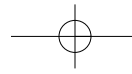


Wigan schools for the future



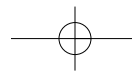
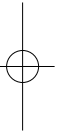
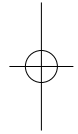
Consultation on the enlargement and relocation of Lowton Junior and Infant School

SEPTEMBER 2009



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

Marian Wright Edelman



Foreword

In May and June this year, we consulted parents, staff, governors and the wider community on Wigan Council's proposals for phase 1 of Building Schools for the Future.

The Council is committed to providing children and young people of the borough with the best start in life, the best education and the very best opportunities for the future. The proposals we put forward in May and June represented our strategy for achieving this vision.

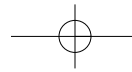
As promised, we have listened to everything that people have said, and read everything that people have written, throughout the consultation exercise. We have had to balance people's views against our educational vision and the need for Wigan to be part of the transformational changes taking place right across the country, so that our children and young people are equipped for the future. By taking this approach, the Council has decided on the next steps for each proposal.

For primary education in Lowton, the Council has decided to withdraw its original proposal and replace it with an alternative one that still allows the educational vision to be achieved whilst acknowledging the responses to the earlier proposal.

Please take time to read the document and let us know what you think about this new proposal.



Councillor Susan Loudon
Cabinet Champion for Children and Young People



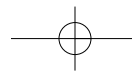
Our vision for the future

Our vision for the future and specific proposals for phase one of Building Schools for the Future was articulated in the consultation document entitled 'Wigan Schools for the Future: our vision for education in Wigan' published in May 2009. This is still available on the Wigan Council web site at

www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture/Downloads.htm

and you can obtain a hard copy by contacting the Council at the address or telephone number given on page 10.

In brief, our vision is to provide a world class education for all children and young people of the borough where children are encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability, starting with early years through to secondary school age and beyond.



Learning Campus for Lowton and Golborne

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is actively encouraging Councils to develop a co-location approach to future education developments in order to ease the transition between the different phases of education and to provide a fully integrated educational experience for children and young people.

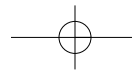
Through the Building Schools for the Future programme we have an exciting opportunity to transform education provision for the Lowton and Golborne communities through the co-location of schools and services. Our proposal is to build a brand new, state of the art learning campus for those aged between 0 – 16 on the Lowton Civic Site. The campus will consist of:

- a new secondary school for students aged 11 – 16;
- a new primary school for children aged 4 – 11;
- a Children's Centre for infants and children aged 0 – 4; and
- community and leisure facilities.

The proposal is progressing, with the Council having recently published competition proposals for the new secondary school to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools. The Council expects to take a decision on the secondary school proposals by mid March 2010.

However, the proposal to discontinue both Lowton J + I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools and establish a new primary school on the same site has been withdrawn after considering the views of those consulted.





New Proposal for Primary School Provision

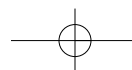
The Council is now consulting on a new proposal:

