

## Appendix 1

### School Organisation Process

There are six stages to the school re-organisation process.

#### Pre-Statutory Stage

This informal stage provides the opportunity for the authority to share its principles and strategic plans and for those consulted to express their views. A number of meetings have been held with headteachers of secondary and special schools commencing in August through to November 2006 as part of the informal consultation process. As a result of these meetings a number of options have emerged. A meeting has also been held with Chester and Shrewsbury Diocese. Executive Board approval is now required at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006 before formal consultation can be commenced.

#### Stage 1

This stage takes place prior to the publication of the statutory notice and must be undertaken in line with guidance or it could impact on whether the statutory notice is considered valid. Consultation documents need to identify the issues to be addressed and invite comments on either one or more than one possible solutions. Meetings with all stakeholders particularly schools are an essential part of this process.

Consultation on the proposals would need to take place between January and March 2007 and review of the outcome of this consultation would need to be complete by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 as Executive Board approval will be needed at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

#### Stage 2

The formal notices would then need to be prepared in the last week in April and published on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

#### Stage 3

There is then a six week period for mainstream schools in which comments and objections can be made on the statutory proposals. This takes the process up to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

#### Stage 4

A meeting of the School Organisation Committee is generally held within a month of the end of the six weeks consultation period. This would take the process up to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007. If the SOC cannot agree the decision may be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. This will inevitably delay the process and there is no agreed timetable for a

decision. *(Although the SOC will be replaced during 2007 the arrangements for its replacement have yet to be confirmed by the DfES)*

#### Stage 5

This is stage is the implementation of the agreed changes as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme.