

Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Agenda

Date: Monday, 8th November, 2010
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: The Auditorium, Silk Museum Heritage Centre, Roe Street,
Macclesfield SK11 6UT

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2010.

4. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide three clear working days' notice, in writing, in order for an informed answer to be given.

Contact: Paul Mountford, Democratic Services
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5. **Macclesfield High School Review** (Pages 5 - 46)

To consider a report outlining the proposal to close Macclesfield High School and to replace it with an Academy.

(There are no Part 2 items)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services
held on Thursday, 24th June, 2010 in Room B, The Cheshire Suite,
Macclesfield Library, Jordangate, Macclesfield, Cheshire

PRESENT

Councillor H Gaddum, Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Rhoda Bailey Cabinet Support Member

Councillors J P Findlow, T Jackson, W Livesley and D Neilson

OFFICERS

Lesley Arrowsmith	Manager, Lifelong Learning
Lorraine Butcher	Head of Service for Children and Families
Carol Jones	Legal and Democratic Services
Andrew Kent	Schools Liaison Manager
Tim Oliver	Media Relations Officer
Mark Thornton	Project Adviser, Children and Families

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members made declarations of interest in respect of agenda item 4 (Formal Consultation Proposal for Macclesfield High School and Tytherington High School) on the basis of their governorships of the schools indicated—

Councillor J P Findlow: Fallibroome High School, Macclesfield.
Tytherington High School, Macclesfield.

Councillor T Jackson: Prestbury Primary School.

Councillor W Livesley: The Marlborough Primary School, Tytherington.

Councillor D Neilson: Puss Bank Primary School, Macclesfield.

No other declarations of interest were made.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos. 11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes had been allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. This was

extended to 30 minutes at the discretion of the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services.

The Cabinet Member made an opening statement about agenda item 4 - Formal Consultation Proposal for Macclesfield High School and Tytherington High School - before inviting members of the public to address the meeting. She outlined the issues relating to the proposal but indicated that there were other options which required exploration in greater depth before reaching a final decision. For this reason she was minded to defer a decision in order to allow informal consultation to be undertaken.

Six members of the public addressed the meeting. Each speaker welcomed the Portfolio Holder's opening remarks and explained their reasons for objecting to the proposal as detailed in the report submitted.

7 FORMAL CONSULTATION PROPOSAL FOR MACCLESFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND TYTHERINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

There were four secondary schools in Macclesfield, each providing education for pupils aged 11 to 18. These were –

- Macclesfield High
- Fallibroome High
- All Hallows Catholic College
- Tytherington High

There had been a steady decline in the number of pupils attending high schools in Macclesfield town. Projections showed that the number of surplus school places in Macclesfield was expected to rise significantly in the coming years, with the highest proportion of surplus places forecast being at Macclesfield High School. This was expected to reach 35% by 2016. Numbers in the remaining three high schools had continued to be sustained. There was a need, therefore, to review the secondary education provision in Macclesfield.

The Cabinet Member considered that, in addition to the options presented in the report, there were other options which required detailed examination before a decision was reached. These options should be the subject of informal consultation with interested parties, with a view to a range of options being presented to a further meeting in November 2010.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the decision on a formal consultation be deferred but that informal consultations be undertaken up to Friday, 8th October 2010;

- (2) all other options be explored in greater depth;
- (3) the advice of the Cheshire East Admissions Forum be sought on the admission arrangements in Macclesfield;
- (4) further discussions take place with the MP, Mr David Rutley, in the light of new information from the Government;
- (5) any other suggestions from the public be examined; and
- (6) these proposals lead to a statutory period of consultation on revised options for consideration at the beginning of November 2010.

8 CLEDFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHANGE OF AGE RANGE

The Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services considered a report proposing a change of age range from 4-11 to 3-11 years old at Cledford Primary School, Long Lane South, Middlewich.

The Childcare Act 2006 had imposed two key duties on local authorities regarding childcare:

- A duty to secure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents and those training for work.
- A duty to secure free early years provision for all 3 and 4 year old children.

The Local Authority, therefore, had a duty to ensure that as far as was reasonably practicable, all eligible children could access a free place (the Free Education Entitlement). Changing the age range at Cledford Primary School, to enable the admission of children from aged 3 years would enable parents to continue to access their free entitlement at this school and would improve outcomes for children.

RESOLVED

That Officers be given approval to consult on and publish a statutory notice in respect of proposals to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 years old at Cledford Primary School, Long Lane South, Middlewich, Cheshire.

9 THE FUTURE OF ADULT LEARNING IN CHESHIRE EAST 2010-2011

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) had set out a mandate to encourage all Local Authorities to become Lead Accountable Bodies (LABs) from 1 August 2011 to take responsibility for implementing the “Learning Revolution” White Paper published in February 2009. The

White Paper described changes to adult learning by encouraging a more informal approach.

