



PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local authority who are publishing the proposals

School details:

Westleigh High School – A College of Technology, Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NL – a community school.

Local education authority publishing the proposals:

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

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposals will be implemented on 1 September 2012.

The proposals will not be implemented in stages.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including –

- (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent

(a) Objections to or comments on the proposals must be sent to the local authority in writing by **1 October 2009**.

(b) The address to which representations should be sent is:

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

Email: SchoolsForFuture@wigan.gov.uk

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

It is proposed to enlarge Westleigh High School by extending the school premises to increase the physical capacity of the school to admit more pupils. The proposal is linked to the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School published on the same day.

School capacity

5. (1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, the proposals must also include—

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 775. The proposed capacity of the school after the alteration is 1250.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group is 155. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted to each relevant age group is 250. The new admission number will apply from 1 September 2012 across all year groups at the school.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable.

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 to 4, and 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The number of pupils expected to be at the school at the time of publication of the proposals is:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
164	163	144	148	156	775

Note on pupil numbers

Year 7:

The figure is the number of places allocated for year 7 in September 2009.

The actual number of pupils starting will only be known on the first day of the Autumn term, that is 2 September 2009

Years 8 to 11

These figures are based on the number of pupils on roll at the school on the last day of the Summer term in July 2009. New applications for children wishing to start on the first day of the Autumn term 2009 which were received before the Summer holiday have also been included.

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable.

Additional Site

7.- (1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new or additional site will be required. The school will be enlarged on the current site.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable.

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.— (1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 7 or 14 of Schedule 2 or 4 to The School

Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable.

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision;

Not applicable.

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable.

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 7 or 14 of Schedule 2 or 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable.

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable.

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Not applicable.

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not applicable.

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not applicable.

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not applicable.

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site;

Not applicable.

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in area will be discouraged.

Not applicable.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

The objectives of the proposal are to increase the physical capacity and admission number at Westleigh High School to ensure that there are sufficient places to accommodate all pupils living in the proposed new catchment area, that is Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46, WN7-4 and WN7-5) and attending the associated primary schools who want a place.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents 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 2
Minutes of the staff meeting: appendix 3
Minutes of the governors' meeting: appendix 4
Minutes of the meeting with pupils: appendix 5
- c) The views of the persons consulted: appendix 6
- d) All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows:
 - adequate time was allowed: 6 weeks outside school holidays;
 - 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 at which the decision to publish the proposals was made;

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

e) Copies of the consultation documents:

Consultation booklet: appendix 7

Online student consultation: appendix 8

Details of how the consultation booklet was 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.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The estimated total capital cost of the proposals is £14m. This will be met entirely by the local authority from Building Schools for the Future funding.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Funds will be made available as part of phase one of Wigan's Building Schools for the Future Programme.

Confirmation from the Secretary of State that Wigan local authority is on the programme is attached at appendix 9.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not applicable.

Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable.

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable.

(d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school;

Not applicable.

(e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable.

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (1) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (b) increase participation in education or training; and
- (c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

(2) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school will provide sixth form education, the proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable.

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

Not applicable.

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable.

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

Not applicable.

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

Not applicable.

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

Not applicable.

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

Not applicable.

(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not applicable.

(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children;

Not applicable.

(i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

Not applicable.

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

(a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable.

(b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not applicable.

(c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision;

Not applicable.

(d) a statement as to how the authority believe that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not applicable.

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

(a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;

- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

Not applicable.

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex education in the area;

Not applicable.

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education;

Not applicable.

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable.

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area;

Not applicable.

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable.

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Not applicable.

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

As part of the BSF programme, a review of the whole of non-Catholic secondary school provision in Wigan Borough has taken place. The proposals for phase 1 of the programme include reducing the number of secondary schools in the borough by 2.

The proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School is linked to the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School in Atherton.

To ensure that pupils can access a place at a local secondary school the local authority is proposing that non-catholic secondary schools give priority for admission to children living in catchment areas and attending the associated non-catholic primary schools in the area.

It is proposed that Westleigh High School serve the communities of Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46, WN7-4 and WN7-5), with children attending the associated primary schools having priority for places.

It is projected that Westleigh High School will need an admission number of 250 to ensure all children in this category can access a place at the school in future. If any places remain, other children may apply.

An admission number of 250 at Westleigh High School will also mean that there will be sufficient places overall for children living in the east of the borough (Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley).

(b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable.

(c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable.

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice;

Not applicable.

(b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 and paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 2 to Schedule 2; ;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 4.

of the Prescribed Alteration regulations.

(3) Whilst not required by regulations to provide this information for any LA proposals to expand a voluntary or foundation school, it is desirable to provide this below.

Not applicable.

Additional information in the case of special schools

26. Where the proposals relate to a special school the following information must also be provided—

(a) information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of the pupils (distinguishing boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school;

Not applicable.

(b) information on the predicted rise or fall (as the case may be) in the number of children with particular types of special educational needs requiring specific types of special educational provision;

Not applicable.

(c) a statement about the alternative provision for pupils who may be displaced as a result of the alteration;

Not applicable.

(d) where the proposals would result in the school being organised to make provision for pupils with a different type or types of special educational needs with the result that the provision which would be made for pupils currently at the school would be inappropriate to their needs, details of the other schools which such pupils may attend including any interim arrangements and transport arrangements to such schools;

Not applicable.

(e) where the proposals relate to a foundation special school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable.

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.

Consultee	Way in which the consultation document was made available
The local authority	Copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system.
Staff of all schools including Westleigh	The headteachers distributed copies to all members of staff.
Governors of all schools including Westleigh	Copies were posted to governors' home addresses.
Parents of nursery, primary and secondary pupils currently attending all Wigan schools including Westleigh	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"> • Town Halls • All libraries • Children and Young People's Services reception

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.

Consultee	Way in which the consultation document was made available
The local authority	Copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system.
Staff of all schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	The headteachers distributed copies to all members of staff.
Governors of all schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	Copies were posted to governors' home addresses.
Parents of nursery, primary and secondary pupils currently attending all Wigan schools including Hesketh Fletcher CE	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.
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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: Westleigh High School – Drop In Sessions

Date: 01 June 2009

Time: 3:30pm

Present: A number of officers from Wigan Council

Sessions attended: A total of one session was attended

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

Parents of Y7 and Y6 children:

- Admissions information sought.
- Organising learning.
- Home base.
- School within a school.
- Behaviour management – concerns over more learners.
- Positive comments about the school.
- Consultation – a positive and open process.
- Need to ensure that we keep the school ethos and achievements.
- Westleigh has great after school activities – do not want to lose them in a bigger school.
- Homework and help clubs must stay.
- Westleigh is one of the best schools there is.

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 Westleigh High School

Date: 12 May 2009

Time: 3.15pm

Present: Approximately 100 staff
Head Teacher Westleigh High School
Trade Union Representatives
A number of officers from Wigan Council

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

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 Westleigh High School and implications for staff. It was explained that anything asked or stated as a result of the meeting would be noted and will be reported to Cabinet.

The trade union representative from NASUWT stated that he had not been given a lot of notice about the meetings and other trade union representatives were not able to attend and gave their apologies.

Head Teacher stated: OFSTED and other research suggest that school size is immaterial with regards to standards and there is no evidence that large schools impact negatively on standards.

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

- Q. *There will be more staff and more students. By doubling the size, there are some concerns that the school may not have a family atmosphere.*
- A. Question answered by Head Teacher: There is already a family atmosphere here at Westleigh High. It will take 5 years to increase the size of the school so the ethos can continue and be built upon. Also some 14-16 year olds will be off site at any one time.
- S. *LA: We will consult with all concerned over transition arrangements and what the new school will look like in terms of management and leadership. Staff need to be fully*

involved in the process. We need to build on Westleigh's success. The challenge is in transforming learning.

S. *Staff: Agreed larger schools can work.*

Q. *Can we say 'no' to some of displaced staff through the staffing pool?*

A. Promotion opportunities are available to Westleigh staff as well as Hesketh Fletcher staff. There will be a rigorous appointment procedure and if staff are not suitable, they will be given feedback and support.

Q. *There are a lot of SEN pupils at Westleigh already, around one third. Will we get even more?*

A. Yes, inevitably, but the percentage may not increase. We need to build on what we know works well here. The school does extremely well with SEN pupils.

Q. *If the school became a Foundation school, could it alter the admission criteria?*

A. School will have more control over admissions. However, it must still act in accordance with the Admissions Code and consult the LA.

Q. *Will we have a new build or remodel?*

A. You will be consulted over the design of the build. There is no imposition; as it has to meet the needs of the learners. Around £10m investment is proposed for Westleigh. We will need an extension and a remodel. Both students and staff will work in design teams and the LA will want to have a 'best practice' model that it can roll out to all schools as a framework to work from. We will have exemplar designs and 'lessons learned' from the pathfinder school and other new school premises. Adult learners will also be affected, so all students need an input whether directly affected or not.

Q. *What about the extra traffic and new build impacts to the neighbours around the school?*

A. This will be dealt with as part of the planning process of the consultation.

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 Westleigh High School

Date: 12 May 2009

Time: 4.15pm

Present: 16 Governors
Head Teacher Westleigh High
A number of officers from Wigan Council

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

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 Westleigh 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.

The Head Teacher gave an overview of 14-19 Centres, Foundation and Trust status. A decision will be made by governors at the next full meeting on 01 June 2009.

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

- Q. *Fred Longworth have been reluctant to increase their admission number in the past, how will the LA deal with this?*
- A. The LA commissions places and hopes to do this in negotiation and agreement with Fred Longworth; but has powers to go ahead even without agreement.
- Q. *Will faith schools be rebuilt also?*
- A. Yes, but no reorganisation.
- Q. *Regarding surplus staff in other schools. All teachers are employed by LA. We will be reluctant to bring teachers into Westleigh when others are at risk elsewhere. Personal view is that we need to take staff in other schools first.*

- A. Teachers will be appointed based on quality of person. The needs of the students must be considered first and foremost. HR will be able to support staff throughout the process.
- S. *It should be a policy of LA (who employs the staff) that they are employed at other schools before any outside applicant.*
- A. The LA cannot enforce anything on governors.
- Q. *Where does Plank Lane fall in the admission criteria? Need to put in Westleigh criteria.*
- A. We have not worked out that level of detail yet.
- Q. *Will the LA consider providing yellow buses?*
- A. We need to do a lot of work with transport providers yet.
- Q. *Numbers at Westleigh and Fred Longworth are full. Bedford does not have enough places. Will we need mobiles?*
- A. The LA will consult with schools to ensure sufficient provision. We may need to over-admit slightly in 2010 and 2011. Bedford has got a number of surplus places in each year group.
- S. *But people don't want to go to Bedford.*
- Q. *Hesketh Fletcher CE is under the Diocese of Manchester. How does reorganisation work in these circumstances?*
- A. This is being done in consultation with the Diocese of Manchester.

Meeting ended at 5.15pm.

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: Westleigh High School – Student Council

Date: 01 June 2009

Attendance: 22 Members of the School Student Council (mixed year groups)
Head Teacher
Head of Year 8, Health & Social Care
A number of officers from Wigan Council

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School.

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 pupils 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 Westleigh 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 their 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).
 - 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

Do people know what BSF is?

- *Merging schools and to make more money, rather than wasting funding.*

Overview of BSF:

- Pupil numbers
- Educational standards
- Modern buildings to deal with modern curriculum
- Better technology
- Co-locate with other facilities, extended schools and community
- Associate geographical areas; Westleigh and parts of Atherton – admissions criteria

No questions at this time.

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

- *More interactive learning e.g. geography.*
- *Maybe some people would like to learn in different ways, different groups and different ways of learning. Different lessons and ways of learning.*
- *More practical lessons in science for example, learning from text books not as interesting as a practical lesson.*
- *SMART boards brought in etc. suggestion of science learning by going outside the classroom.*
- *Science, instead of looking at pictures of leaves in books; go out and look at leaves.*
- *We know it can happen, just make it happen.*
- *Helps to bond when doing a practical, outside, for example.*
- *People not enjoying science as much, may not learn and not be good for the teacher. Helps everyone to enjoy.*
- *If you are in a set with your friends, it would be better to mix sets of different abilities.*
- *Try to keep lessons so that you don't get bored, because you switch off.*
- *You only mess about when you're bored and not listening. By making lessons more enjoyable, you get better results.*
- *Free water to hydrate the mind.*

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

- *Head Teacher: None of the students are accessing a diploma at the moment.*
- *Head Teacher: Y10 and Y11 interviews with HT show pupils are travelling to Winstanley, a long way to travel, and Pendleton in Salford.*
- *Good. We could have a college here like Winstanley, so that you don't have to travel.*
- *Anything like that is good, because it's all about your grades in Y11, so the more choice you have, the better you'll do.*
- *Discount cards for transport to 14-19 Centres would encourage people to go.*

What it means for your school:

- The admission number will be 250 so there will be 1250 pupils on roll. This is nearly twice as big as you have now.
- We aim to ensure that we include every modern facility available to deliver a modern curriculum to help to raise standards.
- We need to make the school capable of serving the people of Westleigh and those who live in Atherton.
- We can only extend and remodel this school if we close the school in Atherton.
- Building work will be ongoing whilst you are at school with minimal disruption.

Comments from students: None.

The following are in response to the question: Does anyone have any suggestions of how we could manage the change?

- *Keep updating people, tell us how you are doing it and what you are doing and when it is going to happen.*
- *Maybe ask some of the pupils to have a look at the building when work is in process?*
- *You could get the school to do a project on it and put it in the school for people to see at parents evening.*
- *Go to schools that are closing down and involve them as to what is happening here.*
- *Show the pupils what the rooms are going to look like.*
- *Make a website like a school facebook to ask other people what they think about it.*
- *Y11 doing woodwork could help to build it.*
- *For those who are uneasy about a new school, could a visit be arranged to schools that have already been done.*
- *Inform local people of what is happening to the building.*

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

- *Teachers and how small it is, because if you don't know anybody, the teacher treats you nicely. You may not have met them before, but they are helpful.*
- *School like a big happy family. Teachers treat us with respect and we treat them with respect.*
- *It is small*
- *Quite good because of lessons and variety of subjects.*
- *Good community spirit, everyone knows everyone.*
- *After school facilities.*
- *Whole environment of the school, we all help each other and are like a tribe really. I didn't like primary but love it here, we all help each other. We like our happy school.*
- *Like a small school.*
- *There are no bullies and nobody is nasty towards you. If they were, a teacher would sort it out.*
- *Technology.*
- *Atmosphere, you can make tons of friends because of a small school.*
- *Teachers treat you like an adult in the way you like being treated. Feel comfortable with them as they take notice of you.*

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

- *More teachers.*
- *Sports hall improve, a bit old. A nice new one.*
- *More cooking facilities.*
- *More after school stuff.*
- *Dance studio, we don't have a proper one.*
- *All teachers should treat all pupils fairly and with consistency.*
- *The library, make it bigger. Some of the children's books are not interesting. Need more books that are more suitable for us.*
- *Bigger drama studio.*
- *Garden, put a few more flowers in. A park that is extended with a garden that we could grow vegetables in and have competitions of 'largest vegetables'.*
- *Open the school at weekends so that the local community and parents can use it.*
- *A memorial was made in our old school because somebody died and made a garden with benches and stuff.*

The following are in response to the question: Will you be able to use the school assembly to talk about this to other students and tell them about the student questionnaire to fill in on-line.

Head Teacher: We will put information in the bulletin.

An overview of the timescale and what happens next:

The closing date for the consultation is 26/6/09. A report will go to councillors on 30/7/09 and then a decision will be made. The final decision on the proposals for Westleigh will be made in November 2009.

The following are in response to the question: Are there any further questions?

