

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 8 April 2010

PRESENTED BY: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: School Organisation – The Heath A Specialist Technology College

WARDS: Wards in Runcorn

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report summarises the response to the statutory consultation to make a prescribed alteration to expand The Heath A Specialist Technology College from 1st September 2013 so that it can offer 1350 places with a proposed published admission number of 270. The report also seeks a decision from the Board on the proposal.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the following proposals be approved:

(1) the school be enlarged, as part of the Halton BSF programme and The Heath School be rebuilt and refurbished; and

(2) the proposed capacity of the school will increase to 1350 from 1st September 2013 and the proposed admission number increased to 270.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 During the consultation on future secondary provision in Halton it was agreed that The Heath specialist Technology College expand so that once the BSF building work has been complete the school provides 270 places per year a total of 1350 11-16 places.

3.2 The aim of the proposal to expand the size of The Heath Specialist school is to:

- Ensure that there are appropriate places in Runcorn to meet projected future demand;
- Improve diversity and choice within the borough;
- Expand a popular and successful school; and
- Reduce the number of pupils choosing to access secondary education outside the borough.

- 3.3 The first phase of consultation commenced on 25th June 2009. The consultation proposal was widely advertised with details sent to parents of pupils at The Heath Specialist Technology College a range of other stakeholders including trade unions, and Halton Schools. Copies of the proposal were placed in the local Children's Centres and the library and the meetings were advertised in the local press, placed on the BSF website and on the electronic children and young people circular.
- 3.4 Consultation events were held at The Heath on 7th July 2009 for staff, governors and the public. Although only 3 responses were received they were all in support of the proposal.
- 3.5 Following the agreement by the Board, the statutory consultation commenced on 14th January 2010. A copy of the published proposal is attached as Appendix A and the full copy of the proposal is available on the BSF website and is attached as Appendix B. Copies of the published proposal were sent to each of the Diocesan Authorities, the LSC, 14-19 Partnership, neighbouring Local Authorities, trade unions, Chair of Governors of Secondary schools, headteachers of all schools and the Principal of Riverside College, Notices were also placed in the local libraries, Direct Links and Children's Centres. The notice was placed on the website and placed on the electronic circular sent to all schools and children's settings.
- 3.6 The statutory notice was published in the paper on 14th January 2010, along with the dates of the public meetings. Letters were sent out to parents inviting them to participate in the consultation. On 19th January 2010 there were three consultation meeting; one for staff, one for governors and the third public.
- 3.7 At each of the meetings the authority presented an outline of the proposals, the representation process and the timescale for responses. The presentation used and minutes of the meeting were placed on the BSF website.
- 3.8 At the end of the four week representation period a total of 63 responses were received to the consultation.

Governors	5
Parent	4
Pupils	18
Staff	32
Local schools	4

All the responses were in support of the proposal to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College.

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.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Heath Specialist Technology College will be rebuilt through the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

The proposal to expand the pupil numbers at The Heath and rebuilt the school through BSF is aimed at transforming the learning environment for children and young people and ensuring there is sufficient provision within the borough.

6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

Through access to an excellent Secondary School for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Halton High is part of the BSF Programme; in developing its Secondary Schools for the future the Authority will demonstrate how it will enable schools to meet the School Sport Public Service Agreement through its Capital Investment and achieve high nutritional standards and encourage healthy living and eating.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Schools for the future will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

6.5 Halton's Urban

Through the BSF Halton schools will become a major resource for communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The expansion of The Heath is part of the diversity of provision required within Halton's BSF Programme. Without the expansion of The Heath there will be insufficient secondary places by 2018 across Runcorn.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The proposals for the re-organisation of Halton's Secondary and Secondary Special Provision seek to provide choice and diversity, promote inclusion and access.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 To provide more choice and diversity and retain pupils within the Borough.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The decision needs to be made on 3rd December 2009 so that statutory consultation can commence on 10th December 2009.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Documents

Place of Inspection

Contact

Consultation Presentation	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Notes of Public Meetings	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
All responses to First round of consultation	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Published Statutory Notice	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Full Proposal	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Notes of meetings	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning
Responses to consultation	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Support and Commissioning