into consideration learning styles. Most teachers teach in the same way and not all pupils learn this way.*
- *More group work during class because some pupils perform better in groups when their ideas can be discussed.*
- *Planned learning doesn't allow time for pupils to ask questions.*
- *Some teachers don't let us ask enough questions because of their lesson plans.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think of a centre for students aged 14-19:**

- *Pupils will have more direction.*
- *Diplomas and apprenticeships will encourage non academic children.*
- *Will the new school have a sixth form?*
- Answer: No, the 14 – 19 centres will offering 6<sup>th</sup> form courses.
- *Could we do a diploma and A Levels if we like?*
- Answer: Possibly but this may be too much. Diplomas and apprenticeships will prepare you for working life.
- *What will happen to the way we are taught in years 7 and 8?*
- Answer: There are currently no major changes to KS3 curriculum.
- *What is happening with SATS?*
- Answer: KS3 SATS are being abolished.

**The following are in response to the question: What it means for your school:**

- *Does this mean Abram children will go to the new school?*

- Answer: Yes, priority will be given to children living in Golborne, Lowton and Abram areas.
- *Will transport to the new school be free?*
- Answer: Only to some children depending upon how far away they live from the school. We are investigating the possibility of having 'yellow buses' with the same driver each day.
- *I think it will be a good idea to start mixing year 7 pupils from both schools to start building relationships.*
- *I know of schools that have merged in Burnley and pupils didn't mix well, this caused huge problems.*
- *Will there be 'protection' for pupils who have changed from Lowton to Golborne because they were being bullied at Lowton?*
- Answer: The new school will manage bullying under the bullying policy.
- *There is huge rivalry between Lowton and Golborne communities and there are large gangs that fight against each other.*
- *We no longer have a community policeman.*
- *There is a lot of tension between the communities.*
- *Sports day and induction days should be used to build relationships with each other.*
- *When the schools merge there needs to be a 'clean slate' otherwise GCSEs could be affected.*
- *Y10 are the worst for rivalry.*
- *There are already 1200 pupils on roll at Lowton. Golborne pupils will feel the size of the new school more because there are only 700 on roll.*
- *Y6 pupils from both schools should be mixed on induction days to the new school.*
- *I am still friends with pupils who go to Lowton who I went to primary school with.*
- *There is a park near to the new site where 'bad gangs' congregate.*
- *2 or 3 policemen need to patrol the new site because 'gangs hang around' carrying knives and taking drugs.*
- *Lowton Civic Hall site is a known area for drug dealing.*
- *Will pupils from Gilded Hollins be at the new school?*
- Answer: Yes but there will be separate parts for primary and secondary children.

- *This will be better for primary children when they move up to secondary school.*
- *Will there be clear walking path routes? There is a path way to the new school but it goes past the 'bad park'.*
- Answer: The LA will ensure there are walking and cycle routes to the new school that are well lit, paved and safe for pupils to use.
- *Some pupils don't care about the new school because they will have left but it is important because it will affect me and my siblings.*
- *Will we move into the new school at the beginning of the academic year?*
- Answer: The existing buildings will be open until the new school is complete. The LA will aim for the beginning of the academic year but this cannot be guaranteed.

**The following are in response to the question: What do you like about this school:**

- *We are a very close community and have very good relationships with our teachers. There are lots of good teachers, what will happen to their jobs?*
- Answer: There will be a staffing pool and the governing body of the new school will be responsible for the appointments of teachers. .
- *What happens if the 'bad' teachers from both schools are appointed to the new school?*
- Answer: The governing body are responsible and would have failed their duty if this were to happen.

**The following are in response to the following question: What do you want to see at the new school?**

- *Pupils should be able to vote for the teachers they want at the new school.*
- *What happens to pupils from Golborne who have Lowton teachers?*
- Answer: Teachers have a professional responsibility to get to know pupils from both schools.
- *Will we still be taught in the same way?*
- Answer: Teachers will be trained to deal with the changes associated with the changing curriculum and more personalised learning.
- *What will the new uniform be like?*
- Answer: The new Governing Body decides this. Hopefully pupils from both schools can be involved in designing the new uniform; it will be different to Golborne and Lowton current uniforms.

- *Y10 and Y11 pupils should be able to keep the same teachers when they go to the new school?*
- *Will we still have CAT tests?*
- Answer: CAT tests are unlikely to change.
- *Will we lose our Arts College status?*
- Answer: Lowton has a sports specialism and it is likely that the new school will have Arts and Sports specialisms.
- *The new school should have a house system. This works well at Golborne and helps pupils to get to know each other.*
- *The new school building should have lockers for pupils.*

**The following are in response to the question: What do you think could be changed?**

- *The rivalry between the 2 communities is bad but could disappear if primary children are mixed together from now on.*

**The following in response to the question: Do you have any suggestions on how to manage the process through, particularly for Y7?**

- *I think it is a good idea to start mixing Golborne and Lowton primary children now so any rivalry is lost by the time they go to the new school.*
- *Rivalry between the communities is likely to disappear over time.*

**The following are in response to the question: Will you be able to use the school assembly to talk about this to other students?**

- Yes.
- *Slips were distributed to members of the student council with details of how to access the website and complete an on-line questionnaire.*
- *The school council suggested they would put up posters to encourage pupils to comment.*

Pupils were thanked for their time and positive input to the meeting.

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Lowton High School – Drop In Sessions
<b>Date:</b>	21 May 2009
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm
<b>Present:</b>	A number of officers from Wigan Council
<b>Sessions attended:</b>	A total of 24 sessions were attended

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***Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.***

#### **2 Parents of Y7 children and 2 parents of child year group unknown:**

- Booklet did not explain totally what was going to happen to my child in 2012.
- How likely is all this to happen? Has the funding already been received?
- What will happen about additional costs of uniforms for pupils attending the new school part way through their education?
- Will classes in the new school be a mixture of students from the two current schools?
- Will my son's GCSE years be adversely affected?
- Will the same teachers be in the new school?
- How will the schools cope with the amalgamation?
- Questions about the wisdom of creating Trusts. How will schools be able to do this alongside looking after their own institutions?
- Concerns over Y7 and Y8 pupils.
- Will children be involved in the design of the new building?

#### **Parent of Y8 child:**

- I don't want her going to a larger school (son & daughter).
- School too big – too many students.
- Feels too far to walk.
- Too much traffic.
- Don't see why things have to change.
- Child loves it at Lowton and is being given a good education.
- Disruption.
- Getting communities together is the last thing on people's minds – getting people a decent education is the main thing.
- What about behaviour?
- What is the guarantee of all staff here having jobs in the new school?

**Parent of Y7 child:**

- What will happen to teachers?
- Worries that the children's education will be affected due to the changes.
- It is a pity either school can't keep Y10 and Y11's at the school and let their education run out at the current buildings.
- Concerned about Y10 in old premises and Y11 in new premises. What if course work gets lost in transition?
- Special needs – needs assurances around this.
- Will they have enough time to actually visit the school and get to know it if doing GCSE's?
- Transport and traffic issues.
- Need another access to the school from Golborne.
- Yellow buses – parent feels they are a good idea.
- In a few years time, there will not be enough places due to lots of houses being built.

**Parent and of a child in Y7 at Golborne High and Mum works as a Teaching Assistant at Golborne High:**

- Traffic issues – very bad congestion. Got to make a new road.
- Not convinced about site – not right.
- It will be a very large school – may not be a good thing and may be daunting.
- Positive about a primary school being on site.
- Positive about a Y7 base.
- Thinks it would be a fantastic building and opportunity.

**Local resident:**

- Not very happy about the primary school proposals – taking them further away from where they live.
- Accepts the transition will be better for the primary children.
- Wants to see the control go back to the LA so that they can have a longer term view.
- Worried about the physical location – traffic congestion.
- Make traffic speed limit 20mph to encourage people to not use their cars.
- Not sure that economies of scale should be driving proposals.
- Not happy about Trusts and Foundations – despair of people's ability to co-operative.
- There may be less opportunities for moving around (staff).
- Likes the idea of community facilities – extended services and 24/7 facilities.
- Likes the idea of Sure Start facilities.

**Parent of Y4 and Y9 children:**

- Checking that the Y4 child will be in the catchment area for the new school.
- Concerns about transition arrangements.
- Traffic arrangements and impact on traffic congestion.
- Will there be alternative access?
- Safety on walkways and stairways – can the banisters be a little higher. Concerns over children pushing each other.

- Not adverse to the principle of the proposals – building would be fantastic.
- Integration of pupils – would help if not competitive things like sport.

**Parent of Y6 child:**

- Do you not have a plan B if you don't get BSF?
- Concerns over a rise in pupil numbers and possible overcrowding.
- Really concerned about the size of the school.
- Pastoral care is the key.
- School within a school system is much better than one large school.
- Staff / pupils need to know each other.
- Concerns surrounding transition.
- Essential that LA communicates with parents.
- Approves of the chosen site and can see the logistics.
- Parent chose Golborne because it is a small school.

**Parent of Y9 and Y6 children:**

- Could children in Y10, at the point when the new school comes into existence, continue with the old arrangements in the current premises?

**Parents of Y5 child:**

- Need to decide which school to send their child to.
- Concerns surrounding traffic issues.
- Agree, yellow buses are a good idea.
- Do not have a problem with the new school in principle.
- Main concern is the location of the new school.
- Golborne and Lowton communities do not get on. However, feel they will get over this in time.

**Local residents:**

- Issues surrounding trees, access road, location of building and parking.

**Local residents:**

- Concerns surrounding access and parking.
- Residents' car park – The Oaklands.
- Green Meadows – First Steps Nursery being built – opens September 09 (nursery and primary provision).
- Queries surrounding the existing Lowton High and Golborne High sites.

**Local resident:**

- Access to the site – lives at Beech walk.
- Use of car.
- Supports the facilities.

- Provision of bus for reception age children.

**Local residents:**

- Consultation on planning and design.
- Location of building and access.
- Raised concerns about the hours of use, cars, access and parking.

**Councillor:**

- Concerns surrounding access to / from Hesketh Meadow, states a preference from the bridge.

**Local resident – school teacher in Bolton:**

- Concerns surrounding the size of the school and 1500 places.
- Local residential developments – increased number of students.
- Access to site and car parking issues.
- Y6 to Y7 transition concerns.

**Local resident:**

- Green space loss.
- Nature / wildlife issues.
- Large number of pupils / students in a large environment.
- Access to site.
- Preference to smaller schools.
- Fall back option for site?
- Ecological concerns.
- Public use of space.

**Parent of Y9 child:**

- 14-19 Centres

**Local residents:**

- Trees.
- Access – Hesketh Meadow Lane.
- Very narrow road. Concerned about traffic

**Local residents:**

- Parking issues. Where do teachers park? Could residents have parking rights on Oaklands
- Green Meadows – primary
- First Steps Nursery

**Local residents:**

- Buses access
- Civic Hall
- Wind turbines
- PFI
- Community hall

**Township Forum:**

- Traffic – but no access from Slag Lane
- Happy with footpath upgrade
- Drop off zone – Slag Lane and walking routes
- Support facilities

**Parent of Y7 child:**

- Not got document via school
- Concern re transition to new school in 2012 when Year 11 GCSE year
- Staff – will they stay

**Local residents:**

- Doesn't like size 2000 pupils!
- Doesn't like idea of campus
- Worried about green places
- Access
- Worried about volume of traffic
- Worried about wild life
- Money spent on existing schools
- Keep two separate schools
- Rebuild two on existing sites
- Accepted that green spaces in Wigan or Pennington

**Parent of Y9 child:**

- Why raise standards
- 14-19
- Trust – talked about Governing Bodies
- Questioned numbers
- Access to site

**Drop-in session attendants were provided with comment cards during their appointment. Comments are detailed below:**

14 were received:

- 1. Congestion, I feel another road would have to be built and even then I feel congestion could be a problem. The general public need to be kept informed about developments. Is the Civic Hall being knocked down? Is another road being built?*
- 2. Resident of Pennington. I have concerns regarding access to the new site and the volume of traffic to the site. What bus routes are available?*
- 3. Parents of young children. Opinion: Happy with the new school proposal have young children. Concerns: Having the right layout for the building considering the residents. Access: cards and students. Evening entertainment: Will the noise be contained? Would like to be involved where possible in meeting with residents, etc.*
- 4. Access will be a major problem. Surely this proposal will increase the numbers who have to travel to the area. Do we need a facility this large with the likelihood of future development and even greater numbers. A school this size will have no identity. Can we assume even more housing developments will arise on some or all of the former school sites, hence even greater traffic problems.*
- 5. Please consult residents. I don't think the new build on the Civic Hall should go ahead. The access for 2000 pupils and parents cannot be sustained. Congestion is already an issue along Newton Road and Church Lane and the Lane Head junction can result in tail backs at rush hour already. The Norwood Avenue estate will be even more of a rat run than it is now. Also, one of the last (or the last large area of common ground will disappear). No dog walking, no kids, kick-arounds. Also, prepare for the school to increase in size from over 200 to more, as the 650+ houses at the Slag Lane swing bridge and the four areas left by the 4 schools (2 secondary and 2 primary) are also used for housing – rolls won't fall, they will increase. Also big schools need smaller schools within them to operate successfully. This is a very difficult task and very easy to get wrong. Why does the school have to be so big? Why not have the primaries on this site only?*
- 6. Local resident, not a parent. Concerns: Access to the facility via Hesketh Meadow Lane. Increase pedestrian activity on the estate.*
- 7. We have an issue as a local resident to the proposed site with access. We feel that it is far too small an access road on Hesketh Meadow Lane to accommodate the amount of traffic this proposal will cause. As it stands at the moment, we have a problem whenever there is a large event at the Civic hall with traffic and parking.*
- 8. Having now had the conversation, we are more comfortable that we understand the proposal going forward. We are still very unsure about the proposals for the Golborne and Lowton secondary provision. Particularly in the light of the school site. It is essential that communications are kept clear and give us a view of possible options as they become clear.*

9. *Local resident principal points of objection to the proposed development are:*
- *That it will destroy a large area of Greenfield site which at present supports a variety of wild life the land is used by local people for recreation.*
  - *A school housing 2000 pupils would create massive problems in light of vehicular access, particularly along Hesketh Meadow Lane which already carries a high volume of traffic. In my opinion this would be a prohibitive factor in the decision making process.*
  - *It would be far more sensible to demolish and re-build the existing schools which are already proven sites in terms of access and location.*
10. *I felt that the consultation meeting went well and addressed my concerns. The representatives answered all my concerns in a knowledgeable and professional manner.*
11. *I felt as if I was trying to be sold of this idea. I was not. I am very against this merger – are you on commission? Lowton high is a fantastic school that has fantastic education. This new build will cause a lot of children to be unsettled. As far as I am concerned, all that was being said, 'it's good for the community, bringing communities together'. In this day and age that does not work. I want my children to have their education at Lowton High not anywhere else, if this goes ahead, I will pull my children out of the school and have them taught at home.*
12. *Local residents: We are concerned about how much of the existing green fields and woodland would be lost. Also, the amount of extra traffic down Hesketh Meadow Lane which is hardly wide enough to take existing traffic volumes.*
13. *Please consult residents on access and position of buildings during every stage. No objections to the school as long as residents are happy with the access arrangements, ample parking facilities and noise reduction. Also that litter is kept under control.*
14. *During the consultation meeting no answers were available for any of what we think are the important questions, namely: how are you going to guarantee continuity of education particularly for pupils who will be in their GCSE years at the time of the proposed merger? What transport arrangements will be made to get children to and from the new site in a morning, after school and for pupils who stay behind for extra curricular activities? How is access to and from the site going to be improved as current access is unsuitable? How are the community facilities going to be replaced after closure of the existing schools? As none of the above questions could be answered, it is clear that a lot more thought and planning needs to be given as to whether the merger is viable and for the pupils who will be affected it appears to be a disaster waiting to happen. I am not paying for bus fares as now our child can walk to school which is what I thought the government wanted children to do.*

## Consultation on Wigan Schools for the Future - Phase 1

### Stage 1: Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley

<b>Meeting:</b>	Golborne High School – Drop In Sessions
<b>Date:</b>	04 June 2009
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm
<b>Present:</b>	A number of officers from Wigan Council
<b>Sessions attended:</b>	A total of 16 sessions were attended

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### *Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas.*

#### **Grandparent and member of the community:**

- Concerned about travel distances for Golborne children
- Concerned about loss of open land at Civic Hall and loss of open land at Golborne and Lowton High school sites (public open space)
- Does not wish to see housing development at Golborne site
- Have reservations about PFI.

#### **Parent Y6 child:**

- Timing of consultation vis a vis school admissions process.
- Assurances about quality of staff leadership team sought.
- Concerns about pastoral quality of new school.
- Size of the new school is a concern.
- Why choose the Civic Hall site, as it is a long way for Golborne residents to come.
- Concerns surrounding the 14-19 Centres and whether there will be enough pupils / students to make them viable – need 800+.
- A new school will be fantastic – mainly concerned about transition arrangements and quality of staff.

#### **Parents of pre-school children:**

- Does not agree with the catchment areas.
- Possible loss of curriculum time due to travel time to the Centres.
- Distance of travelling.
- How do you know standards will be improved?

**Parent of Y7 child:**

- Concerned about standards.
- Feels that the school is too large.
- Does not like the idea of 3 schools in one.
- Worries about pastoral care and children getting lost in the system.
- Concerns about what will happen to the existing sites.
- Who will decide on governance?

**Local residents:**

- Centralising schools serving different areas – does not believe this will benefit the children.
- Catchment areas queried.
- Taking away diversity by closing schools.
- Losing day time facilities of Civic Hall. Does not agree with sharing with school.
- Worried about housing developments creating extra children and there not being enough school places.
- Traffic congestion is a major issue.
- Losing smaller schools.

**Parents of Y4 and Y8 children:**

- Huge issue – child will be in Y11 at September 2011 – concerns about continuity and impact on standards due to upheaval.
- Transport will be an issue if Lowton High is chosen as Y7 base for September 2011.
- Change management.
- Transition arrangements.

**Parent of Y2 child:**

- Lives in Harvey Lane which is 3 miles from the new site.
- Does not want child to travel on school buses.
- There will be no local school for Golborne.
- Loss of community facilities for Golborne.
- The new school will be very large and parent feels that it will be too large. What evidence is there that large schools are better?
- School will not have enough places.
- Traffic congestion.
- Want child to walk to school and 3 miles is too far.
- Golborne is a deprived community and the school is a focal point that people feel proud of and it unites people.
- Will affect local businesses as the local school children will no longer walk past.

**Parent of Y7child:**

- Travelling distances too far.

- Concerned about transition arrangements.
- After school activities will be curtailed because the children cannot get home afterwards.
- Want to retain school in Golborne.
- Community of Golborne being left with nothing.
- Taking away Golborne identity.
- Likes this school because it is a small and friendly school that has good leadership.

### **3 Parents:**

- Parents do not want the new school to be on the Lowton site. They want a local school.
- Parents want their children to walk to school and not go on a bus.
- The new site is not a central location.
- Parents want any new school to be on a Golborne site.
- Will add to traffic congestion.
- As children cannot get to school on their own, they will be late if they miss the bus.
- Concerns that their children will not get into the new school as it may be oversubscribed and Golborne residents will not get in.
- There will be nothing left for the community of Golborne.
- Lowton and Golborne communities do not get on.
- Golborne has not got the same traffic issues that Lowton has.
- Uniform and cost of buying new.
- Continuity for Y10 pupils at the change over.

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- Y7 transition from Golborne Junior School into new facility.
- Unisex toilets.
- Transportation of Golborne children to new school.
- Safe access / journey to school.

### **Local residents:**

- Local adjacent playing field – park, housing and ownership.
- Location of building.
- Access to site.

### **Governor:**

- Needs of high school age children not given sufficient priority, needs watered down to fit in with other aspirations – health centre.
- Logistics of new site; may be bus routes, and buses every 10 minutes, means children would need to start queuing for buses 1½ hours before school. Plus the cost of three children per family (no other choice).
- Out of hours access to 'non local' children, buses less often and walkways not safe at age 8-11 in the dark.

- Map of Pg 23 shows only half of Golborne, where in central location of all postcodes included – Some postcode areas will be closer to Ashton schools as crow flies – will admission policy change to exclude or include these areas?
- Future number trends for nursery / primary available in 2020, these feed through to predict to 2025. This shows an upward trend. Why are lowest point figures being used if it's a 'school for the future'!
- Where are sports facilities going? Both schools have good facilities and similar sized areas, (quart in a pint pot comes to mind).
- Mixing health centres etc with school environment can cause other issues. No control over who is on site; causes extra potential risk.
- Transition from primary to secondary – sold as positive. For many students, high school is a second chance, a clean slate. Vulnerable children, those who have struggled or had 'temporary issues' must carry the baggage all through their school years. Not necessarily an advantage as very few children encounter problems during transition phase.
- Land release: Recreational land is being taken for education; this should result in 110% payback in land. Where will this be? Bearing in mind the state park proposed will cover a fraction of the land being used. Will ex-educational land be available as land swap?
- Is there a plan B in terms of site. If after consultation, it does not meet requirements what happens?
- What is to determine a successful / unsuccessful consultation? What will impact the plans (not details) if anything.
- What are primary criteria for the site chosen? Access – not good (both schools after better access, with GHS being more central). Fit health centre? One facing GHS – on same bus route (mountain to Mohamed). Single site – why? To gain first round funding – all affected would prefer quality of education over speed. Why is speed so important – why do we have to be in phase 1?
- Does the value added equal £275 million to everyone, i.e. those outside the project team, teachers, parents, children, etc.