- *Teacher: When the decision has been made will you let us know so that we can let parents and pupils know.*
- *Answer: yes.*
- *How are you going to choose what we are going to do with the number of ideas people have, you're not going to be able to do everything.*
- *Answer: Themes develop from the consultation and we tell the Councillors how many people have the same ideas or concerns.*
- *Head Teacher: The more you get involved, the more say you will have.*

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

Questionnaires	Questions	1. Do you think that this document clearly explain why we are proposing to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and expand Westleigh High School?			2. Do you understand how to make your views known?			3. Do you support the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and offer alternative school places at Bedford, Westleigh and Fred Longworth?		
		Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Not Stated	Yes	No	Not Stated
Total Number	Type of Respondent									
27	Parents of Hesketh Fletcher (Y8 - Y11)	17	10	0	20	7	0	2	25	0
15	Parents of Hesketh Fletcher (Y7 and new intake)	5	9	1	14	1	0	1	14	0
42	Total number of parents	22	19	1	34	8	0	3	39	0
2	Parents of Westleigh	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
2	Total number of parents	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
34	Parents at another school	19	12	3	28	5	1	4	30	0
3	Staff at Hesketh Fletcher	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
3	Staff at other schools	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
1	Staff at Westleigh	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5	Governor at Hesketh Fletcher	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	4	1
1	Governor at Westleigh	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5	Governors at another school	2	3	0	4	1	0	2	3	0
12	Members of the Community	8	3	1	10	1	1	0	10	2
3	Other	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	0
111	Total	61	45	5	93	16	2	13	95	3

Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent	Type of response	Type of Respondent
Email		Individual		Circular		MP		Diocese		Governors	
2	Parents at Hesketh Fletcher	5	Parents at Hesketh Fletcher	231	Parents - Hesketh Fletcher	1	MP	1	Manchester CE	1	Howe Bridge CE
2	Atherton residents	1	Grandparent							1	Atherton St George's
2	Fred Longworth	2	Residents - Atherton							1	Hesketh Fletcher
3	Parents - local primary school	1	Resident - Westleigh								
7	Other	1	Prospective parent								
		3	Other								
		1	Governor								
16	Total Number	14	Total Number	231	Total Number	1	Total Number	1	Total Number	3	Total Number

Responses		Question 15: Do you agree with the proposal to increase the size of Westleigh High School, to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School and for Atherton pupils to access Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in future?		
Total Number	School	Yes	No	Don't Know
3	Westleigh High School	2	1	0
233	Hesketh Fletcher C E	57	147	29
236	Total	59	148	29
	Percentage	25.00%	62.71%	12.29%

Consultation Meeting – Governors of Hesketh Fletcher Church of England High School - 12th June 2009

Consultation

Are the results of the consultation likely to have any impact on the BSF plan? In what form will the results of the consultation be published?

Has the decision already been made and is this consultation merely a legality the Authority has to go through?

The reference to 64 first choice applications for September 2009 in the booklet is misleading, as at the time of choosing the possible closure of Hesketh Fletcher was in the public domain and had been discussed at Head's meeting.

What account has been taken into account of the 'Student Voice'?

Other Schools in the borough are being merged, why is Hesketh Fletcher not allowed to merge with another school to be an equal partner, as pupils who transfer to a new School could be considered and feel 'outsiders'?

The consultation booklet produced to advise people across the borough of the plans has seriously undermined the staff morale of our staff. They feel under valued. A quote from one of the pupils after reading the booklet 'Well Miss, you can't be a good teacher if you're still here'.

At the almost certain change in Government in April 2010, the Conservative Party does not support BSF and therefore the expected monies will not materialise. What then?

There is some concern regarding the independence of the 'decision makers'?

The consultation booklet does not make direct comparisons with schools across the borough leading readers to believe that other schools are doing far better than Hesketh Fletcher.

The new Leadership team is doing an excellent job and have initiated improvements in all areas since their arrival. Why can't they be given time to turn the school around?

Community

Now that the Labour Government is placing so much emphasis on the community as the heart of society and also vowing to listen to the electorate, how can closing Atherton's only High School, against the wishes of the community, be justified?

