

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

Date: 12 November 2009
19 November 2009

Subject: Building Schools for the Future: Outcome of stage 3
consultation on proposals to discontinue Hesketh
Fletcher C E High School, enlarge Westleigh High
School and enlarge Hindley High School

Report of: Executive Director Children and Young Peoples'
Services

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Purpose / summary: The purpose of the report is to:

- report on stages 2 and 3 of the statutory consultation (statutory notices and representation period) on proposals for Hesketh Fletcher C E High School, Westleigh High School and Hindley High School; and
- request that Cabinet make the final decision on the proposals.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: These are contained within section 3.3 of the report.

Recommendation / decision: It is recommended that, subject to entering into the necessary BSF agreements and the release of funding, Cabinet approve conditionally the proposals to:

- discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School with effect from 31 August 2012;
- enlarge Westleigh High School to increase the capacity from 775 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2012; and
- enlarge Hindley High School to increase the capacity from 935 to 1125 from

September 2012.

It is recommended that Cabinet request an option appraisal be conducted on transport arrangements for Atherton secondary age children to alternative schools and to report to a further meeting of Cabinet.

Key Decision:

This report involves a key decision within ground 1.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 1 December 2009

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial:

The capital funding for the proposals are reliant on the Building School for the Future Programme that DCSF has agreed, in principle, for Wigan. School budgets will alter in line with pupil numbers contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Staffing:

If Hesketh Fletcher is discontinued, staff will be supported in finding alternative employment. The Governing Bodies of Westleigh High and Hindley High will determine their staffing arrangements in line with budgets and pupil numbers.

Policy:

Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings.

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?

Yes

Wards affected:

Astley Mosley Common, Atherleigh, Atherton, Hindley, Hindley Green, Leigh East, Leigh South, Leigh West, Tyldesley

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

A full diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

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

No.

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

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

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

For Cabinet reports only :

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

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Committee	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
12/11/2009		19/11/2009	

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

Title of document	Which meeting did it go to?	Date of meeting	Copy available from?
Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings 2009-2010			Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH.

Proper Officer N Hudson

Date October 2009

1 Background

1.1 On 30 July 2009 Cabinet considered a report on Stage 1 of the statutory consultation on Building Schools for the Future including:

- the vision for Building Schools for the Future; and
- the proposals for Phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

1.2 Cabinet agreed to progress to stages 2 and 3 of the consultation process (publication of statutory notices and the representation period) for the proposals to:

- discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School with effect from 31 August 2012;
- enlarge Westleigh High School to increase the capacity from 775 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2012; and
- enlarge Hindley High School to increase the capacity from 935 to 1125.

The enlargement of Westleigh High School is dependant upon the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher C E High School so the proposals are linked and appear on the same notice.

2 Decision making powers

2.1 A report to Cabinet on 6 March 2008 set out the local authority's powers in relation to decision making on school organisation proposals.

2.2 Cabinet takes the final decision on proposals to close or make prescribed alterations to (including enlargement) mainstream schools, provided that it does so within 2 months of the end of the stage 3 representation period. The report gives details of the procedures and information that Cabinet must consider prior to making its decision.

2.3 School Organisation Regulations determine that if Cabinet does not make a decision within 2 months of the end of the representation period (that is by 1 December 2009 for the proposals on Westleigh and Hindley High Schools and 15 December for the proposals for Hesketh Fletcher C E High School), the Schools Adjudicator will decide the proposals. Cabinet is advised that as the Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh proposals are linked proposals, Cabinet should consider them together and it is advised to determine the proposals by 1 December to avoid referring the decision to the Schools Adjudicator.

3 Hesketh Fletcher C E High School and Westleigh High School

3.1 The publication of notices and the representation period

3.1.1 The linked statutory notice to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School and to enlarge Westleigh High School was published on 3 September 2009. A copy of the notice is attached at Appendix A. Copies of the complete proposals are attached as follows:

- Appendix B: Complete proposals for Hesketh Fletcher C E High School; and

- Appendix C: Complete proposals for Westleigh High School.

The appendices to the complete proposal have been removed as Cabinet has already considered these on 30th July.

3.1.2 A total of 124 written observations and two petitions were received during the representation period. Many of the objections were similar to those raised at stage 1 consultation reported to Cabinet on 30th July. A summary of the objections and comments received is attached at Appendix D.

3.1.3 The three objections regarding the proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School were from parties who were also objecting to the closure of Hesketh Fletcher C E High School

3.2 Factors that Cabinet must consider when taking its decision and written objections and comments received on the proposals

DCSF statutory guidance requires the local authority to consider certain key factors before taking a decision to discontinue or enlarge schools, including the views of interested parties. These are detailed below, together with the objections received under each of the factors and officers' responses to the objections.

3.2.1 The effect on standards and school improvement (including the preferences of parents, standards and diversity).

Local Authorities are under a duty to match school places as closely as possible to pupils and parents needs and wishes. In other words, parental preferences over a period of time are key drivers in the decision making process.

Cabinet should be satisfied that the proposals will lead to improved attainment for all learners and that the attainment gap will be narrowed for all groups of learners such as SEN and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Cabinet should consider the impact of the proposals on the range of schools in the area and how they will impact on parental aspirations and raising standards. In deciding on proposals to discontinue a school with a religious character, the balance of denominational provision must be considered.

How the proposals will help every learner reach their full potential in accordance with Every Child Matters principles should also be considered, including how displaced pupils will have access to extended services.

The objections received around standards, parental preferences and diversity are as follows:

3.2.1.1 Disruption to current pupils at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School

There is concern that education would be disrupted for pupils who will complete their education at Hesketh Fletcher because of uncertainty and movement of staff and also that there will be disruption to those who will have to move school. There was also concern that siblings would be split up and friendship groups affected.

Response:

Pupils currently in years 9, 10 and 11 at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School will be able to complete their education at the school.

Pupils currently in years 7 and 8 at the school will have to transfer to alternative schools as they move into year 10. Disruption will be kept to a minimum by allowing pupils to complete Key Stage 3 before moving. Parents will be able to express their preference for alternative schools and places will be allocated during the Autumn Term in which pupils are in year 9. This will ensure that Hesketh Fletcher pupils can select Key Stage 4 options at the same time as pupils at the receiving schools and so will not be disadvantaged. Staff at all schools involved and CYPS officers will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition and minimise any disruption. Whilst Hesketh Fletcher pupils will be on roll at an alternative school, an investigation into the feasibility of delivering as many courses as possible at the Hesketh Fletcher site until 2014 will be conducted.

Officers will work closely with the school to ensure high quality teaching of a full curriculum is maintained throughout the transition period. This has been successfully managed with other secondary schools that have been, or are in the process of being, discontinued and educational standards have been maintained or even improved.

Admission arrangements ensure that siblings are offered the same alternative school where this is wanted, though for some families, due to the proposed phasing of the discontinuation, it may mean that one or more children are still at Hesketh Fletcher CE when others have moved to an alternative school. Because the discontinuation will be managed, learners will be able to move with their peer groups to the receiving schools.

3.2.1.2 Admission arrangements and parental choice

A number of respondents expressed concern over the proposed future admission arrangements, including the proposed post-coded catchment areas and associated primary schools. They also believe that parental choice in terms of diversity of provision would be adversely affected. A small number of respondents stated that the proposal would reduce parental choice in terms of school type, denomination, size and location. Bedford High School Governing Body objected to the Atherton area and schools not being named in their proposed future admission arrangements.

Response:

The rationale for proposing a feeder primary system with associated primary schools was provided in the Cabinet report dated 30th July. The proposed system is fairer and more equitable for all children and young people than the current system. The proposed system ensures that Atherton children will have equal access to secondary schools with all other children, whereas, if no changes were made they would be disadvantaged because of distance to school. The proposed system does not limit parental choice any more than any other admissions system does and parents will still be able to express three school preferences when applying for places.

