

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 May 2008

PRESENTED BY: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Statutory Consultation for Fairfield High and Wade Deacon High School

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the outcome of meeting of the Cross Party Members Advisory Group on 15th May 2008 and its recommendations to Executive Board on the proposal to close Fairfield High School and expand Wade Deacon High School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 Having regard to the statutory guidance and in pursuance of the powers set out in Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the related regulations it is recommended that the following related proposals be approved:-

(a) With effect from 31 August 2010 Fairfield High School be discontinued.

(b) With effect from 1 September 2010 Wade Deacon High School be expanded by the admission number for that school being increased to 300 to give effect to the enlargement of the School.

(c) With effect from 1 September 2010 the Wade Deacon admission numbers for Years 8 to 11 be expanded to accommodate pupils transferring from Fairfield High School.

(d) with effect from 1 September 2010 the Fairfield High School site (detailed on plan ref F1 attached) is appropriated from Children and Young People Directorate to Corporate to be managed as an integral part of the Council's corporate estate but that the Council permits the Fairfield School site to be managed on an interim and revocable basis as part of the Wade Deacon 'campus' from 1 September 2010 to continue until 1 September 2013 of such later date as the Chief Executive may prescribe.

(f) The Chief Executive be authorised to take whatever actions are necessary to give effect to the above decisions.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report on secondary school organisation in Halton was provided to the Cross Party Members Advisory Group (see Appendix A). A detailed outline of the consultation arrangements for the proposal to close Fairfield High School and expand Wade Deacon was provided. Information was provided to the meeting on all the consultation meeting dates and the people consulted. Copies of the notes of all meetings were provided, along with the presentations used, letters sent and summaries of the proposals for each round of consultation. The meeting were advised that all the details of the consultation were available on the Halton website on the BSF pages.
- 3.2 The rationale for the proposals and consultation arrangements was explained and members were advised that both school governing bodies had agreed in principle to form a hard federation if the outcome of the consultation was the closure of Fairfield High School.
- 3.3 Details on the responses to the Link consultation were outlined in full. A list of the key questions raised was provided along with the response to the issues raised (see Appendix B)
- 3.4 The factors for consideration prior to determining the linked statutory proposal was outlined and discussed in detail. Having considered all the factors and the responses to the questions raised, the Cross Party Working Group agreed that the proposal to close Fairfield High School and expand Wade Deacon be approved.
- 3.5 The group agreed to recommend that the two schools be encouraged to collaborate quickly prior to establishing a hard federation. They also agreed that Fairfield High School be retained by HBC after its closure and that licence be given for Wade Deacon to use the site until the expansion of Wade Deacon had been completed, currently projected as 2013.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Maintaining surplus secondary provision does not represent value for money. As a secondary school's pupil numbers drop below 600 in order to maintain the curriculum the formula must provide the school with funding for the pupils within the school and additional funding of £2046.70 (2008/2009 rate) for every pupil below 600.

4.2 Should the decision be made to close Fairfield High School provision has been made within the Dedicated Schools Budget to meet the additional costs the school are likely to incur during the transitional period. The funding formula provides the following additional allowance for a closing school:

Year 1 £58,458
Year 2 £119,702
Year 3 £55,676

4.3 The funding formula also allows for additional funding to be provided for school operating on split sites. Funding for a full financial year for a school operating on split sites which are more than 400 yards apart totals £120,241.

4.4 There is also provision within the Halton Funding formula to provide schools that are developing as a result of a rationalisation programme to receive additional funding either over four financial years or five academic years. The current funding levels are as follows:

Year 1 £82,882
Year 2 £124,368
Year 3 £84,404
Year 4 £45,968
Year 5 £13,519

4.5 Under the BSF Workforce Strategy, developed and agreed with the Trade Unions, there is the facility for an annual discretionary compensatory payment to be made to retain staff. The governors and headteacher of a school directly affected by the rationalisation of secondary provision can identify staff in shortage areas, who have indicated that they wish to retire or leave but are required in order to ensure the quality of education of pupils is unaffected throughout the transition process. The retention allowance equates to two months salary for year 1, a further 2 months additional salary for year 2 and a further additional two months salary for year 3. The final decision on who receives this allowance will be made by the Strategic Director after consultation with the appropriate headteacher.

4.6 Funding for the capital development of Wade Deacon High school will be through the BSF funding envelope. The detailed costs of this work will be available at Outline Business Case.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A comprehensive review of the transport and access arrangements will be undertaken to ensure there is safe, accessible and sustainable provision to all schools. Assistance will be provided for those pupils who meet the criteria of the Authority's Transport Policy. The BSF Workforce Strategy details the additional support available to staff whilst there is split site working.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

By undertaking a secondary school re-organisation and entering into the BSF Programme the authority aim to transform secondary provision for all children and young people and improve the facilities for the secondary workforce.

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

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

Secondary school re-organisation must be completed for the Building Schools for the Future Programme. A full risk register is available for the BSF Programme.

7.1 Disruption to staff, pupils and the community must be kept to a minimum during the transitional process and standards must not only be maintained but continue to improve. Additional resources will be provided to both schools and increased support will be available including commissioned external specialist consultants.

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. Wade Deacon High school will be remodelled and redesigned to provide more accessible provision to both pupils, staff and the local community.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 Surplus provision in schools needs to be addressed particularly where this exceeds over 25% and in determining school place provision opportunities taken to expand schools which are both popular and successful. In addition, Secondary provision must be re-organised for the BSF programme.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 In the first and second round of consultation a number of alternative options were proposed, each of these was assessed and evaluated in detail, in particular in relation to the government criteria.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 A decision will be required on 19th May 2008. If the decision to close Fairfield High and to expand Wade Deacon High School is agreed, Fairfield High School will close on 31st August 2010. Pupils will transfer to Wade Deacon on 1st September 2008. Consideration by the governors of both schools as to whether to hard federate will take place following the decision on 19th May 2008.

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

Documents	Place of Inspection	Contact
<u>First Consultation summary – Halton Building Schools for the Future – Inspiring Children</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
<u>Consultation Meeting Dates Phase 1</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning

<u>Consultation Presentations – Phase 1</u>	website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	and Resources Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
<u>Executive Board report – 1st November 2007</u>	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
<u>Second Consultation Summary – Halton Building Schools for the Future – Inspiring Children</u>	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Consultation Meeting dates (Phase 2)	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Consultation Presentations	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Pupil Numbers	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Notes of Public Meetings	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
All responses to First round of consultation	www.halton.gov.uk/bsf 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Halton Building School for the Future Pamphlets Federation Pupil Numbers Co-located Schools Zoning	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
All responses to second round of consultation	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director

Executive Board Reports – 12 th December 2007	House, Runcorn and Reception – Municipal Buildings 3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	– Business Planning and Resources Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Cross Party Members Report	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Federation Summary for Wade Deacon and Fairfield High.	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Minutes of Governing Bodies of Wade Deacon and Fairfield High agreeing in principle to hard federate		
Statutory Consultation on closure/expansion	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Presentations	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
Notes of public meetings	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources
All responses to the consultation	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Business Planning and Resources