

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 28 January 2010

PRESENTED BY: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Outcome of the Consultation on the Closure of Halton High (additional report)

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on the response to the statutory consultation to close Halton High so that an Academy can be established.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 Proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in section 15 and Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 as amended and having had regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to consultation IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following proposals be approved:-

(a) With effect from 31st August 2010 Halton High School is closed subject to the Secretary of State's approval for an Academy to replace the school on 1st September 2010;

(b) All pupils in Halton High at the time of closure on 31st August 2010 transfer to the Academy on 1st September 2010; and

(c) The capital development of the Academy continues as part of the BSF Programme.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 This report provides an update on the outcome of the statutory consultation following the end of the representation period on 21st January 2010.

3.2 In total 9 responses were received to the statutory consultation. These responses were from staff, governors and parents. All the responses received were in support of the proposal to close Halton High so that an Academy can be established.

3.3 Copies of the notes of each of the consultation meetings which took place on 16th December and 12th January are available and will be tabled at the Executive Board meeting along with the notes of each of the pre-statutory

meetings and each of the responses received to the consultation.

4.0 DECISION

4.1 The decision-maker (Executive Board) must decide the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. Appendix A is a copy of the published statutory proposal. Appendix B details the consultation undertaken. Appendix C outlines the issues the decision-maker needs to consider.

4.2 The decision-maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposals;
- Approve the proposals;
- Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the school closure date)
- Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition.

Conditional approval can only be granted in a limited number of circumstances related specifically to Academy provision or changes in admission arrangements relating to another school. A date by which the conditions should be met must be set.

4.3 The reason for the decision must be given whether it is approved or rejected it should also include the factors and criteria for the decision. A copy of the decision must be sent to:

- Each objector;
- The Secretary of State;
- LSC;
- Local C of E Diocese
- The Bishop of the RC Diocese; and
- The Office of the Schools Adjudicator.