

In March to April 2018 we carried out extensive informal consultation across the borough to gather your views on our current and future specialist provision in Wigan. We wanted to ensure that any plans we develop for the future were co-produced with our children & young people, families and all of our settings and partners. Whatever we develop needs to ensure we have a medium and longer term plan for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and should not just be around building additional special school places. Instead we wanted to look at how in addition to building in additional capacity, we could also ensure that the SEND offer within our mainstream settings could be strengthened to ensure confidence in that offer.

The feedback we received from the initial informal consultation was very supportive of the good and outstanding special school provision we already have available within the borough. There is overwhelming support that we should retain our current special schools acknowledging that there was a need to provide up to date facilities so that our children are taught in modern and appropriately resourced schools.

In addition to the above there was a request that we consider special school provision in the Leigh area in addition to an improved offer for higher function autistic children within mainstream settings.

The views received on our outreach and resource provision was mixed and so in parallel to the special school building review, we are carrying out a review of these offers and how that might look in the future. This is being done in collaboration with our settings, parents and partners as part of the SEND transformation programme under the Inclusion & provision strand.

In December Cabinet agreed that we could ask your views on our strategy to take a phased approach to the SEND buildings programme as outlined in this consultation.

We wish to embrace this opportunity to ensure we address suitability, condition and capacity issues. Through this we will ensure we have appropriate, fit for purpose provision to meet the needs of our children.

Whilst it is our ambition to complete all of the proposals, it is important to note at this stage that these are all proposals and alongside this we must build a financial strategy to support the Capital investment required to do all of the proposed work over a 1 – 10 year period. This is why we are making the proposals in phases over a 10 year period. If we are able to bring forward any of the proposed projects it would be our ambition to do that.

## **Proposals for a phased approach for developing our special school provision**

### **Phase 1: 1 to 2 years**

#### **Hope School**

The current school does not have the space required and it has some condition issues that need to be addressed and therefore the proposal is to build a new school on a new site on Montrose Avenue (The old PEMBEC/Central Park site). As part of this project we will build in additional capacity to meet current and future demand for places.

### **Phase 1: 2 – 5 years**

#### **Rowan Tree Primary School**

The current school does not have the space required and it has some condition issues that need to be addressed and therefore the proposal is to build a new school on the current site or on a new site identified in Leigh. As part of this build we will build in additional capacity to meet current and future demand for places. The land at Rowan Tree would allow us to build a new school whilst maintaining the children's provision in their current buildings.

#### **Landgate School, Bryn**

The current school does not have the space required and it has some condition issues that need to be addressed and therefore the proposal is to build a new school on the current site or on a new site not yet identified. As part of this build we will build in additional capacity to meet current and future demand for places.

In the immediate term we will be carrying out some minor works to improve the environment.

### **Phase 2: within 5 to 10 years**

#### **Willow Grove Primary School**

The current school does not have the space required and it has some condition issues that need to be addressed and therefore the proposal is to build a new school on the current site or on a new site – not yet identified. As part of this build we will build in additional capacity to meet current and future demand for places. The land at Willow Grove would allow us to build a new school whilst maintaining the children's provision in their current buildings.

We are also looking to develop a further provision in the Leigh area. The site is to be identified but there would be potential to situate on the new land identified with Rowan Tree. It would remain a separate provision and will be part of Willow Grove's offer.

In the short term we are considering other temporary alternatives as there is significant demand for this provision.

## **Phase 2 : 5- 10 years**

### **Oakfield High School, Hindley**

Extend the school to build in longer term additional places. In the short term we may need to make some adjustments to the current building or consider off-site provision to meet demand. It is intended that this will be until the Capital is available to complete permanent works to the school.

### **Newbridge Learning Community School, Platt Bridge.**

There are currently no proposals for this provision.

### **Tell us what you think**

We now ask for your views on our phased approach to develop our special provision by answering the following questions and provide us with your comments:

1. Do you feel that we have the phases in a good priority order ?

Yes / No

If not could you briefly tell us your reasons for this?

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In some cases it may be necessary to identify new sites to re-build the school. This could be because it is not feasible to extend the current school without disruption to the children already attending the schools. Or the school site may not be big enough to allow for expansion.

2. Do you agree that in some cases it may be necessary to relocate a school provision?

Yes/No

If not could you briefly tell us your reasons for this?

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3. Are there any other any other things that you would like to say that you feel we should consider.

Use this space to tell us:

Free text box

### **What happens next?**

We will review all the information sent in from all the consultees and then we will consider whether we need to amend our proposals. We will make sure that we share with you the final outcomes of this when we have completed the review. The final proposals will need to go back to Cabinet for approval.

Dependent on your views following this we will commence with a more formal process. That is:

- Consult on outline proposals for each school (by phase)
- Carry out statutory consultation by publishing statutory notices on individual proposed projects