Any school rationalisation programme is bound to reduce the number of schools and there is the perception that it reduces parental choice. However, very few parents have chosen to send their children to Hesketh Fletcher CE in recent years and many more have been disappointed by not obtaining a place at Westleigh or Fred Longworth. The proposal matches school places with parents' and pupils' needs and wishes more closely than if no action was taken.

It should be noted that Cabinet is not being asked to consider the admission arrangements at this stage. Representations from schools about the proposals will be considered and decisions will be taken in line with the usual admission arrangements consultations that take place each year.

3.2.1.3 Standards and the quality of education

Many respondents commented on the improving quality and standard of education at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. The school provides care for learners that face barriers to learning and the staff are hard working and caring. There were also comments that standards at Westleigh High School would suffer because of the increase in school size and management of considerable building works.

Response:

The information provided in the table below is what Cabinet must take into account when taking its decision on the linked proposals. GCSE results at Hesketh Fletcher have improved in 2009 but they remain the below floor targets of 30% and the contextual value added score for the school was low in 2008. GCSE results and contextual value added scores at all three receiving schools are higher, and in some cases significantly higher, than for Hesketh Fletcher CE.

School	CVA (2008 figure, 2009 release due end of Nov)	Trends Over Time						
			KS3 (%L5+)			GCSE (%5 A*-C Including English and Maths)		
			2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Hesketh Fletcher	978.9	English	56.3	65.5	73.2	30.4	25.6	27.8
		Maths	70.3	62.4	69			
		Science	68	55.2	66.9			
Westleigh Community	998.6	English	53.1	62.4	60.3	30.5	30.2	39.6
		Maths	75.5	71.8	69.9			
		Science	61.2	64.4	56.8			
Bedford	1023.9	English	59.5	63.2	64.3	28.8	37.3	36.8
		Maths	75.1	71.6	76.4			
		Science	67	62.3	65.9			
Fred Longworth	1011.6	English	78.5	74.9	81	53.5	43.2	59.1
		Maths	80.6	84.9	87.7			
		Science	74.2	74.5	79.1			

The headteacher and governors of Westleigh High School have not expressed any concern that the proposal will affect standards. The size of schools is discussed in the next section (3.2.1.4)

3.2.1.4 The proposed size of schools

Respondents believe that the remaining schools will be too large, especially for pupils from a deprived area and that schools should serve around 1000 pupils.

Response:

The optimum size of school has been discussed over a period of time and many options have been considered. Schools are funded on the number of pupils so larger schools have the advantage of being able to provide a wider ranging curriculum with access to a wider range of specialists because they have more flexibility in their budgets. Larger schools are also less likely to become unviable when there is a fall in pupil numbers. Schools can be managed in different ways such as smaller 'schools within schools' or home-bases for younger learners so teaching and learning support is personalised and pastoral care can be delivered effectively.

3.2.1.5 Punctuality and attendance

There is concern that additional travelling time and length of journey will affect learners' punctuality and attendance, especially if children miss the school bus.

Response:

Parents of learners attending schools that serve deprived communities and are being considered for closure often have this concern. It has been found that once closures have gone ahead, pupils attend school as usual and attain according to the attainment levels at the receiving school. Transport arrangements are discussed in more detail in section 3.2.2.3 and 3.2.2.4.

3.2.1.5 Church links

A small number of respondents were concerned about the impact of the proposals on the school's links with the Church of England.

Response:

The Manchester CE Diocese has indicated that those seeking a Church of England education may access places at The Deanery CE; Canon Slade; St James and Rivington and Blackrod High schools in Bolton, all of which have an Anglican foundation and are accessible by public transport. Whilst the denominational balance of schools must be considered it must be balanced against severe under-subscription for places and low standards.

3.2.1.6 The loss of extended school facilities and out of school activities

Respondents stated that learners will miss out as they will have too far to travel to get home and some were concerned about the loss of Hesketh Fletcher extended services that cater for those from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Response:

All schools must offer a range of extended services that are appropriate to the needs of their school community. As part of the change management process, the receiving schools will review their extended services and out of hours activities to ensure that they are appropriate and, as part of this, will consider any barriers to access, such as travel.

If the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE is approved, the plan is to provide a 14 – 19 centre on the Hesketh Fletcher site. The Centre will promote community cohesion through offering a wide range of educational and out of hours opportunities to young people and will help to broaden their social integration with peer groups in neighbouring areas.

3.2.2 The impact on the community and travel

Where a school is a focal point for community and family activities the wider social ramifications of closure should be considered, including the impact on community cohesion. Alternative provision should be accessible to all and not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups. Transport costs and school journey times should be considered as should sustainable forms of transport such as walking or cycling.

The objections received referring to community impact and travel were as follows:

3.2.2.1 The town of Atherton should have a secondary school / effect on community / loss of a community resource.

Many individual respondents and local bodies are concerned that a town of Atherton's size and significance should have its own secondary school. There was concern about effects on the local economy, community cohesion and taking the heart out of a deprived community.

Response:

Whilst the local authority must consider the effects of the proposal on the local community, it must also consider the impact of taking no action, particularly with reference to educational standards and future viability of the school.

There have not been enough parental preferences in recent years to sustain a secondary school in Atherton. The school has received less than 100 first preference applications for year 7 for the last three years. The current number on roll is under 600 and this is predicted to fall to below 400 by 2012. . Small schools do not have the budget to maintain enough specialist members of staff to deliver a broad curriculum at secondary level. Despite the best efforts of staff the quality and breadth of education of the pupils would suffer.

A significant number of parents of Atherton children already express a preference for Fred Longworth or Westleigh High Schools.

It is expected that the 14 – 19 Centre will offer community facilities, as discussed in section 3.2.1.6.

3.2.2.2 The effect on the community of Westleigh

Some opposed to the closure of Hesketh Fletcher C E High School commented that the Westleigh community would be adversely affected by the increase in traffic, more litter and more anti-social behaviour.

Response:

No comments were received from the Westleigh community about this.

3.2.2.3 Increased costs to parents

Respondents were concerned about the increased expense that parents would incur in terms of bus fares and buying new uniform.

Response:

From September 2010 Wigan Council will provide a free travel pass for any child aged 11 to 16 who has to travel more than three miles to their nearest suitable school. The Council will also provide a free travel pass for a child aged 11 to 16 who is eligible for free school meals or whose parents or guardians receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and if the child attends:

- any one of the three nearest suitable schools, where the distance travelled is between two and six miles; or
- the nearest school they have chosen because of their religion or belief, where this is between two and 15 miles away.

Therefore, learners that access one of the alternative Anglican schools will be entitled to assistance with transport provided that the school is a sufficient distance from their home as specified by the transport policy.

It is suggested that officers conduct an option appraisal on future transport arrangements for Atherton children to determine whether current policy will meet needs and investigate the introduction of dedicated school transport services.

Uniform: Only pupils currently in year 7 and 8 at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School would need to transfer to alternative schools. This would only take place as they move into key stage 4. A hardship fund is available for assistance with uniform costs for those families that re eligible.

3.2.2.4 Transport arrangements and distance to receiving schools

A number of issues concerning transport to alternative schools were raised including increased travelling distances for learners (two buses for some), fewer pupils being able to walk to school, increased traffic, concerns about pupil safety and limitations on out of school activities.

Response:

School transport arrangements are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that there is sufficient capacity and appropriate routes to meet needs. This will include ensuring that pupils can get to school by the most efficient route and minimising the need to change buses en route.

The authority's 'Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy' aims to encourage learners to walk or cycle along safe routes. There is already a wide range of walking and cycling routes identified to schools across the borough that learners can choose from, including the three receiving schools.

School transport arrangements have been discussed in more detail at 3.2.2.3 above, including the suggestion of an option appraisal to bring to a future Cabinet meeting.

3.2.3 The need for places (including provision for displaced pupils and surplus places).

In reaching its decision, Cabinet should be satisfied that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils in the area both now and in the future. The quality and popularity of all schools in the area should be considered together with parents aspirations for a place at all schools. Action should be taken to remove surplus places and provide them where parents want them. The Decision Maker should normally approve proposals to close schools with more than 25% surplus places and where standards are low compared to standards across the LA.

3.2.3.1 Future pupil numbers and receiving schools

Some respondents were concerned that there will not be sufficient capacity at the receiving schools to accommodate Atherton pupils in the short and long term, leading to overcrowding or the need for mobile classrooms. Some were concerned about the possible impact of new housing in the future.

Response:

Short term

Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools all received capital investment in the past decade to take a temporary increase in pupil numbers in the East of the borough that lasted for two years only. All three schools received partial remodelling to equip them to take an additional twenty pupils per year group for two years and net capacity assessments of their current accommodation suggests all three schools can each accommodate up to 60 additional pupils beyond their admission numbers as follows:

- 20 pupils in excess of current admission numbers for the 2010 Y7 intake
- 20 pupils in excess of current admission numbers for the 2011 Y7 intake
- 20 pupils in excess of current admission numbers for the Y9 transfer at the end of 2011.

Appendix E provides pupil number projections for Hesketh Fletcher CE; Bedford; Westleigh; Fred Longworth; St Mary's Catholic and Hindley High Schools. The projections have been compiled on the basis of Hesketh Fletcher CE remaining open. There are two sets of projections: one based on first preferences from the primary schools (and projected primary school numbers) with no account being taken of published admission numbers (PANs) and the other set displacing pupils where PANs have been reached.

The tables that displace pupils to alternative schools when the published admission numbers have been reached show that there are enough places for displaced Hesketh Fletcher pupils if the school is discontinued:

School	Estimated Numbers on Roll / Places Available Accounting for PAN and Displaced Pupils		
	Y7 intake 2010/11	Y7 intake 2011/12	Y9 movements end of 2010/11
Hesketh Fletcher (pupils to be displaced)	94	96	98
Bedford (places available)	53	69	85
Up to 20 additional pupils	20	20	20
Westleigh (places available)	0	0	0
Up to 20 additional pupils beyond PAN	20	20	15
Fred Longworth (places available)	0	0	0
Up to 20 additional pupils beyond PAN	20	20	13
Total places available	113	129	133

By 2012, Westleigh is scheduled to have additional accommodation and there will be a notional additional 95 places available across all year groups that Y7 pupils from 2012 onwards and Y9 pupils transferring at the end of 2011/12 will have access to.

It is recognised that, in reality, some of the schools are likely to have additional pupils as a result of successful appeals. However, the vast majority of appellants live in the East of the Borough and the number of places available across all three schools net of the number of Hesketh Fletcher children displaced will remain constant.

Whilst the schools are large enough to take the additional pupils, officers will work with the schools to ensure that the number and range of teaching areas are appropriate for the increased number of pupils.

The projections demonstrate that by 2012, and certainly by 2013, if no action is taken, Hesketh Fletcher CE is likely to have less than 400 pupils on roll due to falling parental preferences and successful appeals at neighbouring schools. The School currently has 571 pupils on roll. When secondary schools fall below 600 pupils they face budgetary difficulties that ultimately lead to the inability to employ a sufficient range of staff to teach a full and diverse curriculum. Therefore, Hesketh Fletcher CE is not sustainable in the short term.

Longer term

Pupil numbers entering Y7 in the East of the Borough continue to dip until 2013/14 and then rise thereafter. However, on the basis of parental preferences and accounting for pupils being displaced from other schools when published admission numbers are reached, Hesketh Fletcher CE will struggle to reach 600 pupils by 2019/20.

If Hesketh Fletcher CE is discontinued and Westleigh enlarged from 2012, followed by an approval to increase Fred Longworth's admission number to 300 with the associated enlargement of premises under a further phase of BSF, it is predicted that there will be enough places in the East of the borough, within current BSF plans, up until and including 2018/19 as the following table demonstrates:

	Hesketh Fletcher CE Y7 pupils 'displaced'	Westleigh Y7 places available (PAN 250 from 2012)	Bedford Y7 places available (PAN 250 from 2012)	Fred Longworth Y7 places available (PAN 250 from 2012)	Total places available
2012/13	81	95	81	0	176
2013/14	64	95	95	0	190
2014/15	98	95	56	0	151
2015/16	94	95	55	0	150
2016/17*	120	95	33	45*	173
2017/18	125	95	8	45	148
2018/19	106	95	51	45	191
2019/20	176	95	8	45	148

* Latest date for increase of Fred Longworth accommodation.

There are surplus places in all Y7 year groups up to and including 2018/19 that may be used to accommodate unexpected fluctuations due to migration or housing. No-one can predict future migration either into or out of the borough and additional places cannot be provided at this stage in the expectation that migration into the area will increase.

Information gathered by Environmental Services officers on new housing indicates that, as at March 2009, in Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley 414 houses were either under construction or were planned on sites where construction had started. A further 310 were on sites where construction had not yet begun. For pupil planning purposes, only those sites where construction has started are factored in as planning permission on other sites may lapse and

the houses either never materialise or are built long after the time frame under consideration. This is particularly true in the current economic climate. On this basis, an extra 12 pupils per cohort is the maximum that can be expected in the East of the borough at some point in the near future.

The housing developments for the borough are determined regionally and Wigan is required to deliver around 352 dwellings per annum on average in Leigh Atherton and Tyldesley between 2003 and 2021. This equates to around 10 pupils per school year group using current pupil yield formulae.

Factoring in the impact of any new housing under longer term plans such as the Local Development Framework (LDF) is impossible to do with any degree of accuracy. The LDF represents major housing allocations up to 2026 and beyond and, again, it is not known when, if, or to what extent the sites will be developed. The LDF shows that it is hoped to provide 3318 dwellings on key strategic sites in Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley.

Pupil projections show that by the 2019/20 Y7 intake there is a predicted 28 place pupil deficit. Pupil numbers have not been projected to 2020/21 at this stage but recently obtained birth data shows that 21 fewer children were born in the East of the borough than the previous year. If future births show a further decline and new housing has minimal impact, then the anticipated pupil numbers can be contained within current BSF plans. If future births continue to be high or there is a major impact from new housing, there is the possibility of extending secondary schools in the East further. Sufficient site and premises will be retained by the LA from the Bedford High redevelopment to enable this school to be extended in the future. Capital funding not linked to BSF is available to provide additional pupil places in areas of high demand which could be sought, if required, and enlargements made to other schools in the East for 2020 and beyond.

Partnerships for Schools scrutinise the pupil roll projections to ensure that the BSF programme overall results in an appropriate number of school places across the Authority.

Surplus places and parental preferences

Hesketh Fletcher CE currently has 36% surplus places and this is expected to grow in future years. Appendix E shows parental preferences for Hesketh Fletcher CE at around 60+ per year, whereas parental preferences for Westleigh High are 200+ per year, meaning that currently around 40 pupils per year are unable to have their first preference. Likewise, Fred Longworth is also oversubscribed by around 30 pupils per year.

3.2.4 14 – 19 Curriculum and Collaboration

Local Authorities are expected to deliver a transformed, coherent 14 – 19 phase offering a rich mix of learning opportunities from which learners can choose tailored programmes and gain qualifications appropriate to their needs.

3.2.4.1 Use of the Hesketh Fletcher site for a 14-19 centre

Some respondents stated that there was already enough 14 – 19 provision in Leigh and wanted the school to remain on the site and not a new 14 – 19 Centre. Others asked whether the proposed 14 – 19 centre will still provide sports facilities for the community.