### **Parent of Y7 child:**

- Funding arrangements due to changes in government.
- Rationale for the proposal queried.
- Transition arrangements in these critical year groups.
- Feels like choice has been reduced via 'organised learning' etc.
- Needs to know early on in Y6.
- 2011 transition arrangements discussed. Different options for transition.
- One school site.
- Two schools one site.
- Options for a different site.
- Transition issues.
- Unhappy and doesn't want it to happen – linked to transition at Y10.
- Transport and distance an issue.
- Catchment area.
- Cost and uniform.
- Extra traffic in Lowton – main access is Newton Road.
- Catchment – Queen Anne, Golborne and Beech Walk.

### **Parent of Y10 child:**

- Transition and disruption.
- Smaller school – does not want a large school.
- We do not know if it is going to work.
- Taking away parental choice.
- Transport.
- Staff retention and turnover.
- Taking the school out of the community as the chosen site is 'not even half way' (comment from student).

### **Parent of Y11 child:**

- Transition concerns.
- Options.
- Staffing retention – can we keep staff?
- Head teacher appointment process.
- Y7 – personalised learning.

### **Governing body representative and parent of child in Y11:**

- Site logistics.
- Concerned about buses.
- Catchment area: Harvey Lane, Golborne – will they get in?
- Risk managing numbers.
- Transition worries from Y6 to Y7 – for some children it is a new start.
- Access and restrictions.
- Value-added – for the children and staff and not for money.
- Continuity for learners not accessing the new school.
- Can we look at resourcing staffing from other schools with quality staff to provide continuous provision for learners not moving to the new build?
- Can we offer incentives for quality staff? Plans and structure need to be in place as soon as possible to ensure we retain quality staff.
- Catchment areas – non-denominational only. Where are the children who live further away going?

**Drop-in session attendants were provided with comment cards during their appointment. Comments are detailed below:**

**Three were received:**

- 1. Unisex toilets – not suitable for girls, they need their own away from boys. Bus routes, will they cost or will the school provide them, as most children walk to school. What will the class sizes and classrooms sizes, will they be bigger. What transition practice will there be for the children at Golborne primary schools. Why is this happening as primary schools numbers are rising.*
- 2. Unisex toilets: not suitable for young girls to share a private space with potentially older boys. Bus routes: buses should be provided by the authority and not at a cost to the parent. Classrooms: ensure that they are big enough and that there are plenty of them. Transition: a structured programme for Golborne junior children needs to be put in place to ensure their standards do not fall. GCSE pupils also need to be catered for. Do not really want the two schools to amalgamate.*
- 3. If this school gets to go ahead the teachers at Golborne High will have to re-interview for their jobs. They are going to instead of waiting to see if they get the job look for new ones at other schools. Meanwhile, our children while waiting for this new school will end up losing out on their education because their teachers will move on and they will end up with supply staff who many will not know what to teach that child to help that child progress.*

# Wigan schools for the future



Our vision for education in Wigan

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it”.

Marian Wright Edelman

Wigan Schools for the Future	Page 2
Foreword by Councillor Susan Loudon	4
Introduction - How this document is organised	5
Building schools for the future	6
Our vision	7
Current secondary education in Wigan	8
Making the vision a reality	10
Our vision for education in Wigan - Questionnaire	17
Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton & Golborne High Schools	21
Consultation response form	29
Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools	31
Consultation response form	37
Proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School following the rebuild of the school	39
Consultation response form	43
Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School	45
Consultation response form	51
Competition process	53
Circulation list	54

# Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley



# Wigan Schools for the Future

Wigan Council is embarking on the first stage of consultation on its ambitious schools for the future project that will see £257m invested in transforming secondary schools across the borough.

This consultation document aims to seek your views on the project proposals as they currently stand.

In the main the programme is about investing funds in new buildings and resources but backed up with defined objectives to transform learning.

This booklet:

- outlines what the council is trying to achieve as a result of this once in a lifetime transformation;
- outlines proposals planned for phase one of the project; and
- gives you the opportunity to have your say with a questionnaire you are being asked to return.

## What is Building Schools for the Future?

Building Schools for the Future - or BSF - is a government funded initiative that aims to transform every secondary school in the country.

A number of boroughs have already seen their schools transformed in this way and the very first “schools for the future” are already opened - some in the North West.

Here in Wigan the objective of our schools for the future programme is to raise standards and transform learning by:

- expanding the use of school premises to provide better facilities for all the community - not just young people - by locating other community facilities in the same premises;
- providing modern and better designed premises that are able to provide learners with a wide range of academic and work-focused courses, not just GCSEs;
- providing extra facilities on site for younger children’s education, young people and families; and
- ensuring that the latest technology - for example interactive white boards and computers - is available for all learners.

## School admission arrangements

Wigan Schools for the Future will place schools at the heart of local communities and give parents and pupils greater reassurance over the admissions policies by seeking to define catchment areas for each school.

## So what does this mean in practice?

The project will be delivered in a number of phases due to the sheer volume of work needed to transform the 20 secondary schools in our borough.

### Phase one

As part of phase one, the proposals - which will be subject to more detailed consultation over the coming year - are:

#### Westleigh, Hindley and Hesketh Fletcher

- Develop Westleigh and Hindley High Schools so that they can raise their admission numbers to 250 and 225 respectively.
- Discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE which has had falling pupil numbers over the years.
- If the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE goes ahead then the site may be used to develop one of two 14 - 19 centres for the borough.
- School places will be provided for Atherton residents at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High schools.
- The changes are planned, subject to the outcome of consultation, from 2012.

#### Lowton and Golborne

- Provide a brand new learning campus to serve both communities.
- The learning campus would have a new secondary school that would replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools and a new primary school that would replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools.
- The changes are planned, subject to the outcome of consultation, from 2011, with the learning campus being ready from September 2012.

This executive summary aims to give you a flavour of the proposals we are consulting on at this stage of the Schools for the Future project. Further details are included in this booklet.

#### Your opportunity to comment

There are questionnaires in the document for you to send your comments to us.

Further more detailed consultations and roadshows for parents, carers, learners and local communities will be held as the project continues.

The Council's website [www.wigan.gov.uk](http://www.wigan.gov.uk) will be updated regularly with more details and contact information.

## Foreword

When we first have children we make plans. Well before they are born we start to plan which playgroup; which nursery; which school; or even which university. We start with a vision and make plans on how we are going to get there.

We all want the best for our children and Wigan Council is committed to providing all children and young people who live in this Borough with the best start in life, the best education and the very best opportunities for the future. We want them to be able to shape their own future. We want them to be part of a prosperous and inclusive society where they will flourish.

This document is the Council's plan for our children and our children's children; it describes where we want to be and how we are going to get there. The Building Schools for the Future Programme will turn our plans into a reality.

Our vision is to transform learning and to give current and future generations opportunities beyond their dreams. We want all the people who live, learn and work within your area to have improved life chances. We also want every child and young person to be offered high quality education in learning centres that are both safe, inspiring and offer a wide range of learning pathways towards their chosen careers. We also think it is important to ensure that the community benefits from this plan by offering a wide range of facilities and learning experiences.

The Council has worked closely with the schools and its partners to develop the plan. It is bold and challenging but achievable. It will, when implemented, raise standards of achievement, aspirations and attainment for all. We envisage our learning centres will be fully inclusive and will contribute towards community regeneration and cohesion.

In order to achieve this vision and the long term benefits, radical changes will need to be made and sometimes change can cause unrest and uncertainty. However we have a great deal of experience in managing change and we will invest time and effort to ensure that there is a smooth transition for those most affected.

This document contains a lot of important information and I hope you can find time to read it. This is your opportunity to tell us what your aspirations are for your children, and it is an opportunity for you to comment on our idea.



*Councillor Susan Loudon*  
**Cabinet Champion for Children and Young People**

## How this document is organised

This document has two main parts:

**1** The first part has plain white pages and provides an overview of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme; the vision for future education in Wigan; where we are now and the steps that need to be taken to turn the vision into a reality. Throughout part 1 there are questions for you to consider. At the end of part 1 there is a questionnaire for you to use to send in your comments and further details of how you can tell us what you think.

**2** The second part has colour coded pages that relate to consultation on particular school reorganisation proposals. It contains specific stage 1 consultation on those school reorganisation proposals in the first phase of Wigan's BSF programme. These are listed below and will be of particular interest to learners, parents, staff and governors of the schools concerned:

- proposals to provide a new secondary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools at the end of the 2010/11 academic year
- proposals to provide a new primary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and discontinue Lowton J + I and Gilded Hollins Primary at the end of the 2010/11 academic year
- a proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School from the start of the 2012/13 academic year following a rebuild of the school
- proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School at the end of the 2011/12 academic year and extend Westleigh High School, so that it has increased capacity, from the start of the 2012/13 academic year

At the end of each colour coded section there is a questionnaire for you to use to send in your comments and further details of how to make your views known.



## Building schools for the future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest and most ambitious capital investment programme in secondary education that there has ever been. The aim of the programme is to ensure that every secondary school across the country has facilities appropriate for 21st century learning and teaching thus delivering a transformational impact on educational standards. This is costing between 3 and 4 billion pounds a year over fifteen years. The national programme was launched in 2004 and the performance of learners at the new schools is already improving.

However, the programme is about far more than bricks and mortar. BSF will only be transformational if it is linked to other initiatives. It provides an opportunity to:

- place schools at the heart of their communities, providing easy access for all learners and offering activities and facilities appropriate to all of the community's needs;
- reshape the delivery of the curriculum for 14 to 19 year olds, providing access to a wide range of academic and work based learning courses and preparing learners for the world of work or higher education;
- ensure secondary schools have appropriate community facilities and other educational provision, delivering seamless provision for children, young people and their

families; and

- transform the way that teachers teach and learners learn, by using the full range of information communication technology to deliver learning appropriate to the needs, interests and aptitudes of every learner.

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**Question 1:** Should we use Building Schools for the Future to transform schools and communities in the way described?