With effect from August 2011, the Skills Funding Agency planned to channel the budget to support informal adult learning in a local area through identified LABs.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the funds to deliver under Adult Safeguarded Learning and Employer Responsive funding streams from the Skills Funding Agency for 2010-11 (academic year cycle) be accepted;
- (2) Cheshire East Council accept the invitation to become the Lead Accountable Body for Skills Funding Agency;
- (3) Cheshire East Lifelong Learning [placed within Children and Families Integrated Workforce Development team] take the lead on this agenda for the Local Authority;
- (4) Cheshire East Lifelong Learning consult with other Cheshire East services, such as Libraries, extended services, leisure and green spaces, health and well being, and safer communities, who are cited in the Learning Revolution as having a very influential part to play as learning moves closer to informal settings; and
- (5) a communications strategy be developed which brands this learning culture to promote the ASPIRE values of the Council and promote the service to all employees.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 10.10 am

Councillor H Gaddum (Cabinet Member)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date of Meeting: 8th November 2010
Report of: Lorraine Butcher. Director of Children and Families
Subject/Title: Macclesfield High School Review
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposal to close Macclesfield High School and to replace it with an Academy. The report seeks permission to start the formal consultation which is the first part of the statutory school organisation process for closing a maintained school.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Children and Family Services approve the commencement of statutory formal consultation on the proposal to close Macclesfield High School upon the establishment of an 11-16 Academy on the Macclesfield High School site with a pupil admission number of 120;
- 2.2 That Cheshire East Council continue to liaise with the Department for Education on the confirmation of Macclesfield College of Further Education as its preferred Academy sponsor; and
- 2.3 For the Local Authority with the Department for Education and Macclesfield College to take appropriate steps to prepare for the implementation of the new arrangements with effect from 1st September 2011 so that should the proposal to close Macclesfield High School be accepted after consultation, the successful delivery of statutory education (11 to 16) and the existing post 16 offer, including A levels and vocational qualifications, will continue to be delivered on the existing site without any interruption.

3.0 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 The recommendation will enable the Local Authority to comply with its statutory duty to formally consult with statutory consultees on a proposal involving a school closure.

4.0 Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

4.1

COUNCILLOR

REPRESENTING WARD

Cllr Harold Davenport	Bollington & Disley
Cllr Matthew Davies	Bollington & Disley
Cllr Diana Thompson	Bollington & Disley
Cllr Ainsley Arnold	Broken Cross
Cllr John Goddard	Broken Cross
Cllr John Narraway	Broken Cross
Cllr Marc Asquith	Macclesfield Forest
Cllr Hilda Gaddum	Macclesfield Forest
Cllr Lesley Smetham	Macclesfield Forest
Cllr Stephen Broadhurst	Macclesfield Town
Cllr David Neilson	Macclesfield Town
Cllr Christine Tomlinson	Macclesfield Town
Cllr Sandy Bentley	Macclesfield West
Cllr Martin Hardy	Macclesfield West
Cllr Darryl Beckford	Macclesfield West
Cllr Paul Findlow	Prestbury and Tytherington
Cllr Thelma Jackson	Prestbury and Tytherington
Cllr Bill Livesley	Prestbury and Tytherington

5.0 Policy Implications

- 5.1 This proposal accords with government policy and current DfE guidance on the formation of Academies under the Academies Act 2010.

6.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 6.1 The main cost associated with the school closure for the Local Authority will be the inheritance of any potential budget deficit and any residual deficit would be an educational cost chargeable to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) centrally held budget
- 6.2 Any further costs to the Local Authority will be in relation to the establishment of the proposed Academy and Members will be advised of this accordingly as part of the process.

7.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 7.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity, promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential and promote diversity and increase parental choice.
- 7.2 Under section 16 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 a local authority considering bringing forward statutory proposals to close a school must consult interested parties, and in doing so it must have regard to the Secretary Of

State's guidance. The guidance requires those bringing forward proposals to consult all interested parties (a list of interested parties is given in the guidance). In doing so they should:

- Allow adequate time
- Provide sufficient information for those being consulted to form a considered view on the matters on which they are being consulted:
- Make clear how their views can be made known; and
- Be able to demonstrate how they have taken into account the views expressed during consultation in reaching any subsequent decision as to the publication of proposals

7.3 The guidance as set out above, encompasses the Sedley requirements which are the standards of proper consultation expected by the Courts (*R v Barnet LBC, ex p B* [1994] ELR 357, 372G, referring to *R v Brent LBC, ex p Gunning* (1985) 84 LGR 168). It is imperative that this part of the guidance is followed to avoid challenge at a later date.

7.4 How statutory consultation is carried out is not prescribed in regulation and it is for the Local Authority to decide the appropriate method. The duration of the consultation is also not prescribed; however, guidance suggests that it should be for at least 6 weeks in respect of a school closure. The Local Authority should avoid consulting during school holidays.

7.5 It is understood that if Macclesfield High School was simply closed, Cheshire East Council would not have sufficient school places available in the Macclesfield area to meet its statutory obligations without significant capital investment. The establishment of the proposed Academy is therefore crucial to any proposal to close Macclesfield High School.

7.6 If this proposal should proceed there would clearly be employment issues and officers should take advice at the appropriate time in respect of these.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 There is a low level of risk in undertaking the consultation as we will be actively seeking the community's views on the proposal.

9.0 Background and Options

9.1 There are four secondary schools in Macclesfield, each providing education aged 11 to 18. These are:

1. Macclesfield High (formed in 2007 from the relocation of Henbury High School onto the Macclesfield Learning Zone site);
2. The Fallibroome Academy (formerly Fallibroome High School)
3. All Hallows Catholic College
4. Tytherington High

The establishment of Macclesfield High on the Learning Zone was a joint venture with Macclesfield College and Park Lane Special school and was

established with £15,948,507 investment. The Sixth Form (LZ6) provision on the Macclesfield High School site is a shared provision with Macclesfield College.

