



## **Education and Inspections Act 2006**

### **Complete School Competition Invitation Notice (Section 7 E&I Act 2006)**

#### **Provision of a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne**

1. A statement explaining the reason why the new school is considered necessary and whether it is to replace particular schools.

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

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

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

- An assessment of the premises of both Lowton and Golborne High Schools has concluded that it is not viable to remodel or improve them. They need to be rebuilt in order to deliver the modern curriculum in a high quality environment.
- There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Pennington areas to support one secondary school with a long-term future. If two smaller schools are maintained they may not have sufficient student numbers in the longer term to have a robust and flexible budget, creating difficulties in the delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum.
- Although educational standards are not an issue at either school, a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both. If the

school is co-located with a primary school it would help children in their move to the new secondary school and to improve educational outcomes at year 7.

- The creation of one school for the Lowton and Golborne communities will aid community cohesion.

2. A statement explaining:

- (a) the location of the possible site (including details of whether the possible site is a single or split site) including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses;
- (b) the reason for the choice of site;
- (c) the area or particular community or communities the school is expected to serve;
- (d) the accessibility of the possible site (or, if it is a split site, the accessibility of the accommodation);
- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the new school and a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how the local education authority will seek to discourage car use in the school area;
- (f) the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease;
- (g) the effect of paragraph 28 and paragraph 31 of Schedule 2 to the Act (that the local education authority must transfer their interest in the site, buildings or premises to the school's trustees, foundation body, or governing body);
- (h) where the new school is to be established in substitution for one or more discontinued grammar schools, a statement to that effect and that the school may be designated as a grammar school for the purposes of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998; and
- (i) an indication of the local education authority's preference for the specialism which the school should have.

a) The school will initially be established on a split site on the sites of the current Golborne and Lowton High Schools for one year whilst the new building is being constructed. The addresses of these sites are:  
Golborne High School, Lowton Road, Golborne, WA3 3EL  
Lowton High School – A Specialist Sports College, Newton Road, Lowton, Warrington WA3 1DU

The way year groups are organised on the two sites will be the responsibility of the school management team and governing body.

It is proposed that the new building will be constructed on a new single site at: Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Warrington, WA3 2AJ.

b) The reasons for the choice of new site are:

- It is located between the two existing school sites and is not associated with either of the current schools.
- The site location is close to the current Lowton High School site and would reduce travelling for many pupils.
- Although the new site is further from the existing Golborne High School site it is accessible to pupils living in Golborne.
- The site is of a size and good topography to allow innovative design opportunities.
- The site also has the potential to accommodate a primary school and other facilities for the community.
- The site would give the additional benefit of providing new community facilities to replace the Civic Hall.
- The site is within the Council's ownership and is deliverable within the timeframe for Phase 1 BSF proposals.

c) The school is expected to serve the communities of Golborne, Lowton and Pennington, with priority being given to children who live in and attend community, foundation or Church of England primary schools in the area. As admission authority for the new school, it will be a matter for the governing body to decide on the oversubscription criteria. However, the local authority's preference for oversubscription criteria would be:

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 Golborne, Lowton and Pennington (postcodes WA1; WA2; WA3; WN7-3) and who attend the following primary schools at the time of application: Golborne Primary; Golborne St Thomas C E; Lowton West; Lowton J+I; Leigh Gilded Hollins; Lowton St Luke's C E; and Lowton St Mary's C E.
4. Other children that live in Golborne, Lowton and Pennington (postcodes WA1; WA2; WA3; WN7-3)
5. Other children living nearest to the school.

d) The proposed new site is accessible to both the Lowton and Golborne communities. The site lies between the two current schools and many pupils will still be able to walk to school.

Numerous bus services utilise Newton Road serving destinations such as

Leigh, Astley, Swinton, Pendleton, Manchester, Golborne, Newton-le-Willows, Earlestown and St Helens. More locally, a number of Lowton/Leigh circulars passing the site serve Crankwood, Plank Lane and Pennington. One of the services passing the site is the high frequency 600/601 service between Leigh, Lowton, Golborne, Ashton and Wigan which has a ten minute frequency.

Many bus stops in the area, including those along the 600 route, have been upgraded to Quality Bus Corridor standard. This includes those stops on Newton Road near the site.

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

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

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

f) The tenure of the site will be freehold.

g) In accordance with paragraphs 28 and 31 of Schedule 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the local authority will transfer its interest in the site, buildings or premises to the school's trustees, foundation body or governing body, as appropriate.

h) Not applicable

i) The local authority would prefer the new school to maintain the current specialisms of Golborne High School and Lowton High School. These are:

- Visual arts; and
- Sport.

**3.** The date on which the school should open and, where it is proposed that the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the dates on which each stage should be implemented.

The new school should open on 1 September 2011.

It is intended that the school move to the new site on 1 September 2012.

4. Information on—

- (a) the number of pupil places the school should provide;
- (b) the upper and lower age limits of the school;
- (c) where it is intended that it should provide sixth form education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- (d) where it is intended that it should make early years provision, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- (e) where it is intended that the school should provide for boarding pupils, the number of pupils for whom it is intended such facilities should be provided;
- (f) the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will be implemented or, where it is intended that the proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the proposed school in each stage that the proposals will be implemented;
- (g) whether it is proposed that the school should admit pupils of both sexes or boys or girls only and, in the case of a single sex school where it is intended to provide sixth form education, whether both sexes or boys or girls only are to be admitted to the sixth form;
- (h) any extended services which the local education authority would like to see provided on the site of the school (whether by the local education authority, governing body or another party);
- (i) whether the school should make provision which is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, and, if so, the range of special educational needs and the number of pupils for which provision is proposed; and
- (j) the estimated capital costs of providing the school (such an estimate to take account of the standards in Building Bulletin 77: Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Schools; Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects and Building Bulletin 99: Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects (1)).

a) The school will provide places for 1500 pupils.

(1) Building Bulletin 77: ISBN 0-11-270796-3, Building Bulletin 98: ISBN 0-11-270052-9, Building Bulletin 99: ISBN 0-11-271153-7. Available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office and at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings).

- b) The age range of the school will be 11-16.
- c) It is not intended that the school should provide sixth form education.
- d) It is not intended that the school should make early years provision.
- e) It is not intended that the school should make boarding provision.
- f) The number of pupils to be admitted into year 7 in the first year in which the proposals will be implemented is 300.

It is proposed that the admission number in all other year groups should also be 300. It is predicted that when the two schools first come together in September 2012 there will be more than 300 pupils in years 9 to 11. However, the proposed flexibility of the premises and the fact that some students will be accessing off-site curricular activities in years 10 and 11 will ensure that the school is able to manage the numbers.

- g) The school will admit both boys and girls.
- h) The local authority would like to see as a minimum the full core offer of extended services provided on the site of the school, including:
  - quality childcare for over eights; if deemed required as identified by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment/Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment review.
  - a varied menu of activities for young people and adults in the area for community use
  - parenting support
  - swift and easy access/referral to other services
  - appropriate adult learning opportunities.

The local authority would expect the school to further develop extended services to meet the needs of pupils and the wider community.

- i) There will be no provision reserved for children with special educational needs.
- j) The estimated capital costs of providing the school are £28m

**5.** A statement explaining that proposals should be in line with requirements set out in paragraph 4 above, but that proposals that do not comply with all of the requirements but meet the need for places in the area will be considered.

Those bringing forward proposals should aim to meet all the requirements for the new school as detailed in paragraph 4 above. However, proposals that do not comply with all of the requirements but meet the need for places in the area will be considered.

**6.** A statement giving—

(a) the address of the local education authority; and

(b) the name of the person to whom proposals should be addressed.

Proposals should be returned by 4 January 2010 to:

Lynn Mappin

School Place Commissioning Manager

Wigan Council

Children and Young People's Services

Progress House

Westwood Park Drive

Wigan

WN3 4HH

Email: SchoolsForFuture@wigan.gov.uk

**7.** A brief statement explaining the procedure to be followed after the date when proposals must be received by the local education authority.