---



Our vision has been developed through a series of consultations with children and young people; headteachers; school governors; Church authorities; further education colleges; local politicians and wider community groups.

Our vision is to provide a world class education for all the children and young people of the borough. In doing so, our aim is that all children and young people of the borough will be:

- Happy, safe and healthy;
- Respected by, and respecting of, others;
- Committed to learning;
- Encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability;
- Actively taking part in, and enjoying, education, training or employment; and
- Making a positive contribution to their communities.

To achieve our vision, we must ensure that we have the best possible leaders, managers and workforce in our schools to deliver a curriculum that engages and challenges learners. We need to invest in technology and buildings so that they stimulate learning and provide exciting and innovative opportunities for all learners, including those with additional needs. We must raise every learner's aspirations and prepare

them to take an active and fulfilling part in the labour market of the future. We need to increase the range of, and access to, learning opportunities for young people aged 16 and over and create life long learning opportunities for all.

To do this, our schools, further education colleges and training providers will work together to transform learning and teaching by providing a top class education for all children and young people.

We want our secondary schools to be strong and thriving and at the heart of communities, located together with services that are appropriate to the needs of each community and providing a range of facilities to benefit everyone. Through our schools, we aim to break down social and economic barriers, by making them inclusive of all abilities, needs and backgrounds.

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**Question 2:** Does our vision fully describe what we need to achieve?

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**Question 3:** Should schools work together in order to turn our vision into a reality?

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# Current secondary education in Wigan

## Educational standards

The percentage of 16 year olds gaining 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics in Wigan schools is slightly below the national average. In 2007/08, the figure was 45.6%, compared to 47.2% nationally, though there is a significant variation in individual school performance across the borough with some schools performing well above the Wigan and national averages and others where results are below average.

## Numbers, types and locations of schools and pupil numbers

Wigan currently maintains 20 secondary schools; 4 are Catholic; 2 are Church of England and the remainder are non-denominational. There are a range of governance arrangements in place, though the majority of non-denominational schools are community schools. This means that the Local Authority owns their land and buildings, is the employer of staff and is the admission authority. In addition, there are four secondary special schools that cater for young people with a range of needs.

The geographical location of secondary provision is not ideal and does not always reflect current communities. For instance, there are parts of the borough that have a high

concentration of secondary schools and others that have none. Where there is no provision, children and young people can be disadvantaged by the current admissions system.

There are just over 19,000 11 - 16 learners in Wigan schools, with a further 500 plus in school sixth forms. School sizes vary enormously from around 440 to 1,700 learners. It is recognised that secondary schools with less than 600 pupils on roll experience difficulties in attracting and retaining the quantity and quality of staff to provide learners with a high quality and wide ranging curriculum.

## Future student numbers

It is predicted that the number of 11 - 16 year old students will fall from 19,010 in 2008/09 to 17,349 in 2014/15, and then rise to 18,163 by 2018/19, the latest year available. However, the fall in student numbers is predicted to affect some schools far more seriously than other schools, leaving them with surplus places and the danger of not being viable in the future.

## Further education provision

There are three further education colleges in Wigan and two school sixth forms. Special secondary schools have their own post 16 facilities. The geographical spread of the further

education provision is uneven and a large portion of the academic provision is located at the western edge of the borough. This causes long and difficult journeys for large numbers of learners who travel either across or out of the borough to access education. 7% of young people living in the borough aged 16 - 19 are not in education, employment or training.

### Issues that need to be addressed

We need to:

- raise standards of attainment and target those schools and parts of the borough where attainment is below average;
- increase the choice of different types of schools available to learners by encouraging new governance arrangements and encouraging schools to further develop a distinctive character based on ethos, specialism and/or faith;
- reorganise provision so that schools are economically and educationally viable;
- locate schools so that they are associated with defined communities, providing a degree of certainty for parents over admissions; and

- reshape 14 - 19 provision by providing a wide curriculum offer that includes all 17 14 - 19 diploma lines; provides easier access to courses for learners; and increase learner engagement post 16.

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**Question 4:** Have we considered all issues that you feel need to be addressed as part of the reorganisation? If not, please explain what you think we have missed out.

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# Making the vision a reality

## Re-shaping provision

We will need to alter the number, location and size of schools if we are to place schools at the heart of communities. The capital investment coming into the borough, through the Building Schools for the Future programme, will enable us to do this as well as rebuilding or remodelling all schools.

Within each community, we aim to provide the right number of school places for those living in the community. In some areas, where there are too many school places, we will be proposing a range of options to remove them as follows:

- Opening one new school on a new site to replace two schools that serve the same or adjacent communities;
- Enlarging some schools to take pupils from neighbouring schools that might need to be reorganised.

By taking this action, we aim to increase community cohesion by giving communities an associated secondary school that can provide local services that are needed and wanted. We also aim to minimise travel for learners and provide an element of assurance to parents around admission arrangements.

The map on the following page shows the proposals for future school places across the borough.

In summary the proposals are:

- Build one new school to replace Golborne and Lowton High Schools
- Replace Hesketh Fletcher CE High School in Atherton with a 14 - 19 Centre
- Create a 14 - 19 Centre on the PEMBEC site
- Build one new school to replace Shevington and Standish High Schools
- Build one new school to replace Cansfield and The Byrchall High Schools

All secondary schools that are not involved in Phase 1 will be rebuilt or modernised on the current sites and some will alter in size. **We will consult separately on those proposals not included in phase 1 of the programme at a later date.**

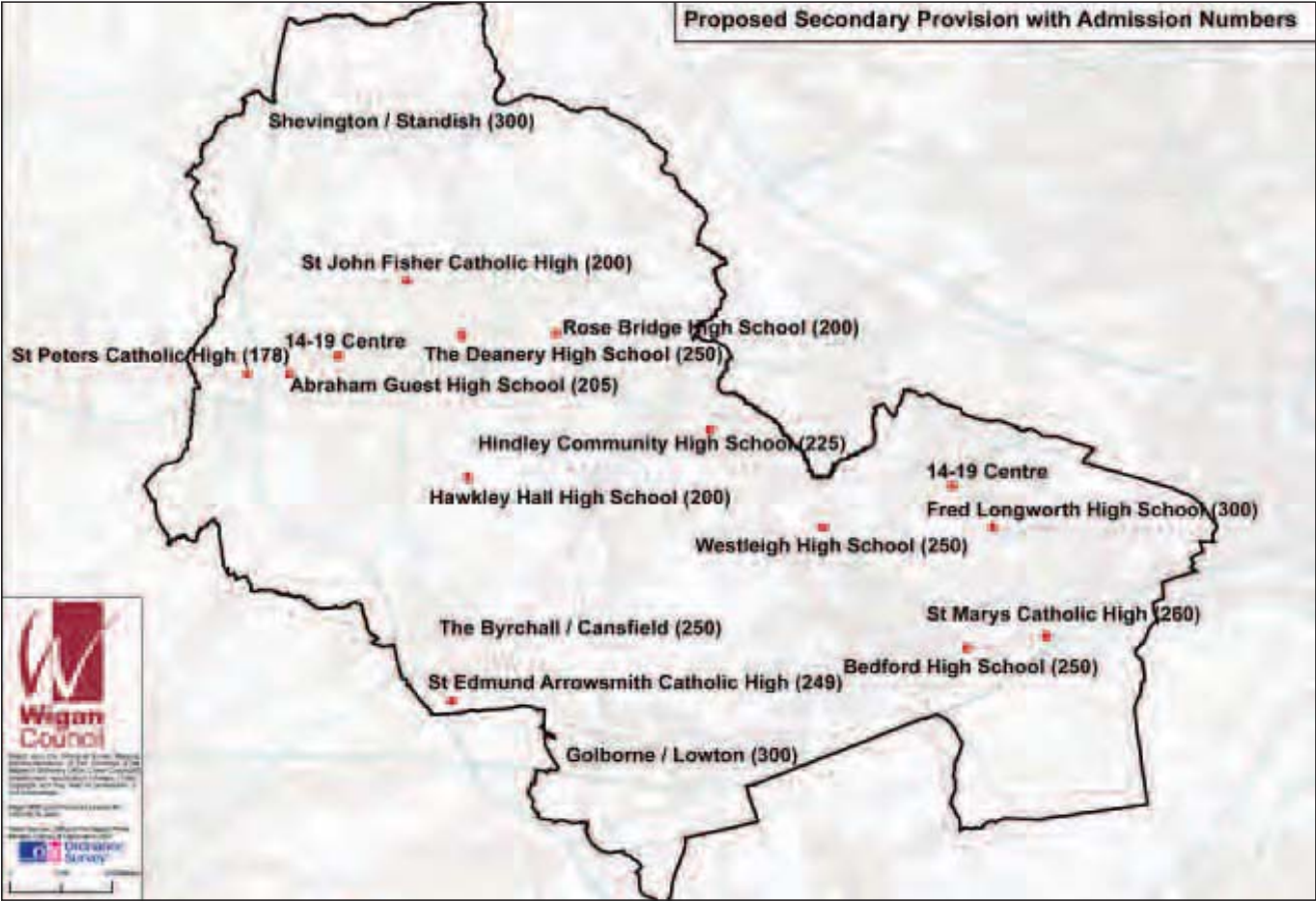
It is not intended to alter the provision of most faith schools in the borough as their admission arrangements are based mainly on faith grounds and reflect demand for places in the communities they serve. However, faith schools will be part of the Building Schools for the Future programme and will receive investment alongside other schools.

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**Question 5:** What are your views on our proposals to change the schools in the way shown on the map?

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**Proposed Secondary Provision with Admission Numbers**



## Admission arrangements

As the Building Schools for the Future programme moves forward, and individual projects are consulted on, agreed and implemented, it is envisaged that the non-denominational schools will alter their admission arrangements in order to reflect the communities they serve. Areas of the borough will be associated with individual schools so that people living in these areas are prioritised for admission. Of course, parents will still be able to express a preference for any school, as they can now. It just means that they will have a better chance of getting a place at the school associated with their catchment area, if it is requested, than other people who live outside of the catchment area, unless they already have a brother or sister attending the school.

If schools do not have catchment areas, it can mean that people in parts of the borough where there are fewer secondary schools are disadvantaged. As the number of admission places would be closely matched to the local population, with few spare places, it would be especially important for geographical areas to be associated with non-denominational secondary schools.

Admission criteria for Catholic and Church of England schools are a matter for the individual governing bodies. They traditionally serve much wider areas than their immediate

communities because of the faith based nature of their admissions.

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**Question 6:** Do you agree that local children should have priority for a place at a local school?