Response:

The proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE needs to be considered in terms of linked plans for future 14 – 19 provision on the site. Partners agree that there is currently insufficient range and quality of provision to meet learner entitlements and no other site has been identified in the East of the borough to provide for needs.

It is planned that the 14 – 19 Centre will have outdoor space and other sports facilities for the use of learners and the wider community.

3.2.5 Other objections

3.2.5.1 The conduct of the consultation process

Some respondents commented on aspects of the consultation process such as the length of consultation, its timing and the manner in which statutory notices were published.

Response: All applicable statutory requirements for consultation on school organisation proposals have been complied with at the relevant stages as follows:

- Stage 1 - Consultation: refer to section 5.1.3 below and Appendices B, C and E
- Stages 2 and 3 – Publication (statutory notices and full proposals) and representation period: refer to sections 3.1.1 and 5.1.2

3.2.5.2 The effect on staff and job losses

There was concern of the affect of the proposal on staff morale and retention and that there will be job losses.

Response:

This is a usual concern for schools that are facing discontinuation. CYPS officers will closely monitor the situation to ensure that the school is able to continue to offer the full curriculum right up to closure. This can be done in a number of ways and often involves support from neighbouring and receiving schools. Past evidence suggests that there is no fall in standards at schools that are closing because of the efforts of dedicated staff, assistance from other schools and support from the local authority.

The local authority actively supports staff at risk by requesting other school governing bodies to consider them for vacancies. The authority's track record is excellent with very few staff in the past being made compulsorily redundant. Westleigh High School and others are proposed for expansion so it is likely

that there will be opportunities for staff at these schools.

3.2.5.3 Hesketh Fletcher C E High School has not had adequate support in the past.

There were a number of comments expressing the view that Hesketh Fletcher C E High School has not been supported by senior management at the school or the local authority and has been funded less generously than other schools.

Response:

When compared to all secondary schools in the borough, the unit funding per pupil at Hesketh Fletcher CE has been in the top quartile, or thereabouts, for the past three years. For 2009/10, it receives around £800 per pupil more than the school with the lowest unit funding.

3.2.5.4 The proposals do not fit in with the Council's vision for BSF

By proposing to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher, some respondents stated that the Council was acting against its vision to have schools at the heart of communities.

Response:

This is correct in so far as a secondary school in the Atherton community is being proposed for closure. However, it is planned that a 14 – 19 Centre will replace it that will be open to the community and will have many Atherton learners on site.

The majority of the Atherton community have, over the years, preferred to send their children to other schools and it is against this backdrop that the local authority has made the proposals.

3.2.5.5 Design and escalating costs of building work

Two people were concerned about costs impacting on the BSF programme in general and the funding available not being able to cover it

Response:

Wigan has to take the opportunity, when it is offered, to transform educational provision for the benefit of its residents. The local authority works within parameters that are known at the current time and there is no indication that the phase 1 proposals cannot be delivered according to anticipated costs.

3.2.6 Availability of Land and Capital

Cabinet needs to be satisfied that the finances are in place to enlarge Westleigh High and that the land is available. The capital funding will be provided through the Building Schools for the Future programme and the current site of Westleigh High is large enough to accommodate a school with 1,250 pupils on roll, that is, the site area complies with the School Premises Regulations 1999.

3.3 Alternative proposals submitted by respondents

Appendix D contains a list of written alternative proposals to the proposed discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlargement of Westleigh High School. A total of 11 were received that could be categorised as follows:

- 3.3.1 Replace Hesketh Fletcher C E High School with an alternative type of secondary school in Atherton, such as a Trust school, new community school or an Academy.

Response:

Such an approach would be valid if the only issue to address was around standards. However, the sharp decline in pupil numbers coupled with parental preferences is quickly making the school unviable and even a change in status, at this stage, is likely to be too late to turn the situation around.

- 3.3.2 Close Hesketh Fletcher C E High and Westleigh High and open a new school on a new site in Atherton

Response:

No alternative sites for secondary school provision have been identified in the East of the borough. A new site in Atherton would impact on the Westleigh community in the same way as the current proposals are impacting on the Atherton community,

- 3.3.3 Retain Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh in their current form and build the 14-19 centre on the Westleigh site or on the Leigh College 6th form site.

Response:

Hesketh Fletcher CE will not be viable in the future.

- 3.3.4 On the last day of consultation the local authority received a telephone call from the Academy Development Office at the University of Chester saying that they wished to be the lead sponsor for the Academy process for Hesketh Fletcher CE.

Response:

Cabinet is advised that this approach is invalid because:

The authority is not commissioning a change in status, new school or Academy and has made no indication that it will agree to an Academy project;

The potential sponsor has made no approach to the Academies division of DCSF or Office for the Schools Commission; and

If the approach is to be treated as an observation to the discontinuation proposal it must be in writing.

4 Hindley High School

4.1 The publication of notices and the representation period

4.1.1 The statutory notice to enlarge Hindley High School was published on 3 September 2009. A copy of the notice is attached at Appendix F and a copy of the complete proposal is attached at Appendix G (appendices to the complete proposal have not been included as Cabinet has already considered these on 30th July).

4.1.2 The local authority received two comments during the representation period:

- a letter from the governing body of Hindley High School expressing wholehearted support of the proposal; and
- one letter from the parent of an existing pupil who supports the proposal as long as there will be no disruption to the education of existing pupils, especially to those sitting GCSEs in 2011.

Officer's responses to the issues raised are given in section 4.2 below.

4.2 Responses to the written comments received on the proposal

4.2.1 The governing body commented that the school wishes to continue to serve the local community and to provide for pupils with complex medical needs.

Response:

As a foundation school, Hindley High School can set its own admission arrangements within the statutory guidance in the School Admissions Code. The governing body must consult on their admission arrangements. Officers will work with the governing body to help ensure that local children who wish to access Hindley High can do so.

The provision for children with complex medical needs which already exists at Hindley High School will be continued in the new building.

4.2.2 Concern that there may be disruption to the education of existing pupils.

Response:

The proposal is to completely rebuild Hindley High School and increase its capacity. The new building will be constructed on a different part of the existing site. Pupils will remain in the current building until the new build is complete so there should be no disruption to education.

4.3 Factors to be considered in determining the proposal

4.3.1 The factors to be considered are the same as those outlined above in section 3, that is, standards; parental preferences; diversity; the impact on the community and travel; the need for places; 14 – 19 Curriculum and Collaboration; and the availability on capital funding and land.

4.3.2 The standards at Hindley High are good and steadily improving as the table below indicates:

School	CVA (2008 figure, 2009 release due end of Nov)	Trends Over Time						
			KS3 (%L5+)			GCSE (%5 A*-C Including English and Maths)		
			2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Hindley Community	1028.1	English	67.2	68.4	66.1	41.6	42.6	46.5
		Maths	72.1	77.9	76.2			
		Science	64.7	65.8	67.3			

The school contributes to diversity as it is a foundation school that is specially resourced for pupils with special educational needs. The school is being proposed for enlargement as a result of the borough wide review of secondary school places for Building Schools for the Future. There are no question marks over its future viability and parental preferences are healthy. Its geographical location in the borough means that it is easy to access for many pupils. Capital funding is in place to deliver the new build and the site is large enough to accommodate the enlarged school i.e. it is compliant with School Premises Regulations 1999.

5 Consideration of the proposals

5.1 DCSF statutory guidance specifies four key issues that must be considered before a decision is made:

5.1.1 Has all the necessary information been provided?

Copies of the following have been provided:

- the public notices and the full proposals (which also contain details of the stage 1 consultation) as described in sections 3 and 4 above; and
- the comments received and officers' responses to these as described in sections 3 and 4 above.