The consultation booklet mentions 'Schools are at the heart of communities. Within the community we aim to provide the right number of school places for those living in the community'. This proposal proposes removing a school from the Atherton community.

Atherton will be the only township in Wigan not to have at least one secondary school.

What happens to the Extended School provision that Hesketh Fletcher have worked so hard for?

In the words of Andy Burnham and supported by our local councilor 'Hesketh Fletcher is an excellent school and is important to the town of Atherton. It is just as good as neighbouring schools'.

Church of England School

There won't be a Church of England School in the east of the borough and pupils who would prefer a CofE School will have to travel to Wigan or out of the borough to St James at Farnworth.

Will any provision be made for those pupils currently on roll wishing to stay in an Anglian VA school if Hesketh Fletcher closes?

What is visualised for Chaplaincy arrangements in the new centre?

Other secondary schools

Westleigh High School is not a high performing School, over the last few years pupils at Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh have similar exam grades. In some areas Hesketh Fletcher has performed better. Westleigh's performance has been achieved with a smaller intake and significantly more money. The Governors are not convinced pupils will get a better education there and if Westleigh expands it may jeopardise their results, punctuality and attendance targets.

We are aware that the schools marked for expansion who will take our pupils, are not in favour of the proposals as they don't want to expand and become bigger. Surely bigger does not mean better!

Admissions

If Wigan is unsuccessful in its bid, how will Hesketh Fletcher have a school intake at September 2010 as the decision is made in November 2009 and parents have to select their preferred school by October 2009?

When parents speak to admissions in Wigan, they are being told either that Hesketh Fletcher is closing, or that it is full and being directed elsewhere. Is this right or indeed legal if the plans are still only in the consultation phase and no notice of closure has been served?

Some parents who selected Hesketh Fletcher as their first choice have been given places at other schools. How can this happen if you tell us our numbers are falling and can we trust the figures you are providing us with.

If Hesketh Fletcher does close, the catchment areas and admission arrangements of other secondary schools in the surrounding area need to be reviewed. If an offer of a place is determined by distance to the school from the pupil's home, pupils from Atherton will immediately be at a disadvantage. There needs to be a fair and equitable system for all pupils of the borough.

Travel

The proposed closure of Atherton's High school would result in large numbers of pupils and parents traveling to other towns in the borough. Has any thought been given to the effects on the environment of the additional car and bus journeys generated and the additional congestion on the roads, not to mention the cost to parents?

There are no good transport links with Bedford, Westleigh and to some extent Fred Longworth. A school bus is not the answer as your vision for a school in the community would require close on 24/7 provision.

Consideration needs to be given to pupils who need transporting home if they are unwell.

One school mentioned as an alternative (Bedford) will require some pupils to take up to 3 buses. Surely this is not good for their welfare as more time spent traveling means less time to partake in after school activities and reduce the time available for homework. Additional traveling is also cost prohibitive for some parents. What plans will be put into place to cover the additional traveling expenses for these pupils? Will the Local Authority subsidise them?

Why has Hindley High School not been considered as an alternative school for Atherton pupils. The bus links are better than either Westleigh or Bedford?

Uniforms

What will happen to pupils who move to an alternative school if Hesketh Fletcher closes? Will the Local Authority subsidise parents for the purchase of new uniform and sports kit? If the Hesketh Fletcher pupils continue to wear their own kit they may feel they don't 'belong' to the new school.

Arrangements for Hesketh Fletcher

The young people who are now at the school must have support in place to complete their education with a wide experience and opportunity to reach their full potential.

The pupils who begin Hesketh Fletcher this year are no way disadvantaged.

There are presently 100 students in each of the KS3 years at Hesketh Fletcher. What proportion of these will go to the three alternative schools named?

We are concerned about the haemorrhaging of good staff from the School and the impact it will have on the pupil's education. What reassurance or guarantees can you give us to ensure this does not happen?

We need to ensure staff are given opportunities for early retirement or other employment as they wish?

14 – 19 College

In the booklet it mentions that a 14-19 college 'may be' developed. The Director told Governors that the closure of the school was independent of the BSF bid and would go ahead even if the 14-19 centre was not developed.