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**Question 7:** Do you think admission arrangements would be easier to understand if each non-denominational school had a defined catchment area?

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## 14-19 Centres

In order to ensure that young people in Wigan have access to the broadest possible opportunities we are proposing to establish two 14 - 19 Centres.

## Diplomas

From 2008, the Government has introduced Diplomas into the curriculum for learners aged 14 and over. The Diplomas have the same status and recognition as GCSEs but offer applied learning qualifications that are attractive to learners wanting to enter a particular career.

The Diplomas require specialised spaces, equipment and

teaching resources. For this reason, no individual secondary school is able to offer and maintain all 17 Diplomas. The Diploma requires Partnership Delivery with schools, colleges and training providers working together to ensure full coverage across the borough.

Learners in Year 10 and 11 who choose to take a Diploma will do so normally for the equivalent of two days per week, with the rest of the week spent on core national curriculum subjects such as English and maths GCSEs. In Y12 and above, Diploma courses tend to be full time.

For more information on Diplomas, visit <http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/>.

### Post 16 provision

We need to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, have access to high quality post 16 education without having to travel long distances. We also need to ensure that all young people continue with learning once they have left school, be it academic in the form of 'A' levels, applied or work based learning, such as diplomas, NVQs or apprenticeships.

### Proposal

It is intended to establish two 14 - 19 Centres:

- one in the West of the Borough on the site of PEMBEC; and
- one in the East of the Borough on the site of Hesketh Fletcher CE.

The Local Authority will work with the centres, schools, colleges and training providers to establish flexible staffing arrangements to deliver the courses by using appropriately qualified and experienced staff.

It is expected that a range of travel options will be available for learners to the centres, including transport from school to the centres for those aged 14 - 16 and independent travel on public transport.

Full consultation on this proposal will be undertaken at a later date, which will include what it means for your child.

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**Question 8:** What are your views on our proposal to establish two 14-19 Centres to deliver Diplomas and post-16 courses?

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### School governance arrangements

We are aiming for schools to:

- further develop their own distinctive characters to increase choice and diversity for parents;
- take shared responsibility for all Wigan's secondary learners;
- play an integral part in the delivery of courses from the 14 - 19 Centres and be part of the system for ensuring that provision is of a high quality and appropriate to the needs of the learners;
- work with health professionals, the police, further and higher education colleges, training providers and other agencies on a regular basis to provide a whole package of services for their learners.

To achieve the aims of establishing two 14-19 centres, it is proposed that area based Trusts will be created, one in the East and one in the West. The Trusts will be owned by all the schools in the area to ensure young people have access to high quality 14-19 provision.

To be members of the Trusts, current community schools would need to re-designate to become foundation schools.

Foundation schools are still maintained by the Local Authority but employ their own staff and set their own admission arrangements. They must act within admissions law and the

Local Authority ensures that admission arrangements do not disadvantage any section or area of the community.

It is a matter for the governing body of each individual community secondary school (including secondary special schools) to decide whether it wishes to re-designate as a foundation school, and thus take advantage of the opportunities outlined above. They will need to consult separately with parents of children currently attending their school, as well as other parties. Some schools have already begun this process and it is envisaged that others will do so shortly.

Voluntary Aided Catholic and Church of England schools cannot re-designate in the same way as community schools because of the way they are set up, although they can still be partners of the area based Trust arrangements to deliver benefits to learners and derive the same benefits for the schools as outlined above.

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**Question 9:** What do you think about the idea of the two area based trusts?

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**Question 10:** What are your views on community schools becoming foundation schools?

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## Phasing of projects and consultation arrangements

Building Schools for the Future is a huge transformational programme that can only be delivered in phases. In Wigan, we will need to progress the changes in three phases according to urgency of need around learner numbers and the amount of capital funding available related to the cost of each project.

The proposals and projects in the first phase are listed below. Some require full consultation and the details of these proposals are contained in the colour coded pages that follow this section. The law does not require consultation on other projects but we would still like to hear your views on them.

### School reorganisation proposals that need statutory consultation:

Proposals to provide a new secondary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools at the end of the 2010/11 academic year;

Proposals to provide a new primary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and to discontinue Lowton J + I and Gilded Hollins Primary at the end of the 2010/11 academic year;

A proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School from 187 to 225 at the start of the 2012/13 academic year, following a rebuild of the school;

Proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School at the end of the 2011/12 academic year and extend Westleigh High School from the start of the 2012/13 academic year; and

Proposals to establish the two 14 - 19 Centres - to be consulted on after the formation of the area based Trusts.

### Other phase 1 project:

A partial rebuild and remodelling of Bedford High School and slight increase in its admission number from 242 to 250.

All those with an interest in the schools concerned will continue to be consulted, as the projects move forward and there will be opportunities to become involved in the design and build and consultation around co-located services at a later date.

**Note:** There are more questions on the individual proposals in the colour coded sections of this document.

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**Question 11:** Overall, do you think that our proposals will help to develop secondary education to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century?

---





### Questionnaire

Please tell us your views by ticking one box for each question below. You can explain your views or give us additional comments by using the space provided below each question.

**Remember,** your views are important and the Council will not make a decision until it has carefully considered them.

**Question 1:** Should we use Building Schools for the Future to transform schools and communities in the way described?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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## Our vision for education in Wigan

**Question 2:** Does our vision fully describe what we need to achieve?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 3:** Should schools work together in order to turn our vision into a reality?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 4:** Have we considered all issues that you feel need to be addressed as part of the reorganisation? If not, please explain what you think we have missed out.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 5:** What are your views on our proposals to change the schools in the way shown on the map?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 6:** Do you agree that local children should have priority for a place at a local school?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 7:** Do you think that admission arrangements would be easier to understand if each non-denominational school had a defined catchment area?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 8:** What are your views on our proposal to establish two 14-19 Centres to deliver Diplomas and post-16 courses?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 9:** What do you think about the idea of the two area based trusts?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Question 10:** What are your views on community schools becoming foundation schools?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 11:** Overall, do you think that our proposals will help to develop secondary education to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please return your completed form no later than  
Friday 26 June 2009 to:

Wigan Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
School Place Commissioning Team  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH



Proposal for future  
education provision in  
Lowton and Golborne:  
Lowton and Golborne  
High Schools



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.

Through the Building Schools for the Future programme we have an exciting opportunity to transform education provision for the Lowton and Golborne communities.

Our proposal is to build a brand new, state of the art, learning campus for those aged between 0 - 16. The learning campus will ease transition from early years, to primary and through to secondary school and will be a focal point for the community with extended services and additional facilities. It will consist of:

- a new secondary school that will cater for students aged 11 - 16;
- a new primary school for children aged 4 - 11;
- a Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0 - 4; and
- community and leisure.

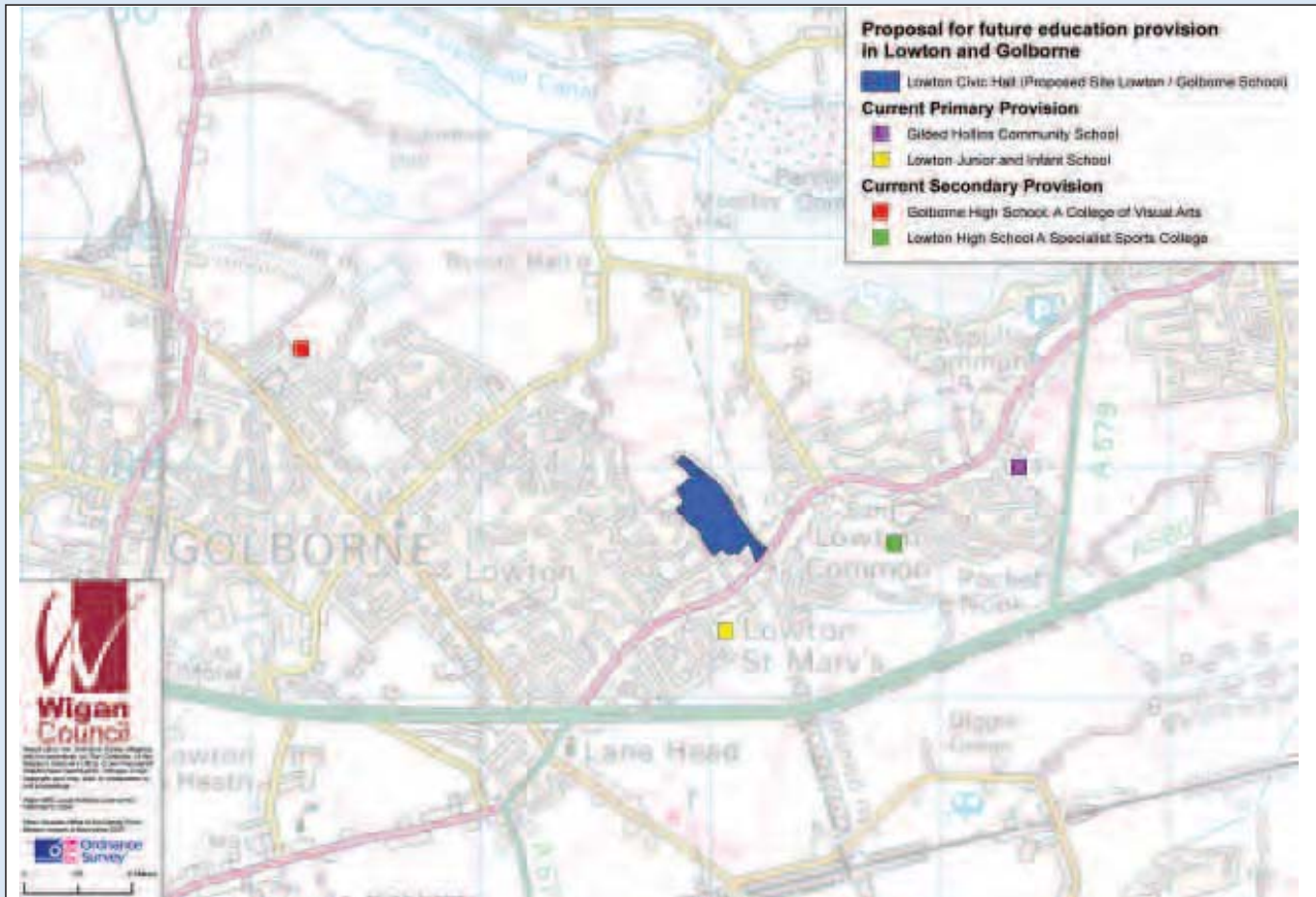
To do this we will need to:

- discontinue both Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school; and

- discontinue both Lowton J + I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools and replace them with a new primary school on the site of the new secondary school.