5.1.2 Do the statutory notices comply with statutory requirements?

Officers in Business Support Services Legal and Property Division and the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) School Organisation Unit were consulted prior to publication to ensure that the notices complied with statutory requirements.

5.1.3 Has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notices?

The report to Cabinet on 30 July 2009 covered the stage 1 consultation in detail.

5.1.4 Are the proposals related to other published proposals?

The proposals to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School and to enlarge Westleigh High School are related and were published as a linked notice.

The proposals for Hindley High School are not related to other published proposals.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposals to:

- discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School with effect from 31 August 2012;
- enlarge Westleigh High School to increase the capacity from 775 to 1250 with effect from 1 September 2012; and
- enlarge Hindley High School to increase the capacity from 935 to 1125 from 1 September 2012.

Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Children and Young People's Services – School Place Commissioning

Policy/Service Area: School Place Commissioning

Person Completing Form: Chris Parry

Date: November
2009

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		X	Disability		X
Ethnicity		X	Gender		X
Age		X	Religion		X
Class		X	Sexual Orientation		X

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

Some families affected by the proposals may have further to travel in order to access an alternative school.

There will be no Church of England secondary school in the east of the borough.

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

All individuals and organisations specified in School Organisation Regulations and DCSF guidance have been consulted with.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

The current school transport policy ensures that most families in need will be entitled to transport passes (as defined in section 3.2.2.3)

Work with the transport providers is required to ensure that there is sufficient capacity on all routes to alternative schools. An option appraisal will be conducted on transport arrangements including the feasibility of a dedicated bus service.

Manchester C E Diocese has identified alternative Anglican provision that the Deanery C E 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 within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport. The current school transport policy provides for pupils who have to travel further to school because of their religion or belief (as defined in section 2.2.10)

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Yes. School Organisation Regulations and DCSF guidance specifies that equality legislation is taken into account when formulating proposals.

Timescale	Prior to implementation of the proposals
Responsibility	Building Schools for the Future transition group – Admissions and transport
Comments	

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	

Date for further review
November 2010



Proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School, Atherton and to enlarge Westleigh High School - A College of Technology



Part 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan WN3 4HH intends to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School (voluntary-aided school), Hamilton Street, Atherton, M46 0AY on 31 August 2012.

There will be no intake of pupils from 01 September 2010 onwards. Pupils currently in years 9, 10 and 11 at the school will not be affected by the proposals. Pupils currently in years 7 and 8 at the school will transfer to alternative schools at the end of their year 9 as follows: Current year 8 pupils will transfer to alternative schools on 01 September 2011. Current year 7 pupils will transfer to alternative schools on 01 September 2012.

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: Pupils who will transfer to alternative schools will be offered a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools according to parental preference and the oversubscription criteria. If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in year 10 in 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils transferring from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. Pupils may be admitted to alternative schools of their parents' preference if places are available at the time of transfer.

Future year 7 intakes: In 2010 and 2011 it is intended that children living in the Atherton area will access Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools at year 7. It is proposed to increase the size of Westleigh from 01 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers. If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number in year 7 at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in September 2010 and 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils in the area. From September 2012 onwards it is intended that children living in Atherton will access Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools at year 7. It is proposed to increase the size of Westleigh from 01 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers. It will be necessary to amend the oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools from September 2010. The proposed oversubscription criteria are given in Note (c) below.

The local authority believes that the proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of education for pupils with special educational needs because, according to the most recent Ofsted reports, the quality and standard of education provided at the receiving schools is equal to or better than that at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. The receiving schools have higher pupil numbers resulting in greater flexibility in the budget for staffing and the ability to provide a wider ranging curriculum.

The walking distance from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to Fred Longworth High School is 1.45 miles and a number of pupils will still be able to walk to school. The walking distance from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to Westleigh High School is 2.34 miles and to Bedford High school is 2.47 miles. School buses already operate from the Atherton area to Westleigh and Bedford High Schools. Additional school buses may

be provided if necessary to minimise car use. Wigan Council will provide assistance with travelling expenses, if appropriate, in accordance with its transport policy in force at the relevant time.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, that is by 15 October 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to: SchoolsForFuture@Wigan.gov.uk

Part 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wigan Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Westleigh High School - A College of Technology (community school), Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NL from 01 September 2012.

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 building works would be complete by 31 August 2012. This proposal is dependent on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher C E High School as additional places will not be needed if the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School does not go ahead. Westleigh High is one of the schools that will receive students from Hesketh Fletcher C E High and cater for Atherton residents in the future.

The current capacity of the school is 775 and the proposed capacity will be 1250. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 740. The current admission number for the school is 155 and the proposed admission number will be 250. The new admission number of 250 will apply from September 2012 across all year groups.

Wigan Council, the local authority, will implement and fund the proposal as part of phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, that is by 01 October 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to: SchoolsForFuture@Wigan.gov.uk

Part 3

Part 3 relates to both Parts 1 and 2 above.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH, phone 01942 486299. It is also available on the Wigan Council website: www.wigan.gov.uk/SchoolsForFuture

Signed: Nick Hudson Executive Director Children and Young People's Services

Publication Date: 03 September 2009

Notes.

a) Hesketh Fletcher C E High School had 636 pupils on roll and 36% surplus places at January 2009. There were only 64 first preference applications for admission in September 2009. Projections suggest that pupil numbers will fall to less than 400 by 2015. The local authority must take action where surplus places are more than 25%.

b) Westleigh High School is significantly oversubscribed each year and had less than 5% surplus places at January 2009. There were 228 first preference applications for 155 places in September 2009. The proposed expansion will allow more pupils to access this popular school.

c) The proposed oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools from September 2010 (after the admission of children with a statement of special educational needs that names the school) are:

Westleigh High School – A College of Technology

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46; WN7-4 and WN7-5) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Newton Westpark; Westleigh Methodist; Westleigh St Paul's C E; Leigh St Peter's C E; Atherton St George's CE; Meadowbank; Parklee and St Michael's C E.
4. Other children that live in Westleigh, Leigh and Atherton (postcodes M46; WN7-4 and WN7-5).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

Fred Longworth High School

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Tyldesley, Astley and Atherton (postcodes M28; M29 and M46) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Hindsford C E; Tyldesley Primary; Tyldesley St George's Central C E; Garrett Hall; Astley St Stephen's C E; St John's Mosley Common CE; Chowbent; and Atherton St Philip's CE.
4. Other children that live in Tyldesley, Astley and Atherton (postcodes M28; M29 and M46).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

Bedford High School

1. Children in public care.
2. Children with a brother or sister who will be attending the school at the time of admission.
3. Children who live in Leigh (postcodes WN7-1; WN7-2; WN7-3; WN7-4) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Bedford Hall Methodist; Christ Church Pennington C E; Higher Folds; Leigh C E Junior School; Leigh Central; and Leigh St Thomas C E.
4. Other children living in Leigh (postcodes WN7-1; WN7-2; WN7-3; WN7-4).
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

d). If the decision to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is made, it is intended that the site will be used to establish a 14-19 Centre. The centre will deliver high quality education in the form of Diplomas for young people aged 14 and above and a range of academic and work based courses for those aged 16-19.



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

Contact details

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

Local authority publishing the proposals:

Wigan Council

Local authority contact address:

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

School it is proposed should be discontinued:

Hesketh Fletcher C E High School, Hamilton Street, Atherton, M46 0AY

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 planned that the school will be discontinued on 31 August 2012.

There will be no Year 7 intake into the school from September 2010 onwards. Pupils currently in years 9, 10 and 11 will be unaffected by the proposals and will complete their education at the school.