- 9.2 The current number of places available in the four high schools, including all sixth form provision, is 4,722. The number of pupils attending these high schools has fallen over the past years from 4981 pupils in 2002 to 4,570 in May 2010 (i.e. using the latest data from the summer 2010 School Census return) with a forecast pupil number for September 2017 of 4,558. Based on the pupil forecasting formula and the pattern of transfer to high schools in the area the distribution of pupils in Macclesfield is expected to deliver a fall in the number of pupils attending Macclesfield High School, which in 2010 is 809, to 531 pupils by 2017. The consequence of this is that if no changes are made the surplus places for Macclesfield High School by 2017 could be around 47.5% compared with the school's current surplus (for May 2010) of 20.1%. As this forecast is taking into account the current pattern of parental preference in the area, this forecast is based on the assumption that the current intakes at year 7 to the other three high schools will be maintained. The removal of surplus places is a government requirement since it leads to a significant financial drain on school budgets. The proposed Academy of 600 places would reduce the number of pupil places at the Macclesfield High School site from 1012 (including the sixth form) reducing the projected surplus capacity at the school from 47.5% to 22.5% by 2017.
- 9.3 The three year trend in the academic standards at Macclesfield High School, following its creation as a new secondary school in September 2007, has been downward. This trend culminated in the school only just achieving above the 30% national baseline in terms of 5+ A*- C including English and Maths (actual result 31%) in Summer 2009. The resulting decision by the Local Authority to include the school within the National Challenge programme was a vital and necessary step to significantly accelerate improvements in pupil attainment. The invitation to Tytherington High School from the Council to provide Leadership and Management support to the school resulted in the school not being placed in special measures following an OfSTED Inspection in February 2010. The school achieved National Challenge Target in summer 2010 examinations and a recent OfSTED monitoring visit judged the school to be making good progress.
- 9.4 The level and range of interventions have been significant and all have contributed to the improvements in attainment as seen in the Summer 2010. There has been a positive rise in the 5+A*-C including English & Maths rate up to 42% (11% rise) which has brought improved confidence in the school and the local community to deliver high quality learning. Whilst these improvements need to be celebrated, there is still a considerable amount of further work to be undertaken throughout the school to fully embed the progress seen and create a consistent and sustainable rate of school improvement in terms of the costs of external interventions into the school during 2009-10 and 2010-11. This currently stands at £445,000, which includes National Challenge funding of £161,000, Local Authority Intervention funding of £77,000, Schools Causing Concern funding of £166,000 and 1:1 Tuition funding of £41,000. In addition to this, the school has benefited from over 20 days of direct support and

monitoring from the National Challenge Adviser, external monitoring visits from Ofsted Inspectors as well as direct curriculum and behavioural support from LA Officers. Again these costs have been absorbed by the Authority to ensure improvement in standards of attainment. The view of the Local Authority, and the Evaluation Panel convened to evaluate all options against a set of agreed fundamental criteria, is that further sustainable improvement would be best delivered with external support and an appropriate sponsor.

- 9.5 In order to address the aforementioned issues, at the Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) meeting of 24 June 2010 permission was requested to proceed with formal consultation on a proposal to close Macclesfield High School with effect from 31 August 2011 and the related proposal of the expansion of Tytherington High School to deliver 11-18 provision across the two sites from September 2011. The resolutions of the meeting are set out below:
- 1 The decision on the request for formal consultation be deferred to allow for further informal consultation up until Friday, 8th October 2010;
 - 2 all other options be explored in greater depth;
 - 3 the advice of the Cheshire East Admissions Forum be sought on the admission arrangements in Macclesfield;
 - 4 further discussions take place with the MP, Mr David Rutley, in the light of new information from the Government;
 - 5 any other suggestions from the public be examined; and
 - 6 these proposals lead to a statutory period of consultation on revised options for consideration at the beginning of November 2010.
- 9.6 Further informal consultation was therefore undertaken and feedback received by the agreed date of 8 October has been summarised in Appendix 1. Copies of all the submissions are available for the Cabinet Member to view from the School Organisation Team on the ground floor at Emperor Court and will be available at the meeting on the day. During this process the Council received additional options for change (submitted under Option J) resulting in a total of 38 options for consideration, including the Council's own options (A to I).
- 9.7 Two further options emerged through discussion with other stakeholders which continued beyond the informal consultation period of the 8 October 2010 resulting in 40 options. Both those options were evaluated against the Evaluation Criteria. The final list of options is attached (Appendix 2).
- 9.8 The first of these was a variation of an original proposal made by Fallibroome Academy (option 29). The original proposal was around Federation but the revised proposal was to create a 'Two-Academy' model with Fallibroome as an outstanding school having overall governance control and developing a number of specialist centres for pastoral support, staff development and ICT on the existing Macclesfield High School site. This proposal was discounted for a number of reasons which were centred on several preconditions from the school which included; ownership and governance issues of LZ6 and transition funding from the Local Authority. This option therefore failed the affordability and deliverability criteria.

- 9.9 The second option was from the Macclesfield College of Further Education. This was to create a new 11-16 Academy with the College as sponsor and deliverer of post 16 provision, with Manchester Metropolitan University Institute of Education as a provider of expertise to ensure high academic standards. This satisfied each of the Fundamental Criteria and in the opinion of the Evaluation Panel, was the most logical and had the greatest potential to deliver further improvement in Achievement and Attainment for children and young people. A fuller evaluation is included as Appendix 3.
- 9.10 The analysis and evaluation of these options concluded that the single preferred model, which most closely satisfied the agreed set of fundamental criteria (those of achieving better outcomes for children and young people, reducing surplus places due to falling roles, which are affordable, deliverable and sustainable) is the closure of Macclesfield High School and the opening of an Academy on the same site for September 2011 (Attached as Appendix 3).
- 9.11 To progress the development of an Academy it has been necessary to liaise with the Department for Education (DfE) to agree an appropriate sponsor. The identified sponsor (Macclesfield College) will be required to undertake a consultation with stakeholders as to the ethos, character and operation of the potential new academy. If timescales allow, this consultation will coincide with the LA consultation on school closure. The sponsor would then take these views into account in developing proposals further and gaining the required approvals from the DfE for progression.
- 9.12 When approved the LA will work with the sponsors and DfE to ensure smooth transition between the predecessor school and the new academy to ensure continuity of provision for pupils, for the TUPE transfer of staff, and to ensure the transfer of assets.
- 9.13 A number of key stakeholders have raised concern about the potential impact on schools in the future due to population increases and the relevance of this for any proposed reorganisation. Forecasts show that in the Macclesfield Local Area Partnership, which includes the wards of Alderley, Bollington and Disley, Broken Cross, Macclesfield Forest, Macclesfield Town and Macclesfield West, the total population is set to increase by 2017 by around 3%. However, the number of children (aged 0-15) is forecast to decrease by around 5% between 2009 and 2027 and the largest decrease of 8% will be in the number of 0-4 year olds by 2027. Throughout the forecast years the numbers of children in each age group fluctuate, reflecting past patterns of numbers of births. The forecasts also indicate that the number of 5-10 year olds will increase by 5% by 2017. However, after 2017 the numbers will start to decrease again. Numbers of children aged 11-15 are forecast to decrease by 7% by 2027. Therefore in summary these projections are not expected to have a significant impact on pupil numbers.
- 9.14 Further information about the housing analysis illustrates that there are a small number (80) of potential development sites within the Macclesfield High School

catchment area and only 15% of these being assessed as being deliverable¹. The proposed sites would provide an additional 309 net capacity of dwellings within 15 years. It is anticipated that 76.05% would be delivered within 5 years with the remaining 23.9% being delivered within 15 years. This small increase is not anticipated to have a significant impact on pupil numbers. Using agreed child yield housing formula², is anticipated that there could potentially be an additional 78 primary school pupils and 56 secondary pupils a result of the current housing developments with full permission for development within Macclesfield, by 2026.

- 9.15 In the event that a decision is taken to close Macclesfield High School and to establish an Academy on the same site with effect from September 2011, pupils for whom places have been offered and accepted at Macclesfield High School, together with pupils on the roll of the school at the time of closure, will automatically be entitled to a place at the new Academy.

10.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Designation: Organisation and Capital Strategy Manager

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¹ **Definition:** The site is available now, offers a suitable location for housing development now and there is a reasonable prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years from the date of adoption of the plan

² **Child Yield Housing Formula:** Source Department for Education. <http://www.edubase.gov.uk>

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INFORMAL CONSULTATION – FEEDBACK SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following provides a summary of the feedback received during informal consultation on options for change to secondary school provision in Macclesfield.
- 1.2 On 7 June, the Council's informal Cabinet agreed that informal consultation should be implemented on an option to close Macclesfield High School and expand Tytherington High School, utilising both sites with effect from September 2011.
- 1.3 On 24 June, Councillor Gaddum, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families, considered the responses received to this informal consultation and resolved to defer decision making to allow for further informal consultation up until 8 October on all options.
- 1.4 An informal consultation document was published and key stakeholders were informed of the procedure for providing feedback to the Council.
- 1.5 Public events were held on 13 and 15 July at the two high schools named in the original option and further events were held on 15 and 16 September at Macclesfield Town Hall and Macclesfield Town Football Club.
- 1.6 Responses received to this consultation between the period of 7 June (Informal Cabinet) and 8 October (closing date for informal consultation) have been included in this summary document for consideration at the meeting of the Council's Cabinet Member whereupon a decision will be taken on whether to proceed to formal consultation.

2 OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

- 2.1 The list of options that were consulted on is listed below. 'Option J' was included on this list on the recommendation of the Council's Cabinet Member on 24 June, to invite key stakeholders to submit their own suggestions for consideration.
 - A. Closure of Macclesfield High School and Expansion of Tytherington High School.
 - B. To establish a Macclesfield Academy involving Macclesfield High School and another local high school.
 - C. No change
 - D. The establishment of a single Trust working across the high schools in Macclesfield.
 - E. Creation of a 3-19 all-through school, integrating a local primary school on the Macclesfield High School site.
 - F. Re-launch of Macclesfield High School as a Specialist Vocational/'Technical' School

- G. Closure of Macclesfield High School and redistribution of pupils across the remaining secondary schools.
- H. Use of Macclesfield High School site for Post 16 provision for the whole town
- I. Current Macclesfield High schools each lose one form entry to Macclesfield High School.
- J. Your views