Whilst the proposals form part of a package for the communities of Lowton and Golborne, we need to consult separately on the proposals for the new secondary school and new primary school. This is because, in law, they are two separate proposals and one is not dependent on the other. However, if the proposals for the new secondary school do not go ahead, it is unlikely that we will proceed with the new primary school.

The new learning campus will be at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. The map on page 23 shows the location of the site and the four existing schools.



# Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas

At the end of the 2010/11 academic year, it is proposed that the current Lowton and Golborne High schools will be discontinued and one school, with one budget, staffing structure and governing body will be established from September 2011.

It is proposed that the new secondary school will cater for up to 1,500 students aged 11 - 16 and will admit up to 300 students per year. The new school will use the current sites of Lowton and Golborne High Schools for one year only. The newly built school at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. (see map on page 23) will be available from September 2012. This phased approach will enable a smoother transition toward the new arrangements for students and the schools.

The new school is subject to competition requirements which means that the Local Authority has to hold a competition to decide who will run the school. This is explained in more detail on page 53.

## Reasons for the proposal

The creation of one school for both communities will aid community cohesion and will bring all the additional benefits of a 0 - 16 learning campus with additional facilities as outlined on page 22.

In developing this plan, the following issues have been taken into account:

- An assessment of the premises of both Lowton and Golborne High Schools has concluded that it is not viable to remodel or improve them. They would need to be rebuilt in order to deliver the modern curriculum in a high quality environment.
- There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Abram areas to support one secondary school with a long term future. If two smaller schools are maintained they may not have sufficient student numbers in the longer term to have a robust and flexible budget, creating difficulties in the delivery of a wide ranging curriculum. The Government will only give councils money to build schools that have a long term future.
- Educational standards are not an issue at either school, though a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both. If the school is co-located with a primary school it would help children in their move to the new secondary school and the usual drop in standards at Year 7 would be minimised.

As part of the proposals, we aim to work with representatives from the Golborne community to see if we can keep some community facilities on the Golborne High site.

### **What this means for you/your child**

If your child currently attends either Lowton or Golborne High schools, and the proposals are approved, the following will happen:

Early in 2011, students currently in Y7 and Y8 will be offered a place at the new school to start in September 2011. All of the students will be guaranteed a place at the new school but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places cannot be guaranteed at alternative schools, nor can they be held open until September 2011, but places will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

Depending on how the new school decides to organise its classes, students currently in Y8 may be able to remain in the current school premises as the new school will not be built until September 2012.

Students currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be unaffected by the proposal and will be able to remain on roll at their current school until they leave at the end of Y11.

### **Future admissions**

The admission criteria for the new school, which will apply to children entering Y7 from 2011 onwards, will prioritise those living in the Lowton, Golborne and Abram areas, after children in public care and brothers and sisters of those already attending the school.

## How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 4 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Golborne High School Address: Lowton Road, Golborne WA3 3EL</p> <p>Date: 21 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Lowton High School Address: Newton Road, Lowton WA3 1DU</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of students and students attending, or about to attend, Golborne High School and Lowton High School.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 14 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm Venue: Golborne High School</p> <p>Date 13 May 2009: Time: 4.00pm Venue: Lowton High School</p>	<p>All staff of Golborne High.</p> <p>All staff of Lowton High.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 14 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Golborne High School</p> <p>Date: 13 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Lowton High School</p>	<p>All governors of Golborne High.</p> <p>All governors of Lowton High.</p>

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of the section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

### Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• Writing to or emailing the Council or</li> <li>• Completing the response form at the end of this section.</li> </ul> <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide	July 2009

*continued...*

whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	
<p><b>Representation period</b> - Statutory notices are published to discontinue the current schools and open the new one. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known <b>again</b> during this period.</p>	Six weeks during January and February 2010.
The local authority or School Adjudicator makes the final decision on the proposals*	March 2010

\* The School Adjudicator will make the final decision if the Local Authority decides to enter the competition for the new school.

The competition to run the new school runs in parallel with the consultation process.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Lowton and Golborne High Schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.





# Consultation response form on the provision of a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne

## Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools with a new secondary school?

Yes  No  Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes  No

3 Do you think that a new secondary school in Lowton should be opened to replace the current Lowton and Golborne High Schools?

Yes  No

4 If you think that a new secondary school should NOT be opened to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools, please state below why you think this.

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5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

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6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes  No

Interpreter Yes  No

If your answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

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7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Lowton High

Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at Golborne High

Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A member of staff at Lowton High

A member of staff at Golborne High

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A governor at Lowton High

A governor at Golborne High

A governor at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**  
to:

Wigan Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
School Place Commissioning Team  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

Proposal for future  
education provision in  
Lowton and Golborne:  
Lowton J & I and Leigh  
Gilded Hollins Primary  
Schools



**Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.**

Through the Building Schools for the Future programme we have an exciting opportunity to transform education provision for the Lowton and Golborne communities.

Our proposal is to build a brand new, state of the art, learning campus for those aged between 0 - 16. The learning campus will ease transition from early years, to primary and through to secondary school and will be a focal point for the community with extended services and additional facilities. It will consist of:

- a new secondary school that will cater for students aged 11 - 16;
- a new primary school for children aged 4 - 11;
- a Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0 - 4; and
- community and leisure facilities.

To do this we will need to:

- discontinue both Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school; and

- discontinue both Lowton J + I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools and replace them with a new primary school on the site of the new secondary school.

Whilst the proposals form part of a package for the communities of Lowton and Golborne, we need to consult separately on the proposals for the new secondary school and new primary school. This is because, in law, they are two separate proposals and one is not dependent on the other. However, if the proposals for the new secondary school do not go ahead, it is unlikely that we will proceed with the new primary school.

The new learning campus will be at Lowton Civic Hall.

Address: Hesketh Meadow Lane Lowton Wigan WA3 2AJ.

The map on page 23 shows the location of the site and the four existing schools.

# Proposal to discontinue Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools and replace them with a new primary school

At the end of the 2010/11 academic year, it is proposed that the current Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools will be discontinued and one school, with one budget, staffing structure and governing body will be established from September 2011.

It is proposed that the new primary school will cater for up to 315 pupils aged 4 - 11 and will admit up to 45 pupils per year. The new school will use the current sites of Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools for one year only. The newly built primary school to be built alongside the new secondary school to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools will be built at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. (see map on page 23) and will be available from September 2012. This phased approach will enable a smoother transition toward the new arrangements for pupils and the schools.

The new school is subject to competition requirements which means that the Local Authority has to hold a competition to decide who will run the school. This is explained in more detail on page 53.

## Reasons for the proposal

The creation of one school for both communities will aid community cohesion and will bring all the additional benefits

of a 0 - 16 learning campus with additional facilities as outlined above.

In developing this plan, the following issues have been taken into account:

- Lowton J & I is a very small school with 118 pupils on roll at January 2009. The policy of the Local Authority is to have primary schools with at least 210 pupils on roll (30 children in 7 year groups) wherever this is possible. This is because schools of this size have more flexibility and economies of scale within their budgets.
- The building occupied by Leigh Gilded Hollins hinders the delivery of the modern curriculum and its internal layout makes remodelling costly, ineffective and disruptive to pupils' education.
- Educational standards are not an issue at either school, though a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both.

## What this means for you/your child

If your child currently attends either Lowton J & I or Leigh Gilded Hollins primary schools, and the proposals are approved, the following will happen:

Early in 2011, children currently in Reception, Y1, Y2, and Y3 will be offered a place at the new school to start in September 2011. All of the children will be guaranteed a place but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places are not guaranteed at alternative schools but places will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

In Reception, Y1 and Y2, classes must, by law, have no more than 30 children in them. The school will be designed so that the older year groups can also be organised into similar sized classes.

Children currently in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be unaffected by the proposal and will be able to remain on roll at their current school until they leave at the end of Year 6.



## How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 2 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School Address: St Helens Road, Leigh WN7 3PQ</p> <p>Date: 3 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Lowton J &amp; I Address: Newton Road, Lowton WA3 1EW</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils and pupils attending, or about to attend, Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School and Lowton J &amp; I.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 19 May 2009 Time: 4.00pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School</p> <p>Date 18 May 2009: Time: 4.00pm Venue: Lowton J &amp; I</p>	<p>All staff of Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School.</p> <p>All staff of Lowton J &amp; I.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 19 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School</p> <p>Date: 18 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Lowton J &amp; I</p>	<p>All governors of Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School.</p> <p>All governors of Lowton J &amp; I.</p>

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

### Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• Writing to or emailing the Council or</li> <li>• Completing the response form at the end of this section.</li> </ul> <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide	July 2009

*continued...*

whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	
<p><b>Representation period</b> - Statutory notices are published to discontinue the current schools and open the new one. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known <b>again</b> during this period.</p>	Six weeks during January and February 2010.
The local authority or School Adjudicator makes the final decision on the proposals*	March 2010

\* The School Adjudicator will make the final decision if the Local Authority decides to enter the competition for the new school. The competition to run the new school runs in parallel with the consultation process.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.



# Consultation response form on the provision of a new primary school for Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools

## Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools with a new primary school?

Yes  No  Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes  No

3 Do you think that a new primary school in Lowton should be opened to replace the current Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools?