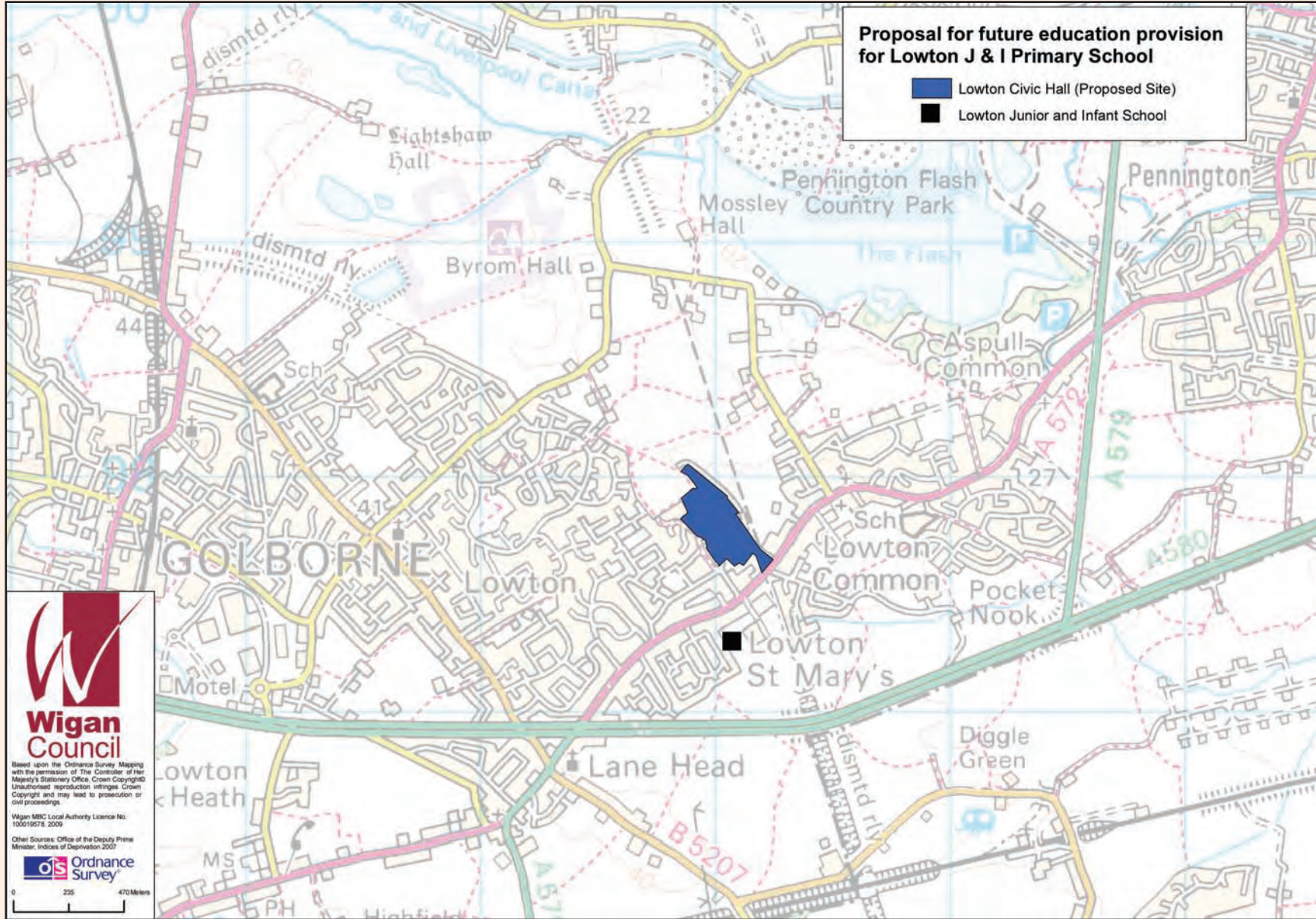
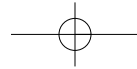
To enlarge Lowton J + I from September 2012.

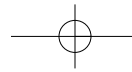
It is proposed that Lowton J + I be rebuilt and co-located with the new secondary school on the Lowton Civic Hall site and that a new admission number of 30 (210 pupils in total) will apply across all year groups of the school from September 2012. A map showing the current location of Lowton J + I Infant School and the proposed new site is on the next page.

The new proposal addresses the following issues:

- For September 2009, all reception class places in the Lowton area primary schools are full. Birth statistics suggest that this situation will continue for the foreseeable future and the Council must ensure that there are enough school places to educate school age children living in the locality. By enlarging Lowton J + I to take an additional 13 pupils per year group, this will provide sufficient flexibility in the system to cater for any unexpected increases in demand.
- Lowton J + I is currently a very small school with 118 pupils on roll in 2008/09. The policy of the Council is to have primary schools with at least 210 pupils on roll so that they have flexibilities and economies of scale within their budgets to deal with decreasing pupil numbers. By providing the additional school places needed in the Lowton area at Lowton J + I it secures the school's long term viability and future.
- The Lowton J + I school buildings are not ideal for the delivery of the modern curriculum and condition issues are inherent to the original build quality and design.







OFSTED (the organisation that assesses and reports on school performance) says that Lowton J + I is a very happy school where pupils' academic achievement overall is satisfactory and many outcomes are good.

The proposal will enable the school and its pupils to build on this success by:

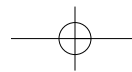
- providing newly built premises that are appropriate for the delivery of the modern curriculum;
- co-locating with a Children's Centre and a new secondary school that will enable a smooth transition from pre-school to reception and from Y6 in primary to Y7 in secondary;
- enabling supervised access to specialist facilities in the secondary school that will actively engage pupils in learning and broaden the educational experience;
- providing extended and community services for pupils, parents and the wider community.

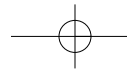
What this means for you and your child

Schools receive funding mainly according to how many children are on roll. Therefore, a larger school can have the same, and sometimes smaller, class sizes as smaller schools, due to economies of scale. The headteacher and governors will decide on class organisation in the enlarged school but the law requires that class sizes can be no more than 30 pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2.

Children currently in years 4, 5 and 6 will continue in the current premises of Lowton J + I. Children in reception to year 3 will automatically move to the school's new premises in September 2012 – there will be no need for parents to apply for a place.

The campus will be designed to maximise the safety and security of all children. The primary school will have its own access points and play areas and the primary school and secondary school governing bodies will consider, in consultation with parents, issues such as the timing of the school day for different age groups.