Can you clarify what the curriculum offer will be at the centre? Will it be diplomas only or include A level IB etc? The advanced science diploma has been postponed until September 2012.

What guarantees can be made that the courses offered at the 14-19 college will be taken up and the college be viable? What will happen if there is no uptake of the diplomas on offer?

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The following response to consultation was approved unanimously by the Board of Education's Schools Committee on 26 June 2009.

The Church of England Diocese of Manchester (the Diocese) is grateful to be able to contribute to the consultation process on the re-organisation of Wigan secondary schools. Our particular interest is in the future of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School.

Hesketh Fletcher has served the community of Atherton for almost 50 years. Many former pupils have become successful in adult life grounded in the Christian education provided at Hesketh Fletcher; many staff have diligently served this educational community for considerable parts of their working lives. We celebrate this. However, education and its institutions do not, and should not, stand still as pupils are prepared for a very different life and working environment in the 21st century. In order to offer a broad and balanced secondary curriculum and secure financial viability, secondary schools have grown larger, simultaneous with the secondary school population becoming smaller. In such a context there are inevitably going to be school closures and some communities left without a secondary school. This is the case with Hesketh Fletcher and Atherton.

The Diocese would have liked to see Hesketh Fletcher school survive and thrive, and supports the presence of a secondary school in a township of the size and socio-economic make-up of Atherton. The reality for the local authority is that the school has been unable to attract sufficient pupil numbers; unable to maintain good educational standards; and unable to secure sustainable leadership and management. This being the case, the Diocese regretfully accepts the proposals of Wigan Council in this specific part of their plan.

If the proposals go forward, the Diocese will support the governing body in providing the best education possible for the pupils who remain at Hesketh Fletcher over the next few years.

In future years, applications from parents of pupils seeking an Anglican based secondary education will be received at the Deanery CE High School in Wigan; and, Canon Slade; St James; and Rivington and Blackrod High schools in Bolton, all of which have an Anglican foundation and are all within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

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)

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.**

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.

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.

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.

Fifth Floor
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www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk

15 July 2009

Dear Ms Redfearn

**Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE:
READY TO DELIVER ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

We are delighted to tell you that following assessment of your Readiness to Deliver submission and attendance at a review meeting on Tuesday 30th June, your local authority has been selected to start its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project as part of a group of local authorities joining the programme in the autumn.

As you know, BSF is an exciting opportunity to transform education for generations to come and the programme continues to make good progress. So far 80 local authorities are engaged in the programme, of which 37 schemes have reached financial close and 86 schools are now benefiting from investment, with this number due to increase still further in the autumn.

The ability of local authorities to deliver – both in terms of managing such a large building programme and achieving the educational transformation – is essential in ensuring that BSF maintains momentum, minimises delays and maximises the potential of this investment. Departmental officials, Partnerships for Schools, 4ps and Government Office made the assessment of your local authority's suitability to start their project based on their Readiness to Deliver submission and a review panel assessment. The notes of the meeting will be sent to the authority in the next few days.

Partnerships for Schools will be in contact shortly with the authority to agree a date for the Remit Meeting for the early Autumn.

You will be aware from previous correspondence, that we are working with our delivery partners to ensure that you have access to a wide range of support. All of our partners will work closely together as a team to support you in the timely and effective management of your project. Your day-to-day point of contact throughout the programme will be Partnerships for Schools (PfS), the organisation set up specifically to deliver BSF. An Education Director and Project Director will be assigned to support you, together with additional ICT, design and commercial

resource available to provide expert advice throughout the development of the project. We will notify you of who these are in the near future.

You will also be required to continue to engage with the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC) within the Department, to ensure that the authority's BSF plans reflect the need to promote greater and choice in school provision and address any underperformance.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success with your BSF programme.

This letter is copied to the Director of Children's Services.

Yours sincerely



Tim Byles CBE
Chief Executive, PfS



Dana Woodmansey
Head of Schools Capital, DCSF

Cc:

Nick Hudson, Director of Children's Services – Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Anthony Walker – Partnerships for Schools

Paul Schofield - Office of the Schools Commissioner