Within three weeks of the closing date for receipt of proposals (4 January 2010), the local authority will publish a second notice that provides a summary of the proposals received. Written comments and objections must be submitted to the local authority within 6 weeks of publication of the second notice.

Within two weeks of publishing the second notice, the local authority will hold a public meeting, to which proposers will be invited, to provide information on the proposals received and inform the public how to make comments and objections.

Within two months of the end of the second notice and closure of the representation period, the local authority or the Schools Adjudicator will determine the school competition proposals.

This process will run in parallel with procedures to close the existing schools.

**8.** A statement that any proposals submitted in response to a competition notice must contain the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 and that the information specified in Part 3 of Schedule 5 to these regulations will be published in accordance with regulation 8.

All proposals submitted in response to this competition notice must contain the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. Please note that the information specified in Part 3 of Schedule 5 will be published in accordance with the regulations. For further information, please refer to the DCSF guidance document 'Guide for people wishing to enter a new school competition':  
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tools/schoolhandbooks/competitions/>

**9.** A statement that the local education authority will meet the capital costs of implementing the proposals as specified in paragraph 4 (j) above or, if there is an agreement made under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a statement setting out the buildings to be available, and the obligations to be entered into, on completion.

The local authority will meet the capital costs of the proposals from Building Schools for the Future funding

**10.** A statement of any resources that the local education authority will make available to secure the provision of the services specified in paragraph 4 (h) above.

The local authority accesses various funding streams to ensure the provision of extended services at schools. It will ensure that the funding made available to the newly established school will enable it to deliver the services outlined at section 4 (h) above.

**11.** Where the school will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement setting out how the local education authority believes the proposed new school is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for these children.

The existing schools do not have any provision which is reserved or specially resourced for children with special educational needs and it is not proposed that the new school should do so. However, the local authority believes that the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of educational provision for pupils whose special educational needs can be met in a mainstream setting as follows:

- The larger budget of the new larger school will allow greater flexibility in staffing.

- The new school building will be fully accessible with wide circulation spaces and there will be room in teaching areas for more than one adult to work with children on a one to one basis.
- Modern Information Communication Technology will facilitate more personalised learning.
- The co-location of the primary school will ease transition to secondary school for those children with special education needs attending the primary school.
- The possible co-location of other services, such as health, would give easy access to a wide range of professionals in addition to school staff.

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

**12.** A statement to the effect that the statutory requirement to consult under section 9 (1) has been complied with, a summary of the views expressed and a statement of how full details of the consultation can be obtained.

The statutory requirement to consult under section 9 (1) has been complied with.

A total of 141 written replies were received and comments were also recorded at meetings with parents and the community and with governors, staff and pupils of the schools. A summary of the views expressed is provided below:

There was a mixed response from parents, most wanting to know the transition would work and how the school would be organised. Some parents saw the proposal as being very positive whilst others did not agree with the proposal for various reasons. Students' response to the proposal was mixed but they wanted existing good practice to be continued in the new school and wanted more information on transition and admissions. The staff were concerned about their futures.

The most commonly reported concerns were:

- Increased traffic congestion on the roads;
- Traffic congestion/access at Hesketh Meadow Lane and its affect on local residents;
- Longer travelling distances – may no longer be able to walk/need for more capacity on buses/dedicated school buses;
- Loss of green space;
- Transition arrangements for pupils in year 10 and year 11 in 2011;
- Impact on teaching, learning and behaviour – either due to increased school size or transition;
- Impact on the Golborne community/taking facilities out of the area;

- Co-location of primary and secondary schools on one site;
- A perception that the school will have insufficient places/all children will not be able to gain a place, particularly those living at the far end of Golborne;
- A perception that some Catholic children will take places at the school in preference to designated out-borough Catholic provision; and
- A perception that the consultation process was flawed/there was a lack of detailed information on certain aspects of the proposal at this stage.

Details of the consultation can be obtained by writing to the address at section 6 above or by accessing the Cabinet report at:

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture>

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