Yes  No

4 If you think that a new primary school should **NOT** be opened to replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools, please state below why you think this:

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5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

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6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes  No   
Interpreter Yes  No

If your answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

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7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Lowton J & I

Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A member of staff at Lowton J & I

A member of staff at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A governor at Lowton J & I

A governor at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

A governor at another school

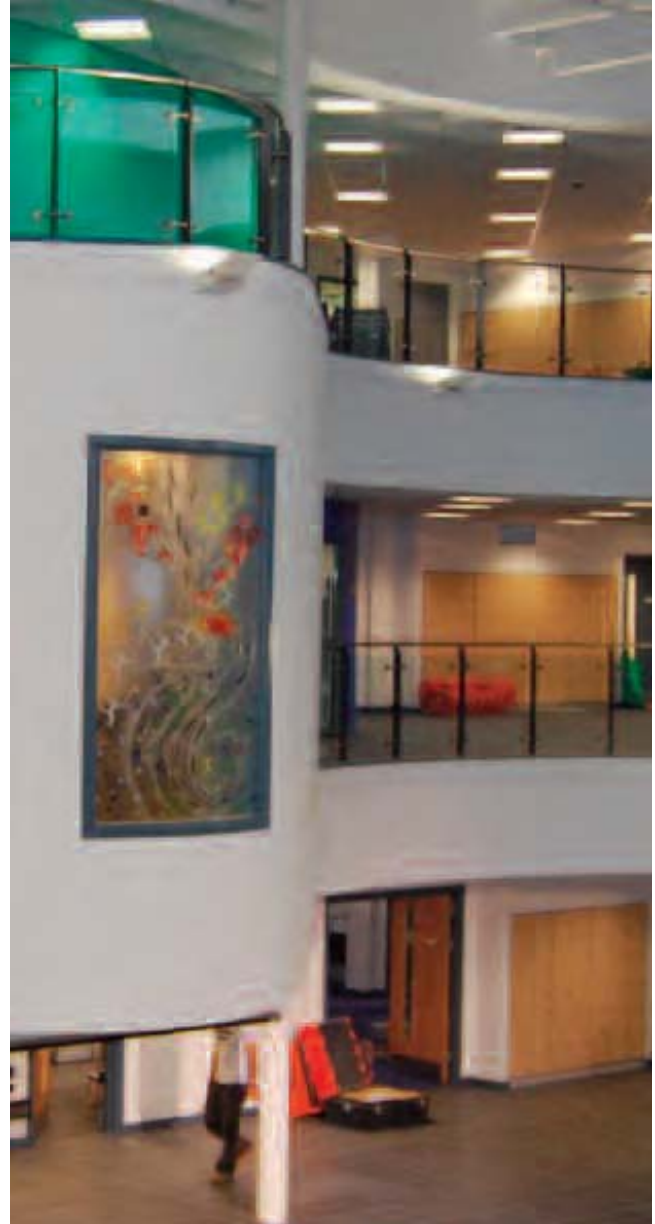
Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**  
to:

Wigan Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
School Place Commissioning Team  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

Proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School following a rebuild of the school



**Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.**

OFSTED (the organisation that assesses and reports on school performance) says that Hindley High is a good and effective school with outstanding leadership, where students make good progress during their time at school.

However, most of the buildings used by Hindley High School are in poor condition and their internal layout hinders the delivery of the modern curriculum. It is considered that the best option for learners, teachers and everyone else that uses the school is to demolish the buildings and build a brand new school on the same site. This will be done with little disruption to learners' education.

In rebuilding the school, we are proposing to make it larger than it currently is in order to cater for young people that live in the Hindley, Hindley Green and Bickershaw areas. The school currently has an admission number of 187 (935 students) and this needs to be increased to 225 (1,125 students) in order to provide enough places for those living in the proposed catchment area that may need a place in the future.

It is, therefore, proposed that the school will be rebuilt and a new admission number of 225 will apply from September 2012. The new admission number will apply across all year groups at the school.



### How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	Date: 9 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Hindley High School	This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils and pupils attending, or about to attend, Hindley High School.  If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact the school and you will be allocated a time to attend.
Meeting for staff	Date: 16 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm Venue: Hindley High School	All staff of Hindley High School.
Meeting for governors	Date: 16 June 2009 Time: 5.15pm Venue: Hindley High School	All governors of Hindley High School.

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

## Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• Writing to or emailing the Council or</li> <li>• Completing the response form at the end of this section.</li> </ul> <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	July 2009

*continued...*

<p><b>Representation period</b> - Statutory notices are published to increase the admission number of the school. This is a public notice that appears in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known <b>again</b> during this period.</p>	Four weeks during September and October 2009.
The local authority makes the final decision on the proposal*	November 2009

\* The following can appeal against the Local Authority's decision:

- The Liverpool Church of England Diocese.
- The Bishop of the Liverpool Roman Catholic Diocese.
- The governors of Hindley High School.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Hindley High School will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.



# Consultation response form on the expansion of Hindley High School

## Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that this document clearly explains why we are proposing to expand Hindley High School?

Yes  No  Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes  No

3 Do you think that Hindley High School should be expanded?

Yes  No

4 If you think that Hindley High School should NOT be expanded, please state below why you think this:

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5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

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6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes  No

Interpreter Yes  No

If your answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

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7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Hindley High

Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A member of staff at Hindley High

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A governor at Hindley High

A governor at another school

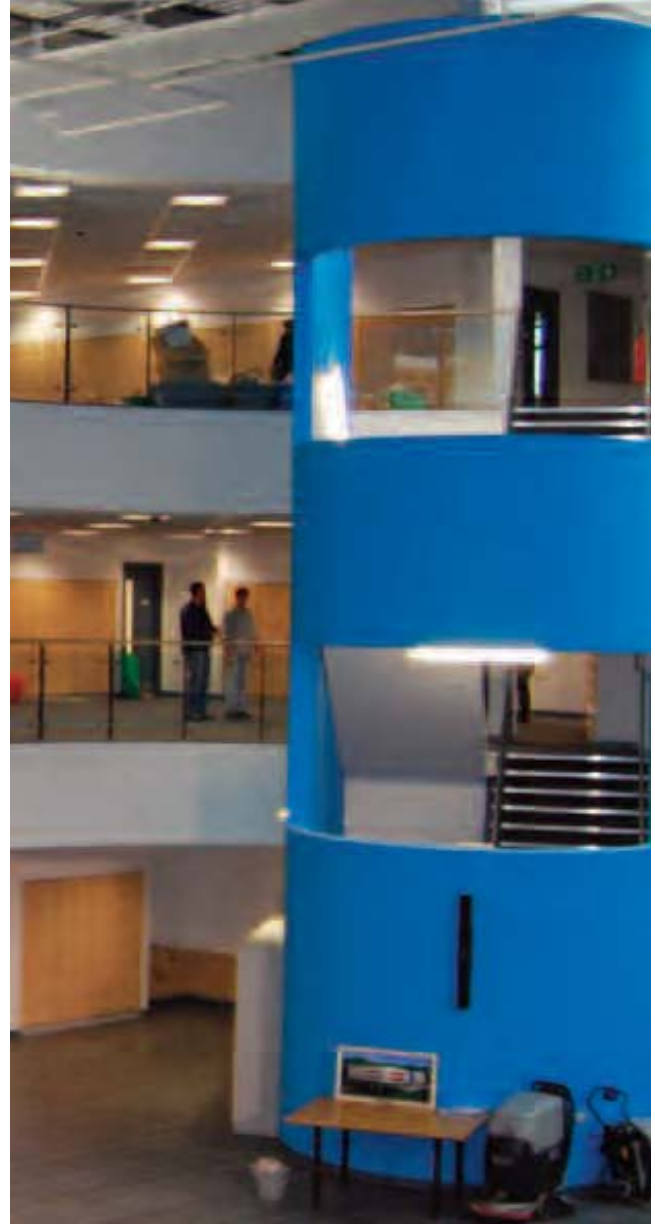
Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**  
to:

Wigan Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
School Place Commissioning Team  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

Proposal to discontinue  
Hesketh Fletcher CE  
High School and extend  
Westleigh High School



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through **Building Schools for the Future**.

## Hesketh Fletcher CE High

Hesketh Fletcher CE provides education for those living in Atherton and surrounding areas. It has an admission number of 200 and can provide places for a total of 1,000 students overall. However, the school currently has only 636 students on roll as follows:

Hesketh Fletcher	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
	98	77	143	160	158	636

For admission in 2009, the school received just 64 first preference applications and it is expected that student numbers will fall below 600 by the start of the 2009 academic year. Projections suggest that numbers will fall to between 300 and 400 by 2015.

Where schools are in a situation of falling student numbers, it becomes increasingly difficult to attract and retain quality staff as the school budget shrinks. This has a negative impact on standards and restricts curriculum choice.

The school currently has 36% surplus places and the Government expects Councils to take action to remove excess capacity of over 25%. This is because a disproportionate amount of the school budget is spent on premises costs and less is available for staffing.

In 2008, just 26% of students gained 5 A\* - C GCSE grades including English and maths and the Government demands that Councils must have an action plan to improve schools with less than 30% of students in this group.

There will be enough places in the East of the Borough at schools that have higher standards of education to enable access for pupils from the Atherton area in the future.

**It is, therefore, proposed that Hesketh Fletcher CE be discontinued at the end of the 2011/12 academic year.**

## What this means for you/your child

If your child currently attends, or is about to attend, Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and the proposal to discontinue is approved, the following will happen:

The school will have a phased closure, where students are able to complete either key stage 3 or 4 as follows:

Current Y11	Leave in 2009 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y10	Leave in 2010 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y9	Leave in 2011 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y8	Leave in 2012 at the end of Y11 as usual
* Current Y7	Transfer to an alternative school in 2011 at the end of Y9 so that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied. So that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied.
* Y7 intake 2009	Transfer to an alternative school in 2012 at the end of Y9 so that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied. So that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied.

If the proposal is approved, there will be no intake to Y7 from 2010 onwards.

Early in 2011 and 2012, parents of students in Y9 will be able to apply for places at alternative schools. All of the students will be guaranteed a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places cannot be guaranteed

at other schools, nor can they be held open until the start of Y10, but they will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

The places at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools will be allocated in good time to ensure that students are able to choose their option subjects in Y10 at the same time as all existing students at the schools. \* Whilst Hesketh Fletcher students will go on roll at an alternative school, we will look to deliver as many courses as possible at Hesketh Fletcher until 2014 so that students in current Y7 and the Y7 intake in 2009 can continue on site there.

We will make certain that Hesketh Fletcher is able to continue to provide an education for those students on roll during the transition period. It will do so by ensuring that the school remains financially viable in the short term, encouraging support from other schools and providing targeted support from the Local Authority.

### Future admissions

From 2010 onwards, it is intended that children and young people living in the Atherton area will be able to access places at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools.

From 2012 onwards, when Westleigh is scheduled for expansion, it is expected that children living in the Atherton area will be able to access places at Westleigh or Fred Longworth.

### **Future education provision in Atherton**

It is intended that, if a decision is taken to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School, the site will be used to establish a 14 - 19 Centre. The Centre will deliver high quality education in the form of Diplomas for those aged 14 and above and a range of academic and work based courses for those aged 16 - 19. The buildings will be remodelled and refurbished to provide a good quality and appropriate environment. Consultation on this proposal will happen at a later date.

Page 12 has further information on the 14 - 19 Centre and Diplomas.

### **Westleigh High**

The proposed expansion of Westleigh High involves building works which would enlarge the school's premises and increase its capacity from 775 to 1,250 students. The admission number for each year group, including the new Year 7 intake would rise from 155 to 250. The building works

would be complete by the end of the 2011/12 academic year. It is therefore proposed that the school be expanded from September 2012 and that the new admission number be applied to all year groups from this date.

This proposal is dependent on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher, as the places will not be needed if the Hesketh Fletcher proposal does not go ahead. Westleigh is one of the schools that will receive students from Hesketh Fletcher, and cater for Atherton residents in the future.

Westleigh High is significantly oversubscribed and each year many parents are disappointed by not being able to secure a place for their child. The school is very active in the local community and OFSTED (the organisation that assesses and reports on school performance) rated the school as a good school with outstanding leadership and management that has brought marked improvements in academic standards and students' personal development.

### **Fred Longworth High**

In a later phase of BSF, Fred Longworth High school will be remodelled and extended to take additional students. The places are not required on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher, but will be required in later years when student numbers are predicted to rise.

### How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 20 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School Address: Hamilton Street, Atherton M46 0AY</p> <p>Date: 1 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Westleigh High School Address: Westleigh Lane, Leigh WN7 5NL</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of students and students attending, or about to attend, Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and Westleigh High School.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 11 May 2009 Time: 4.00pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School</p> <p>Date: 12 May 2009 Time: 3.15pm Venue: Westleigh High School</p>	<p>All staff of Hesketh Fletcher CE High.</p> <p>All staff of Westleigh High School.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 11 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School</p> <p>Date: 12 May 2009 Time: 4.15pm Venue: Westleigh High School</p>	<p>All governors of Hesketh Fletcher CE High.</p> <p>All governors of Westleigh High School.</p>

As well as officers from the Council, a representative of the Manchester CE Diocese will be available at the Hesketh Fletcher CE meetings to answer any concerns you may have.

You can also make your views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

### Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to close and significantly enlarge schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• Writing to or emailing the Council or</li> <li>• Completing the response form at the end of this section.</li> </ul>	5 May - 26 June 2009

*continued...*

The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.	
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	July 2009
<b>Representation period</b> - Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.	Six weeks during September and October 2009
The local authority makes the final decision on the proposals*	November 2009

\* The following can appeal against the local authority's decision:

- The Manchester Church of England Diocese
- The Bishop of the Liverpool Roman Catholic Diocese
- The governing bodies of Hesketh Fletcher CE and Westleigh High Schools.

Please note that the timetable may alter. We will tell you if this happens.



# Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

## Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that this document clearly explains why we are proposing to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School?

Yes  No  Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes  No

3 Do you support the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and offer alternative school places at Bedford, Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools?

Yes  No  Don't know

4 If you do not support the proposal please tell us what your concerns are:

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5 Have you any other concerns?

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6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes  No

Interpreter Yes  No

If your answer is YES, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

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7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Hesketh Fletcher CE   
Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at Westleigh High School   
Please state which year group your child is currently in \_\_\_\_\_

A parent or guardian of a child at another school   
Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A member of staff at Hesketh Fletcher CE

A member of staff at Westleigh High School

A member of staff at another school   
Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

A governor at Hesketh Fletcher CE

A governor at Westleigh High School

A governor at another school

Please state which school \_\_\_\_\_

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**  
to:

**Wigan Council  
Children and Young People's Services  
School Place Commissioning Team  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH**

# Competition process

## New schools and the 2006 Education and Inspections Act

The Education and Inspections Act means that, in most cases, the Local Authority must hold a competition to determine who will run a new school. This includes new schools formed as a result of discontinuing existing schools.

The competition process requires the Local Authority to:

- consult on the need for a new school which, in this case, is linked to the proposed discontinuation of the two existing schools;
- provide details of the new school - where it is to be located, how many pupils it will provide for, the ages of the pupils, and related information;
- invite proposals from organisations to run the new school.

The Local Authority cannot state what type of schools it wants. For example, it cannot say that it wants a Church of England, Catholic or Community school.

The Local Authority will take the decision on who will run the new school provided that it does not put its own proposal forward for the school to be a Community school. The School Adjudicator will take the decision if the Local Authority puts its own proposal forward.



## Circulation list

We have already held extensive discussions with representatives from schools; colleges; diocesan authorities; and local elected members on our vision for future education in Wigan and proposals in relation to individual schools.

As part of this consultation exercise, we are consulting the following:

- Parents of all school and nursery age children in the borough
- Governors and staff of all schools
- Diocesan Authorities
- St John Rigby 6th Form College
- Winstanley 6th Form College
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Trade Union representatives and professional associations
- Local Elected Members (Councillors)
- Local Members of Parliament
- Neighbouring Authorities

The document is also available in hard copy at libraries, town halls and early years establishments and is available on the Wigan Council Web site at:

[www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture/](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture/)





## CONTACT

For further information and advice please contact:

Wigan Schools for the Future Team

Wigan Council

School Place Commissioning Team

Progress House

Westwood Park Drive

Wigan

WN3 4HH

Phone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029

We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request. Contact details as above.

Designed by Media & Communications Team - Graphics



# Wigan Schools for the Future: Questionnaire for students

## About you

- Q1 Which School do you go to?**
- Abraham Guest High School
- Bedford High School
- Cansfield High Specialist Language College
- Fred Longworth High School
- Golborne High School
- Hawkley Hall High School
- Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
- Hindley High School
- Hope School
- Landgate School
- Lowton High School
- Montrose
- New Greenhall School
- Newbridge Learning Community
- Oakfield High School
- PEMBEC@Kingsdown High School
- Rose Bridge High School
- Shevington High School
- St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School
- St John Fisher Catholic High School
- St Mary's Catholic High School
- St Peter's Catholic High School
- Standish Community High School
- The Byrchall High School
- The Deanery CofE High School & Sixth Form College
- Westleigh High School-A College of Technology
- Q2 Which year group are you in?**
- Year 7  Year 8  Year 9  Year 10  Year 11
- Q3 What is your name? (This will be treated confidentially and we won't share it with schools. We only need it so that we can enter you for the prize)**
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## Planned changes to schools

We will need to make sure that schools are in the right place and are of the right size for the towns that they serve.

- Q4 Do you think that schools should give a place to people that live in their town or area before other people from outside of the area?**
- Yes  No  Don't know

These are the main changes that we are planning to make to schools. Do you think these plans are a good idea or not?

These schools will be ready by September 2011 and 2012:

- Q5 Close Golborne and Lowton High Schools and build one new school to replace them.**
- Yes  No  Not sure
- Q6 Replace Hesketh Fletcher CE in Atherton with a new centre for students aged 14-19 years.**
- Yes  No  Not sure

- Q7** Open a new centre for students aged 14-19 years on the Pembed school site.  
 Yes  No  Not sure

These schools will take longer:

- Q8** Close Standish and Shevington High Schools and build one new school to replace them.  
 Yes  No  Not sure

- Q9** Close Byrchall and Cansfield High Schools and build one new school to replace them.  
 Yes  No  Not sure

- Q10** You can tell us what you think of any of the planned changes for schools here.

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### Centres for Students aged 14-19 years

At Y10 and above, you will be able to choose from different courses depending on what you want to do in the future. This includes diplomas and apprenticeships that match certain jobs and careers and also traditional GCSEs.

Each school will not be able to offer diplomas and apprenticeships because of the space they would take up and the number of students in each class would be too small. Instead, we have to think about offering diplomas and apprenticeships at other places where students from lots of schools come together to take the same course.

We are planning to open two centres, one in Atherton and one in the Pemberton area to run diplomas and apprenticeships. If you live close by, you may be able to travel to the centre yourself or, if you live further away, there will be a bus from your school to the centres and back.

Depending on which courses you choose, you may only be at the centres for part of the week (or not at all if you decide to take just GCSEs).

- Q11** Do you think we should open centres in Atherton and Pemberton to run diplomas and apprenticeships?  
 Yes  No  Don't know

You can say more here.

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When you finish your Y11 year, some of you may decide to do 'A' levels and others may want to take courses such as higher level diplomas and apprenticeships. At the moment, many of you will have to travel long distances to get to Sixth Form Colleges, including Colleges outside of Wigan, if you want to do certain courses. Our plan is that the 14 - 19 centres will offer 'A' levels and higher level diplomas and apprenticeships so that most students can travel to them more easily. We are working with all of the Colleges in Wigan to see if they will run courses at the centres, so that the quality of the courses is the same as those presently on offer.

- Q12** Do you think that the 14-19 centres should offer 'A' levels, higher level diplomas and apprenticeships?

- Yes  
 No  
 Just 'A' levels  
 Just diplomas and apprenticeships  
 Don't know

You can add anything you want to say about the centres here.

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### **Lowton and Golborne High Schools**

These are our plans for Lowton and Golborne High Schools:

- To close both schools and open a new school on the Lowton Civic site
  - The school will be for people living in Abram, Golborne and Lowton
  - It will have up to 300 students per year group (1,500 total)
  - If you are going to Golborne or Lowton High at the time they close you will be able to have a place at the new school
  - If you are presently in Year 9, 10 or 11, you will not be affected by the changes
- We want to have a primary school, children's centre (nursery) and leisure activities on the same site.

#### **Why?**

There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Abram areas to fill one large school. Also, both Lowton and Golborne High School buildings are poor and it is better to build one new school than try to improve them. We think that it will be easier for the primary school children to start at the secondary school if they share the same site.

**Q13 Do you agree with this proposal?**

- Yes                       No                       Don't know

**You can say more here.**

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### **Hindley High School**

These are our plans for Hindley High School:

- To completely rebuild the school on its present site (you can stay in the existing buildings whilst this happens)
- To make it bigger - it will have up to 225 students in each year group (1,125 in total)
- The school will be for people living in the Hindley, Hindley Green and Bickershaw

#### **Why?**

Most of Hindley High School's buildings are very poor and it is better to rebuild the school completely than try to improve them. We need the school to be a little larger to make sure that everyone who lives in Hindley, Hindley Green and Bickershaw will be able to have a school place in the future.

**Q14 Do you agree with this proposal?**

- Yes                       No                       Don't know

**You can say more here.**

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### **Hesketh Fletcher CE and Westleigh High Schools**

These are our plans for Hesketh Fletcher CE and Westleigh High Schools:

- To close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School
- To make Westleigh High School larger up to 250 students per year group (1,250 in total)
- Westleigh High and Fred Longworth High Schools in Tyldesley will be for people living in Atherton, as well as Westleigh and Tyldesley
- We plan to make Fred Longworth larger in the future - up to 300 students per year group (1,500 in total)
- If you are going to Hesketh Fletcher CE at the time it closes you will be able to have a place at Westleigh High, Fred Longworth High or Bedford High in Leigh, though you can apply for other schools as well
- If you are presently in Year 8, 9, 10 or 11 you will not be affected by these changes

**Why?**

The numbers of students at Hesketh Fletcher CE High are falling and we expect there will be only 300 to 400 students in the future if we don't close it. Secondary schools need to be bigger than this so that they can have enough teachers and can offer a lot of subjects for students to study.

**Q15 Do you agree with this proposal?**

Yes

No

Don't know

**You can say more here.**

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