Pupils currently in years 7 and 8 at the school will transfer to alternative schools for their key stage 4 education as follows:

- current year 8 will transfer on 1 September 2011
- current year 7 will transfer on 1 September 2012

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 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) Copies of the consultation documents:

Consultation booklet: appendix 7

Consultation with pupils: appendix 8

Details of how these documents were made available is 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 secure viable, high quality educational provision for children living in Atherton. It is necessary to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School to do this because:

- There is a falling secondary school population across the borough. Pupil intakes into year 7 have fallen from 4290 pupils in 2003-2004 to 3796 in 2008-2009.
- The decline in pupil numbers is expected to continue until 2013-2014 when 3289 pupils are expected to be in year 7. Despite an expected increase 2013-2014 onwards, numbers are not anticipated to return to 2003-2004 levels.
- When pupil numbers fall, more parents are able to obtain their first preference of school as there are fewer pupils competing for the available places. The result is that some schools experience a very steep decline in first preference applications, whilst others continue to fill up to their admission number.
- The current admission number at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is 200. For the past 3 years the school has received below 100 first preference applications for admission into year 7, though more pupils have been admitted because some children could not obtain a place at their first preference school.
- There are expected to be 574 pupils on roll at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School in September 2009. If no action is taken this is predicted to fall to below 400 in September 2012 because of the decline in pupil numbers overall and trends in parental preferences.
- As pupil numbers decline, the school budget will decline and the school will not be able to attract and retain the range and quality of staff to deliver a high quality education or provide sufficient choice in the curriculum.

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.

Standards and quality of education

The proposals will maintain or improve the standards and quality of education in the area.

The 5 A*-C GCSE results, including English and Maths, at Hesketh Fletcher fell below floor targets in 2008. This resulted in the school becoming a Greater Manchester Challenge 'key to success' school. The contextual value added score for the school is also low. The school has received a significant amount of support form from the local authority and organisations such as Greater Manchester Challenge and results for 2009 are expected to be above floor targets.

Standards at the schools that will accommodate pupils displaced from Hesketh Fletcher are as follows:

Westleigh High School: The school has been above the floor target for the last four years and in 2006 was significantly above. The contextual value added score for the school is satisfactory.

Bedford High: The school performed well above floor targets for 2008 and its contextual value added score was also significantly high.

Fred Longworth: the school consistently performs at well above floor targets and its contextual value added results are well above average.

The latest OFSTED judgements for the four schools are shown below:

School	OFSTED judgement
Hesketh Fletcher C E	Satisfactory with the exception of two areas which were judged to be inadequate.
Westleigh	Good with some outstanding features, except standards which were judged satisfactory.
Bedford	Satisfactory with a significant number of areas judged to be good.
Fred Longworth	Good or outstanding in all areas.

Diversity

The closure of Hesketh Fletcher C E High school will reduce the diversity of educational provision as it is the only Church of England secondary school in

the area. However, first preference applications for the school at year 7 have been low for the past three years. Manchester C E Diocese has identified alternative provision for those seeking an Anglican education at the Deanery C E 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 within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

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.

Details of falling rolls and the trend in parental preferences are given in section 5 above.

In order to ensure sufficient places in the east of the borough in future years, it is proposed to enlarge Westleigh High School for September 2012.

To ensure that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils before September 2012 the local authority will take the following action if necessary:

Year 7 intakes: If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number in year 7 at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in September 2010 and 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils in the area.

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: If necessary, the local authority will over-admit up to 20 pupils more than the admission number at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools in year 10 in 2011 solely for the purpose of accommodating all pupils transferring from Hesketh Fletcher C E High School. Pupils may be admitted to alternative schools of their parents' preference if places are available at the time of transfer.

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.

Hesketh Fletcher C E High School has a Church of England religious character. The Manchester C E Diocese has identified that those parents and students that want an Church of England based education will be received at the Deanery C E 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 within accessible travelling distance from Atherton by public transport.

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 1000 places. Pupil numbers in September 2009 are expected to be:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
91	100	75	146	162	574

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.

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 provision that is recognised by the local authority as being reserved for pupils who have special educational needs but does provide for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school and a number of non-statemented pupils who are receiving additional help for their special educational needs through SIS funding.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education 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 local education authority 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 education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

From September 2012 onwards it is intended that children living in Atherton will access Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools at year 7.

It will be necessary to enlarge Westleigh High School and to amend the oversubscription criteria for Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High Schools to achieve this.

a) Interim arrangements

Future year 7 intakes: In 2010 and 2011 it is intended that children living in the Atherton area will access Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools at year 7

Pupils transferring to alternative schools: Pupils who will transfer to alternative schools at year 10 will be offered a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools according to parental preference and the oversubscription criteria.

b) Not applicable

c) Not applicable

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

It is proposed to increase the capacity of Westleigh High School from 775 to 1250 places from 1 September 2012 onwards to accommodate predicted future pupil numbers as a result of the proposed discontinuance.

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.

It is intended that if the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher C E High School is agreed, the school site will be used to provide a 14-19 education centre for the east of the borough. This means that there would still be an educational facility in the Atherton community which could also provide extended services. The receiving schools will also provide extended services that the Atherton community can access.

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

Hesketh Fletcher C E High offers an extensive range of extended services, over and above the core offer, for pupils and the wider community of Atherton and beyond.

If the school is discontinued, officers will work with the receiving schools, the 14-19 Centre and charitable organisations with the aim of maintaining the extended services provided by Hesketh Fletcher. The aim will be to ensure that the Atherton community will still have access to extended services within a reasonable travelling distance from their homes.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The walking distances from Hesketh Fletcher C E High to the alternative schools are:

Fred Longworth High School	1.45 miles
Westleigh High School	2.34 miles
Bedford High School	2.47 miles

Many pupils living in the Atherton already access Fred Longworth and Westleigh High Schools and either walk, use public transport or travel by car. Bedford High School is also accessible by public transport.

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

Many of those pupils living in the Atherton area who will access Fred Longworth High School will be able to walk to school. School buses already operate from the Atherton area to Westleigh and Bedford High Schools. Additional school buses may be provided if necessary in consultation with the transport companies.

From September 2010 Wigan Council will provide a free bus pass for any child aged 11 to 16 who has to travel more than three miles to their nearest suitable school. The Council will also provide a free bus pass for a child aged 11 to 16 who is eligible for free school meals or whose parents or guardians receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and if the child attends:

- any one of the three nearest suitable schools, where the distance travelled is between two and six miles; or
- the nearest school they have chosen because of their religion or belief, where this is between two and 15 miles away.

The combination of these measures will help work against increased car use.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority 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 proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School – A College of Technology, by extending the school premises and increasing the admission number.

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 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority 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 local education authority, 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) of the EIA 2006.

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 education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the 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 for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority 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.

Hesketh Fletcher C E High is a mainstream school and does not have any specially resourced provision for pupils with special educational needs. However, there are a number of pupils at the school whose special educational needs can be met in a mainstream setting.

The local authority believes that the proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of education for pupils with special educational needs because:

- according to the most recent Ofsted reports, the quality and standard of education provided at the receiving schools is equal to or better than that at Hesketh Fletcher C E High School (details in section 6 above); and
- the receiving schools have higher pupil numbers resulting in greater flexibility in the budget for staffing and the ability to provide a wider ranging curriculum.



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.

Proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and to enlarge Westleigh High School

Stage 3 Representations 03 September 2009 to 15 October 2009

A total of 124 representations and 2 petitions were received on the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher and to enlarge Westleigh High School.

Objections to proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School

Individual responses	Number of responses
Not stated	67
Parents / Grandparents of Hesketh Fletcher pupils	15
Staff at Hesketh Fletcher	8
Atherton Residents	8
Parents of Atherton primary aged pupils	4
Councillors	2
Former Hesketh Fletcher pupils	2
Former parent of Hesketh Fletcher pupil	1
Governor at Hesketh Fletcher	1
Parents of Fred Longworth pupil	1
Former staff at Westleigh	1
Total	110
Group responses	Number of responses
Chair of Governors at Hesketh Fletcher	1
Chair of Governors at Atherton St Philip's	1
Atherton, Hindsford and Howe Bridge Team Ministry	1
Atherton and Hindsford Parochial Church Council	1
Rotary Club of Atherton	1
Chair of Governors at Fred Longworth	1

Atherton Forum	1
Total	7

Objections to proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School

Respondents	Number of responses
Chair of Governors at Fred Longworth	1
Atherton Forum	1
Total	2

Comments on proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School

Respondents	Number of responses
Chair of Governors at Bedford	1
Director of Liverpool Archdiocese	1
Parent of Atherton primary aged pupil	1
Total	3

Objections to both Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh proposals

Respondents	Number of responses
Grandparent of Westleigh pupils	1
Total	1

Comments on both Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh proposals

Respondents	Number of responses
Lancashire County Council	1
Total	1

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

Themes	Frequency of comments
Transport arrangements and distance to receiving schools	57
The effect on the community in Atherton	55
Disruption to current pupils attending Hesketh Fletcher	48
Atherton should have a secondary school	39
Conduct of the consultation process	32
Increased costs to parents	31
Admission arrangements and parental choice	29
Standards and quality of education at Hesketh Fletcher	28
Future pupil numbers	26
The schools has not had adequate support in the past	24
The effect on staff / job losses	19
Use of the Hesketh Fletcher site for a 14 – 19 centre	12
Proposed size of schools/ insufficient accommodation	12
Extended school facilities and out of school activities	11
Does not fit in with the Council's vision for Building Schools for the Future?	9
Punctuality and attendance	8
The effect on the community in Westleigh	4
Church links	3
Design and escalating costs of building work	2

Petitions

2 petitions totalling 4501 signatures were received objecting to the closure of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School.

Petition 1

This petition is for 'an adequately funded, educationally high achieving, and non denominational community run high school for the town of Atherton'.

This petition has been signed by 2588 people of which:

- 1459 are Atherton residents
- 588 are other Wigan residents
- 378 are out of borough residents
- 84 are unknown

Within the total 79 people appear to have signed the petition twice.

Petition 2

This petition is for 'Hesketh Fletcher to be retained as a local school for local children to operate as a C of E 11 – 16 school'

This petition has been signed by 1913 people of which:

- 1318 are Atherton residents
- 374 are other Wigan Residents
- 112 are out of borough residents
- 31 are unknown

Within the total, 78 people appear to have signed the petition twice.

107 signatures appear on both petitions.

Group Responses

Hesketh Fletcher Governing Body

A letter was received from the Chair of Governors at Hesketh Fletcher CE High School. The governing body welcome investment in education but strongly object to the proposals for the east of the borough. Their main concerns are:

- Atherton community needs a high school
- the creation of larger secondary schools particularly in areas of deprivation
- insufficient future pupil places in the Atherton area within 5 years
- limitations of public transport for out of school activities
- insufficient future pupil places in Atherton due to new housing developments
- future secondary school admissions criteria and perception of lack of parental choice
- disruption of education for 600 children on roll at Hesketh Fletcher
- implications on educational standards through loss of 'key staff'
- insufficient funding to support the school in the past
- effects of closure rumours and the isolation of the school from educational initiatives
- the implication that standards and quality of education offered at Hesketh Fletcher are not good
- insufficient acknowledgement of the school's strengths
- loss of a community resource
- the effect on community cohesion

Bedford High School Governing Body

A letter was received from the Chair of Governors at Bedford High School. The governing body does not object to the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School but made the following comments:

- the governors welcome the opportunity to attract pupils from the Atherton area
- strongly object to the admissions arrangements proposed from 2012 onwards as Atherton pupils are not included in the proposed admission arrangements for Bedford High School

Fred Longworth Governing Body

Two responses were received from the Chair of Governors at Fred Longworth High School. One response on the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and one response on the proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School.

In relation to Hesketh Fletcher CE High School:

The governing body strongly objects to the proposal as it considers that the proposal fails to meet the Council's vision for 21st century secondary education and insufficient data and information for full consideration of all the issues affecting the proposal has been provided.

The governing body wants the proposal to be withdrawn and new proposals to meet the needs of Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley areas to be considered.

Their main concerns are:

- there will be insufficient school places between 2015 and 2020 and an increased demand for school places in future due to new housing
- Fred Longworth is already above capacity and has suitability issues
- disagree with the admissions proposal for 2012 to apply post coded catchment areas and feeder primary schools to secondary schools
- reducing parental choice in terms of type, denomination, size and location of school
- Atherton can sustain a viable secondary school, sending children to two different areas does not aid community cohesion

In relation to Westleigh High School:

The governing body objects to this proposal. The main points raised are:

- Fred Longworth is above capacity and has suitability issues
- increase in demand for school places in future due to new housing developments
- re-consider the proposal with a view to maintaining 4 non catholic schools for 3 towns of Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley
- school sizes should be in line with the Councils original figure of around 1000 pupils
- the enlargement scheme at Westleigh High would take the attention away from the standards agenda

Atherton St Philip's Governing Body

A letter was received from the Chair of Governors. The governing body objects to the closure of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and believes that the school should be developed and improved in order to fully serve all primary schools in the town and play its role in community life. Their main concerns are:

- children in Atherton will not have a choice to go to a school in their own town and will not have the identity associated with going to the same school
- detrimental effect on the community and cohesion
- insufficient consideration has been given to the increase in the town's population and new housing developments
- the proposed admissions arrangements including separation of friendship groups, parental preference and the effects of a feeder school system

Liverpool Archdiocese

The Director of Liverpool Archdiocese has no comment on the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School but will make a fuller comment at a later date when the detail of the proposed 14 – 19 centre is known.

Atherton, Hindsford and Howe Bridge Team Ministry

The main objections on the letter from the ministry were:

- Atherton needs a thriving secondary school
- the effect on the community
- attendance and punctuality

Atherton and Hindsford Parochial Church Council

The main objections on the letter from the Church Council were:

- effect on the community
- educational standards at Hesketh Fletcher should be addressed

Atherton Forum

Two responses were received from Atherton Forum: one on the proposal to close Hesketh Fletcher CE High School, and one on the proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School.

In relation to Hesketh Fletcher CE High School:

The Forum strongly objects to the proposed closure of Hesketh Fletcher CE High School. Their main concerns are:

- Atherton is a deprived area and should have its own secondary school to maintain community cohesion
- transport costs to receiving schools
- standards are improving because of the new headteacher
- loss of jobs
- accommodation of future pupil numbers
- receiving secondary schools will be full to capacity
- temporary accommodation such as mobiles are not suitable

In relation to Westleigh High School:

The Forum objects to the proposal to enlarge Westleigh High School. Their main concerns are:

- the Atherton area has a larger population of secondary aged children
- environmental, traffic and financial costs of transporting children to Westleigh
- the enlargement will negatively affect educational standards
- there is a need for a smaller high school in the East of the borough to cater for the individual needs of pupils

Atherton Rotary Club

The main objections in the letter from the Rotary Club were:

- a township of Atherton's size requires locally based secondary education
- a secondary school in Atherton is essential for the wellbeing of the whole community and its future.

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire County Council stated that the proposals do not have any implications for them and have no comments to make.

Alternative proposals submitted by respondents:

- a) replace Hesketh Fletcher with an alternative type of school
 - change the status of the school into trust or foundation and open a competition to find groups who would be interested in running the school
 - search for an appropriate sponsor who would run the school as an academy
 - provide a new high school, may be an Academy or a community high school
- b) retain Hesketh Fletcher
 - maintain 4 non catholic schools for Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley
 - retain Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh in their current form and build a 14 – 19 centre on the Westleigh site
 - retain Hesketh Fletcher and the 14 – 19 centre should be housed on the sixth form college complex in Leigh
 - rebuild Hesketh Fletcher
 - keep the school open but used parts of the building for community use
- c) extend Hesketh Fletcher to provide education up to age 19
 - lower the intake at Hesketh Fletcher and include a 14 – 19 college
 - improve facilities and include sixth form provision
- d) close Hesketh Fletcher and Westleigh High and open a new school on a new site in Atherton

Secondary roll projections 2009

Based on 2009-2010 first preferences and September 2009 Pupil Count

Appendix E

Assuming Hesketh Fletcher remains open and no changes to admission numbers at other schools

Projections based on first preferences and disregarding PAN

Projections accounting for PAN and displacing pupils

Hesketh Fletcher C E PAN 200 (1st prefs 09 = 63)

Hesketh Fletcher C E PAN 200

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	91	98	77	146	159	571
2010-2011	63	91	98	77	146	475
2011-2012	68	63	91	98	77	397
2012-2013	56	68	63	91	98	376
2013-2014	55	56	68	63	91	333
2014-2015	67	55	56	68	63	309
2015-2016	55	67	55	56	68	301
2016-2017	70	55	67	55	56	303
2017-2018	62	70	55	67	55	309
2018-2019	66	62	70	55	67	321
2019-2020	83	66	62	70	55	336

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	91	98	77	146	159	571
2010-2011	94	91	98	77	146	506
2011-2012	96	94	91	98	77	456
2012-2013	81	96	94	91	98	459
2013-2014	64	81	96	94	91	425
2014-2015	98	64	81	96	94	432
2015-2016	94	98	64	81	96	433
2016-2017	120	94	98	64	81	457
2017-2018	125	120	94	98	64	501
2018-2019	106	125	120	94	98	542
2019-2020	176	106	125	120	94	621

Bedford PAN 242 (1st prefs 09 = 139)

Bedford PAN 242

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	181	157	169	180	209	896
2010-2011	144	181	157	169	180	831
2011-2012	131	144	181	157	169	781
2012-2013	132	131	144	181	157	744
2013-2014	133	132	131	144	181	720
2014-2015	148	133	132	131	144	687
2015-2016	137	148	133	132	131	680
2016-2017	142	137	148	133	132	691
2017-2018	160	142	137	148	133	720
2018-2019	140	160	142	137	148	727
2019-2020	159	140	160	142	137	738

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	181	157	169	180	209	896
2010-2011	189	181	157	169	180	876
2011-2012	173	189	181	157	169	869
2012-2013	169	173	189	181	157	869
2013-2014	155	169	173	189	181	867
2014-2015	194	155	169	173	189	879
2015-2016	195	194	155	169	173	885
2016-2017	217	195	194	155	169	929
2017-2018	242	217	195	194	155	1003
2018-2019	199	242	217	195	194	1046
2019-2020	242	199	242	217	195	1095

St Mary's Catholic PAN 260

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	264	262	269	257	264	1316
2010-2011	260	264	262	269	257	1312
2011-2012	253	260	264	262	269	1308
2012-2013	257	253	260	264	262	1296
2013-2014	243	257	253	260	264	1277
2014-2015	252	243	257	253	260	1265
2015-2016	266	252	243	257	253	1271
2016-2017	292	266	252	243	257	1310
2017-2018	303	292	266	252	243	1356
2018-2019	280	303	292	266	252	1393
2019-2020	314	280	303	292	266	1454

St Mary's Catholic PAN 260

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	264	262	269	257	264	1316
2010-2011	260	264	262	269	257	1312
2011-2012	253	260	264	262	269	1308
2012-2013	257	253	260	264	262	1296
2013-2014	243	257	253	260	264	1277
2014-2015	252	243	257	253	260	1265
2015-2016	260	252	243	257	253	1265
2016-2017	260	260	252	243	257	1272
2017-2018	260	260	260	252	243	1276
2018-2019	260	260	260	260	252	1292
2019-2020	260	260	260	260	260	1300

Hindley PAN 187 (1st pref 159)

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	169	186	182	163	185	885
2010-2011	165	169	186	182	163	865
2011-2012	180	165	169	186	182	881
2012-2013	170	180	165	169	186	869
2013-2014	170	170	180	165	169	853
2014-2015	170	170	170	180	165	854
2015-2016	177	170	170	170	180	866
2016-2017	187	177	170	170	170	873
2017-2018	186	187	177	170	170	890
2018-2019	181	186	187	177	170	900
2019-2020	208	181	186	187	177	938

Hindley PAN 187

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2009-2010 (actual)	169	186	182	163	185	885
2010-2011	176	169	186	182	163	876
2011-2012	190	176	169	186	182	902
2012-2013	178	190	176	169	186	899
2013-2014	175	178	190	176	169	888
2014-2015	181	175	178	190	176	900
2015-2016	191	181	175	178	190	915
2016-2017	204	191	181	175	178	930
2017-2018	207	204	191	181	175	958
2018-2019	195	207	204	191	181	978
2019-2020	233	195	207	204	191	1030

Overspill for Hindley in 2011/12 and 2015/16 to 2019/20 can be placed at Rose Bridge



Proposal to enlarge Hindley High School - Arts College

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wigan Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Hindley High School - Arts College (foundation school), Mornington Road, Hindley, Wigan, WN2 4LG from 01 September 2012.

It is proposed to rebuild Hindley High School – Arts College on the current site and to enlarge it to increase the physical capacity of the school so that it can accommodate pupils that live in the Hindley, Hindley Green, Abram and Bickershaw areas. Pupils will be educated in the current school buildings until the new building is completed in 2012. Once the pupils have moved into the new building, the old building will be demolished.

The current capacity of the school is 935 and the proposed capacity will be 1125. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 934. The current admission number for the school is 187 and the proposed admission number will be 225.

The new admission number of 225 will apply from September 2012 across all year groups.

Wigan Council, the local authority, will implement and fund the proposal as part of Phase 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH (phone 01942 486299) or on the council website at www.wigan.gov.uk/SchoolsForFuture

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, that is by 01 October 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Place Commissioning Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to SchoolsForFuture@wigan.gov.uk

Signed: Nick Hudson
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services

Publication Date: 03 September 2009



PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

1. School and local education authority details

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

School details:

Hindley High School – Arts College, Mornington Road, Hindley, Wigan, WN2 4LG – a foundation school.

Local education authority publishing the proposals:

Wigan Council, Children and Young People’s Services, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH

2. 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 proposal will be implemented on 1 September 2012.
It 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 objections or comments 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 Hindley High School – Arts College by rebuilding a larger school on the current site. This will increase the capacity of the school, and the admission number will be increased.

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 935. The proposed capacity of the school after the alteration is 1125.

- (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 187. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group is 225. 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 predicted to be at the school at the time of publication of the proposals (3 September 2009) is:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
173	185	184	169	186	897

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.

Hindley High School is a foundation school. The proposals will be implemented by the local authority as part of Phase 1 of the Wigan Schools for the Future programme.

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.

Not applicable – the current school site is big enough to accommodate the new school building and the existing building whilst construction work takes place.

(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 Hindley High School to ensure that there are sufficient places to accommodate all pupils living in the proposed new catchment area, that is Hindley, Hindley Green, Abram and Bickershaw, 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 £24m. 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.

Not applicable

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;

Hindley High School has specially resourced places reserved for children with physical/medical needs.

No changes are proposed.

(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 – there will be no change in this provision.

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.

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 Hindley High School serve the communities of Hindley, Hindley Green, Abram and Bickershaw in the first instance.

The table below shows the number of children who are estimated to require a place at Hindley High School in future years on this basis.

	Current school year group:						
	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	Enter year 7 in:						
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Number of children in catchment area and attending associated primaries	224	225	218	225	231	221	210
Total all children attending associated primaries	236	238	230	240	254	228	227

Data taken from ONE system July 2009

- (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