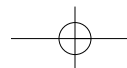


How you can make your views known:

| Meeting | Date, time and venue | Who should attend |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Meeting for staff | Date: 1st October Time: 4pm Venue: Lowton J + I | All staff of Lowton J + I |
| Meeting for governors | Date: 1st October Time: 5pm Venue: Lowton J + I | All governors of Lowton J + I |
| Open consultation sessions | Date: 1st October Time: 6pm to 8.30pm Venue: Lowton J + I Newton Rd Lowton Warrington WA3 2AW | <p>These sessions are open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils attending Lowton J + I and parents who wish their children to attend Lowton J + I in the future.</p> <p>If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please contact Lowton J + I either in person or by telephone (01942 673213) and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p> |

You can also make your views known by writing to or emailing the address on page 10, or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this booklet. The questionnaire can also be completed and returned on-line at www.wigan.gov.uk/schoolsforfuture.

Whichever method you choose, you should return your comments no later than **23 October 2009**.



Consultation process

This consultation is stage 1 of the consultation process required in order to enlarge a school. The information provided in the booklet and at the consultation sessions is intended to be sufficient in order for people to form a view on the proposal, in principle. However, the Council has not, at this stage, worked out every detail of the proposal as it needs to listen to views and concerns so that the detailed proposals, supplied later in the process, can take these into account.

This consultation is primarily concerned with the educational elements of the proposal to enlarge Lowton J + I. School Organisation Regulations do not require the Council to consult on the relocation of the school and Cabinet may choose to disregard any comments made about the location of the school during this stage of the consultation process. Residents and members of the community will be consulted on the proposed location of the school as part of the planning application process at a later date and their views will be reported back to Council.

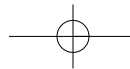
Due to the volume of responses received during school reorganisation consultation exercises, the Council will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant

consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal. If, during the course of consultation, it becomes clear that there are a number of frequently asked questions that are material to people being able to form a view on the proposal, these will be posted, together with the answers, on to the Council website at www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture/WSFConsultation.htm

Those without access to the internet will be sent a hard copy of any frequently asked questions and answers, on request.

Please note that all responses sent in response to this consultation exercise will be made available to Elected Members for decision making purposes.



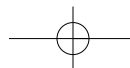


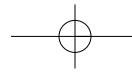
Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to enlarge schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

| Event | Dates |
|--|--|
| Consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken) • writing to or emailing the Council or • completing the response form at the end of this booklet. The address to write or e-mail to is provided on page 10. | Monday 7 September to Friday 23 October 2009 |
| Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals. | December 2009 |
| Representation period – Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 10. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice. | Four weeks during January and February 2010. |
| The Local Authority makes the final decision on the proposal* | March 2010 |
| School is rebuilt and enlarged on the new site | September 2012 |

* The following can appeal against the Local Authority's decision: the Liverpool Church of England Diocese; the Bishop of the Liverpool Roman Catholic Diocese; and the governors of Lowton J + I. Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Lowton J + I will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of the new dates the Council is working towards.





Circulation List

We have already held extensive consultations with representatives from schools; local elected members and other interested parties on our vision for future education in Wigan and proposals in relation to individual schools. As part of this consultation exercise we are consulting the following:

- Parents of children attending Lowton J + I;
- Pupils at Lowton J + I;
- Governors and staff of Lowton J + I;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Other primary schools in the area;
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations;
- Elected Members (Councillors);
- The Local Member of Parliament;
- Neighbouring Authorities;
- The local community (via web site, placing of document in the local library, and early years settings), and
- Voluntary groups that use the school premises.

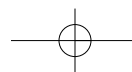
Address for correspondence

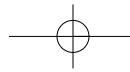
Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH

Phone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029

Email: SchoolsForFuture@wigan.gov.uk

We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request. Contact details as above.





Consultation response form on the enlargement of Lowton J + I

Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to enlarge Lowton J + I?

Yes No Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes No

3 Do you think that Lowton J + I should be enlarged to take a maximum of 30 children per year group?

Yes No

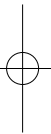
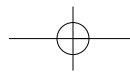
4 If you think that the school should **NOT** be enlarged, please state below why you think this.

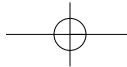
5 Do you agree that locating primary and secondary schools together, with separate access points, aids transition and educational outcomes ?

Yes No

6 If you do not agree that co-location will aid educational outcomes please state below why you think this:

7 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:





8 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes No

Interpreter Yes No

A Member of the community

Other

Please provide your name and address below
(this information is for identification purposes only and will not be shared beyond the Council)

If you answered YES, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

9. Are you

A parent or guardian of a child that attends Lowton J + I

A parent or guardian of a pre-school age child that you wish to attend Lowton J + I in the future?

A member of staff at Lowton J + I?

A Governor at Lowton J + I?

Please return your completed form no later than Friday 23 October 2009 to:

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