3 FEEDBACK SUMMARY

- 3.1 Feedback received during informal consultation has been communicated by telephone, e-mail, and letter. In addition, meetings were arranged by the Council for interested parties as 'drop in' sessions at the two high schools named in the original option (Option A) and at two neutral venues, those of Macclesfield Town Hall and Macclesfield Town Football Club. This process has resulted in a total of 847 representations to the Council in response to the Council's informal consultation on options for change. The breakdown of communications received is shown below:

Date	E-Mail	Post	Telephone	Public Events	Consultation Response Form	Total
7 June-24 June	44	8	6	0		58
24 June-8 October	72	8	12	545	152	789
Total						847

- 3.2 Many of these communications provided feedback on more than one of the Council's options (A to I) and many included additional comments and views, which have been recorded separately as feedback. This has resulted in 1099 separate entries as follows:

- 260 representations in support of one of the options (A to I)
- 121 confirming opposition to the options A to I
- 117 recommending an alternative option*
- 601 providing comments and views for consideration

*A significant number of the alternative options received, i.e. those submitted to the Council as Option J, were duplicates and this resulted in an additional 31 new options resulting in a total of 40 options for evaluation. These options are summarised in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Member's decision paper.

- 3.3 A total of 466 parents, carers and other interested parties attended the informal consultation events with 386 attending the events at the two high schools on 13 and 15 July to receive further information about the next stage in the process and to offer feedback on the options A to J, (listed above in paragraph 2) and a further 80 people attending the later meetings held on 15 and 16 September at the Macclesfield Town Hall and Macclesfield Town Football Club.

4 FEEDBACK RECEIVED

4.1 The responses to the Council's 10 options (A to J) are summarised in the table below:

Options	For	% (of 496)	Against	% (of 496)	Totals	%
Option A	36	7.3%	71	14.3%	107	21.6%
Option B	6	1.2%	3	0.6%	9	1.8%
Option C	71	14.3%	5	1.0%	76	15.3%
Option D	15	3.0%	4	0.8%	19	3.8%
Option E	7	1.4%	10	2.0%	17	3.4%
Option F	23	4.6%	6	1.2%	29	5.8%
Option G	11	2.2%	10	2.0%	21	4.2%
Option H	38	7.7%	9	1.8%	47	9.5%
Option I	53	10.7%	3	0.6%	56	11.3%
Sub Total	260		121		381	76.8%
Option J*	115	23.2%	0	0.0%	115	23.2%
Total	375		121		496	100.0%

* Alternative options/your views

4.2 The majority of responses to the consultation on the options (A to J) focussed on the original option presented by the Council (Option A); and (Option C) no change to Macclesfield High School or (Option J) recommending an alternative solution. These responses represented 60.1% of the feedback and provide an indication of the level of concern felt in the community about the proposed change (Option A), which prior to 24 June had been presented as the single preferred option for change.

4.3 The option that received the highest opposition was the Council's original option (Option A). The responses to this option received after the meeting of the Council's informal Cabinet on 7 June and prior to the decision of the 24 June (subsequent informal consultation on *all* options) have been included in this summary.

4.4 Of the 496 responses the majority were submitted as Option J (your views), with almost a quarter of the responses recommending an alternative solution to the issues presented. The table above shows that this preferred option represents 23.2% of the total number of responses, suggesting that respondents would prefer to see an alternative solution to the proposed Option A.

Other responses

- 4.5 In response to the challenge faced by the Council of strengthening local secondary provision whilst addressing the issue of a continued decline in pupil numbers resulting in surplus school places, of the 601 comments and views received, the most frequent comments made were that:
- This must be a “whole town” solution;
 - Macclesfield High School should remain open and given time to address under-subscription and performance;
 - Any solution should be implemented as soon as possible to limit disruption for the pupils, parents and staff;
 - Consideration of increased travel across the town should be a key factor in this process;
 - This process must consider long term sustainability to avoid a further review in the near future;
 - Admission arrangements should be reviewed across the town to ensure equity and fair access for all;
 - The perception of Macclesfield High School across the town should be addressed;
 - There is a need to make sure that the Macclesfield High School building is used to benefit children in Macclesfield;
 - Smaller class sizes resulting from falling numbers would be of educational benefit;
 - All high schools in the town should be included in this process and not simply Macclesfield High School;
 - The impact on pupils and staffing of a split-site arrangement should be carefully considered;
 - The timing of the review and the implications of this for parents applying for places for September 2011 must be taken into account;
 - Pupil forecasting data must be accurate.
- 4.6 One of the key issues raised by interested parties was in relation to the admission arrangements in Macclesfield, with approximately 16% of the concerns raised referring to a review of the current admission arrangements as a solution to the surplus place issue and standards achieved at Macclesfield High School.
- 4.7 Respondents expressed the view that there was an inequitable distribution of pupils across the town as a result of current oversubscription criteria and admission numbers to other high schools in the area.
- 4.8 To ensure fairness and compliance with admissions legislation, at the meeting of the Cheshire East Admission Forum on 21 July 2010 full consideration was given to the admission arrangements of the four high schools and it was resolved that:
- The Forum recommends that the Governing Body of Fallibroome High School revise the admission arrangements for September

2011 to include Broken Cross Community School in order to ensure compliance with paragraph 2.72 of the School Admission Code

- That a separate objection be submitted by the Forum to the Office of School Adjudicator in the event that the arrangements determined for September 2011 are not revised in accordance with Forum advice.
- The Forum recommends that the Local Authority, together with admission authority schools in Macclesfield, review existing catchment areas.
- The Forum advises all admission authorities in Macclesfield to work together on agreeing admission arrangements for 2012 and beyond to ensure that arrangements support fair access and equity for all local families.

- 4.9 On the advice of the Admissions Forum and in accordance with legal requirements, the Council and the Cheshire East Admissions Forum submitted an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) to the arrangements determined by the Governing Body of the former Fallibroome High School on the basis that the arrangements; which used named feeder schools as a level of priority for admission, had the potential to disadvantage pupils living nearer to the school from more socially disadvantaged areas and therefore breaching a mandatory requirement of the School Admissions Code. The outcome of the objections received by the OSA; which included 19 objections submitted by relevant parents, were, in part, upheld and this has resulted in a change to the determined arrangements for September 2011 to include Broken Cross Community Primary School as a named feeder school in the admission arrangements.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Responses to the informal consultation are summarised here for consideration on 8 November in order that a decision can be taken on the next steps.
- 5.2 The Evaluation Framework (included in Appendix 3 to the Decision Paper) was endorsed as a robust process by the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 7 September. The framework includes key criteria that must be met for an option to be recommended to the Council's Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) for formal consultation and has been applied to all options received during informal consultation. The fundamental criteria are:
- Improved Outcomes for Children – Attainment and Achievement
 - Addresses Surplus Places
 - Affordability
 - Deliverability
 - Sustainability
- 5.3 The overriding requirement in this evaluation process is for any preferred option to deliver improved attainment, achievement and outcomes for children and young people and to do so an option has to meet all additional criteria.

- 5.4 In order to review the options arising out of this process, a steering group was set up chaired by the Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance Services, together with representatives of the Cheshire East Admissions Forum and officers of the Council to evaluate all options against the evaluation framework.
- 5.5 The outcome of the evaluation process is included in Appendix 3 to the decision paper.

Macclesfield Town School Re-Organisation

Part One - Cheshire East Council Options for Change

1. Closure of Macclesfield High School and Expansion of Tytherington High School. (Option A)
2. To establish a Macclesfield Academy involving Macclesfield High School and another local high school. (Option B)
3. No change (Option C)
4. The establishment of a single Trust working across the high schools in Macclesfield. (Option D)
5. Creation of a 3-19 all-through school, integrating a local primary school on the Macclesfield High School site. (Option E)
6. Re-launch of Macclesfield High School as a Specialist Vocational/'Technical' School (Option F)
7. Closure of Macclesfield High School and redistribution of pupils across the remaining secondary schools. (Option G)
8. Use of Macclesfield High School site for Post 16 provision for the whole town (Option H)
9. Current Macclesfield high schools each lose one form entry to Macclesfield High School. (Option I)

Option J (*your views*) listed below

Part Two – Responses to Consultation – Option J (Your Views)

10. The expansion of Tytherington High School and closure of Macclesfield High School. Tytherington High School to comprise:

- Tytherington High School North (Manchester Road) and
- Tytherington High School South (Park Lane).

Each site teaches years 7 to 11 to those children in their catchment areas. (Tytherington High School South pupils will not attend the north site and visa versa). The 6th form college would only exist on Tytherington High School South site. Taking away 6th form students from the Tytherington High School North site would increase the total number of pupils at the Tytherington High School South site.

11. Tytherington High School and Macclesfield High School form a hard federation with one governing body having full financial control of sites, benefiting from economies of shared resources, shared specialist facilities, shared teaching staff. Positive marketing and public relations of Macclesfield High School. Separate shared sixth form between Tytherington High School and Macclesfield High School, to be located at LZ6. Subject to securing capital investment on Tytherington High School site for its 7 - 11 students.

12. Macclesfield High School closure. Part/Full Macclesfield High School site to be used for Cheshire East Special Educational Needs Provision for Secondary SEN and Autistic Spectrum Condition.

Additional surplus space (capacity) could also be allocated for the use of Park Lane Special School. Students of the High School should be divided between the 3 remaining high schools i.e. Tytherington High School, Fallibroome High School and All Hallows Catholic College, as with numbers falling in birth rate this could be managed in two years time, with minimal disruption.

(In addition: Cease Admissions to Macclesfield High School from 2011 to phase in with Y8&9 pupils to be transferred to alternative schools early to avoid disruption to GCSE course). If Tytherington High School expands to 2 sites (as per Option A), only part site would be used for Special Education Needs with access to LZ, vocational opportunities and mainstream classes

13. Put a cap on entry into Macclesfield High School (i.e. propose closure: phasing out all existing year groups) and run the school from Tytherington High School to ensure access to curriculum. Allow the other three High Schools to increase their intake by one form, empty Macclesfield High School building to be used for Special Education Need provision. If Tytherington High School needs capital investment on the site then they should receive it regardless.

14. Consider a public/private partnership federation (possibly with King's school) using the Tytherington High School campus, transferring pupils from Macclesfield High School to Tytherington High School/Kings.

15. A single 6th form located on the LZ6 campus but in an effort to offer greater flexibility at post 16 education, the college undertakes a feasibility study to the opening of a Construction/Tradesmen type training college offering City & Guilds level training and qualification in Brick laying, Electrical, Carpentry/Joiners, Painting and Decorating, Plumbers etc making it a Cheshire centre of excellence for the building trade and associated companies.

16. Macclesfield College acquires Macclesfield High School surplus accommodation for greater provision of Technology & Science Specialism

17. Integration of the town's sixth forms together on one site.

18. Macclesfield High School problems to be fixed at Macclesfield High School. Mothball redundant classrooms; reduce staffing numbers to suit the expected pupil intake.

19. Make Macclesfield High School attractive with new management and a new core focus.

20. Appoint a 'Super-Head'. Financial 'incentives and rewards' for a successful head from a neighbouring high school. They will adopt the role of

'super head' to set up and guide a new leader/management team to run the schools to raise their standards.

21. Use the state of the art purpose built premises of Macclesfield High School as the main school in Macclesfield to accept new form entries from the other schools.

22. Close Tytherington High School and with high quality leadership make Macclesfield High School the best school in the Cheshire East.

23. Demolish Tytherington High School and send pupils to Poynton High School and to Macclesfield High School.

24. Close Macclesfield High School and expand Fallibroome High School and All Hallows Catholic College.

25. Create a "super" primary school out of the Macclesfield High School.

26. A school specialising in Science and Technology would be an asset to Macclesfield - Ground breaking educational (vocational diploma) course at the new Macclesfield Technical High School.

27. Close Macclesfield High School. Create a Free school under group/parent leadership on the Macclesfield High School site.

28. Close MHS. Establish a University Technical College on the site of the MHS.

29. Fallibroome High School federation with Macclesfield High School. Macclesfield High School ceases to be foundation school and would federate with Fallibroome Academy specialising in vocational learning and Visual/Media arts. Governance would become the responsibility of Fallibroome Academy Trust under direction of an executive Head with Heads of school on each site.

30. Reduce Macclesfield High School accommodation to meet current capacity. Expand the Park Lane Special School to include the surplus accommodation relinquished following the reduction. Locate Secondary aged pupils from Park Lane Special School in the 'shared' site building, leaving Park Lane Special School to expand their capacity for infant and primary aged pupils.

31. Close Macclesfield High School and open an Academy with a reduced capacity.

32. With another school, open an Academy with a reduced capacity – on the Macclesfield High School site.

33. Hard Federation with another school, reduction in capacity at Macclesfield High School.

34. Macclesfield High School to remain open. Appoint an outstanding management team. Address surplus places by LA objecting to Fallibroome Academy Admission arrangements re: PAN, thus reducing its intake to 7FE (from 8FE).

35. Close Macclesfield High School. In partnership with Macclesfield College open a new 11-16 high school (with a reduced capacity) within the old Macclesfield High School buildings in September 2011. Macclesfield College appoints a Head teacher. Fully integrate the Macclesfield High School Sixthform in to the LZ6. Macclesfield College Corporation would become the Governing Body of the new school.

36. Carry out a merger / arrangement with All Hallows which is acceptable in legal terms within the Macclesfield High School catchment Area (following a review of Macclesfield catchment areas)

37. Create a Centre of Excellence for Teachers – to create an environment where both teachers and students reach the highest possible standards. Single contact centre for health and educational professionals ie speech & language, OT, etc... Also a training centre for teachers from mainstream schools.

38. Merge Tytherington High School & Macclesfield High School as one split-site school. Teach age 11-16 cohorts on each site. Remove the Sixth form provision at the Tytherington site, with a shared 6th form at the Macclesfield High Site.

Two further options emerged through discussion with other stakeholders which went beyond the informal consultation period of the 8 October 2010. Both those options were evaluated against the Evaluation Criteria.

39. The Fallibroome Academy option is a variation of an option 29. The school would become part of Fallibroome's bid to become a 'Teaching School' and have a distinct identity as a specialist centre of Vocational excellence, with particular emphasis of the creative and media arts. This would require the creation of a new 'Two-Academy' model requiring Macclesfield High School closure and reopening as an 11-18 Academy under the Governance of the Fallibroome Academy Trust. The Trust having overall governance control and developing a number of specialist centres for pastoral support, staff development and ICT.

The new school would initially have a PAN of 150, the sixth form would become part of the Fallibroome Sixth Form which would operate on both sites to the Fallibroome standards including dress code. This would require a negotiated acquisition of the LZ6 building from the College or successful negotiated access to the College building to deliver the Fallibroome Sixth Form provision.

The Fallibroome Academy feel that this proposal would realise a small reduction of surplus places and that parental preference would determine the

number on roll in the other High Schools. The Fallibroome Trust would bid directly to the DfE for funds to expand the post-16 provision at Fallibroome

40. The Macclesfield College of Further Education option is a variation of original option 2. The school would close and immediately re-open as a new 11-16 Academy with a PAN of 120, with the College as sponsor and deliverer of the current post-16 provision on the site. Macclesfield College is an Associate College of Manchester Metropolitan University who would provide additional expertise from their Institute of Education to ensure that high academic standards are achieved.

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Evaluating *Options for Change*

1 Evaluation Framework

The Evaluation Framework was endorsed as a robust process by the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 7 September.

An Evaluation Panel, chaired by Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance and including representatives of the Cheshire East Admissions Forum and Officers of Cheshire East Council was established to apply the agreed framework. This group met on four occasions.

The framework includes key criteria that must be met for an option to be recommended to the Council's Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) for formal consultation and has been applied to all options (Appendix 2) received during informal consultation. The fundamental criteria included in the framework are:

- Improved Outcomes for Children – Attainment and Achievement
- Addresses Surplus Places
- Affordability
- Deliverability
- Sustainability

The overriding requirement in this evaluation process is for any preferred option to deliver improved attainment, achievement and outcomes for children and young people and to do so an option has to meet all the additional criteria.

2 Key Questions

In order to evaluate these criteria a number of key questions were framed:

Will the proposal improve attainment and achievement?

There are several factors which went into answering this question. In essence this was an evaluation by the panel of which option had the greatest potential and ability to deliver a combination of choice, improvement, attainment and achievement. The sustainability of achievement and attainment was also considered.

Will the proposal remove sufficient surplus places?

There are surplus places across the town and the majority of these are mainly at Macclesfield High School, resulting in an unsustainable future budget profile. Proposals which did not immediately address this were not evaluated any further.

Does the proposal require additional capital and revenue resources, which are not currently available?

Any proposal that is dependant upon capital or significant revenue funds or support from the local authority makes it unaffordable. Any proposal which did not best utilise the facilities at the High School to reflect the significant capital investment would not be scored highly.

Is the proposal deliverable and is likely to have the support of key stakeholders, including children, families and governing bodies?

There are several factors which go into answering this question. For the proposal to proceed it has to be legal and deliverable by the Local Authority. An unpopular option without total support of governing bodies or other key stakeholders will not be deliverable. A focal point for unpopularity was centred on pupil movements and transport and infrastructure implications.

Can the proposal be rapidly implemented and remain sustainable in the long term?

The current situation has created instability and negatively impacted in several areas. Given the continuing pressure on the High School and need to quickly reverse the position a prompt but sustainable solution is required. Proposals must avoid creating, as far as possible, any future instability in the other High Schools within Macclesfield. Options which delivered significant and sustainable support were viewed more favourably.

The Evaluation Framework is show overleaf.

3 Evaluation Framework

Stage	Criteria	Key Question	Commentary	Assumptions/Definitions
1	Addresses surplus places	Does the proposed option reduce surplus places to an acceptable level?	The removal of surplus places is a requirement. Failure to do so has a direct and negative impact on school budgets.	Must reduce surplus places. Must contribute to a whole town solution.
2	Affordable (Capital)	Are all transition and implementation costs affordable?	Current financial climate is severely limiting with limited opportunities to access capital funding Capital funding for 2011-2012 will be significantly reduced.	For an option to meet this criterion, it must: a) require no Capital investment* or, require limited capital investment (<£1m) for reasonable and minor modifications to existing accommodation**. *For the purpose of this top line stage in the evaluation process, for an option to satisfy this criterion it must include the utilisation of existing accommodation; the asset must be sufficient to meet current and projected capacity. **Conditional on the release of Government funding.
3	Deliverable	Is the proposed option achievable within existing frameworks? Does the option have the necessary support from key stakeholders to enable it to be enacted? Can the option be achieved within the required timescales?	Proposals are subject to legal/statutory frameworks. Options that require significant movement and/or displacement of children or young people are likely to be highly unpopular	Compliant with all legal/statutory requirements. Proposer (LA/DfE) has the authority to deliver. Use of school transport budget as proxy indicator of pupil disturbance. Initial implementation preferable by September 2011

Stage	Criteria	Key Question	Commentary	Assumptions/Definitions
4	Sustainable	<p>Is the proposed option viable within existing and future school budgets without the requirement for additional external funding?</p> <p>Is the proposed option capable of delivering an appropriate curriculum offer?</p> <p>Will the preferred option deliver a long term solution which is unlikely to be revisited in the near future?</p>	<p>The LA is not in a position to provide additional funding</p> <p>The preferred solution must be able to deliver the full curriculum offer either individually or through robust partnerships</p>	<p>Financial modelling indicated medium term viability of school budget</p> <p>Pupil numbers sufficient to deliver appropriate curriculum /or partnership arrangements to ensure curriculum offer.</p> <p>Cost per pupil indicators sustainable for the foreseeable future based on current data including pupil forecasting to 2017.</p> <p>Assumes no secondary school with a capacity below 600 places (Y7-11)</p>
Options that have satisfied all of the preceding four criteria will be evaluated against the following final and most fundamental criterion of improving attainment and achievement and delivering better outcomes for children and young people.				
5	Improves achievement and attainment	<p>Will the preferred option deliver a solution that will promote and deliver improved achievement and attainment and better outcomes for children and young people?</p> <p>Does the proposed solution provide significant external support?</p>	<p>All options have the potential to deliver improved standards of achievement and attainment. However, significant external support considerably improves the likelihood of this being achieved.</p> <p>An option which can be expected to deliver significant external support scores a 1. An option which improves achievement and attainment but does not deliver significant external or equivalent support scores a 2.</p>	Should all other criteria be met , does the proposed option have a greater probability of delivering improved achievement and attainment based on previous experience and evidence?

4 Options Appraisal

The informal public consultation which commenced in June generated a number of options in addition to those originally proposed.

In broad terms the proposals fell into three categories:

Those that sought to close Macclesfield High and redistribute pupils to other schools.

These would result in significant disruption to pupil learning and would result in large scale transit of pupils with consequent disruption to families, associated health and safety issues and impact on carbon reduction targets. In general, many of these options did not satisfy either the surplus places or affordability criteria and did not result in a 'best use' of the high quality asset and continued provision on the Macclesfield High site. The redistribution of pupils would also necessitate further capital investment in other schools which is not available.

Those options that sought to maintain Macclesfield High as a viable school without the benefit of external support, albeit with a smaller net capacity.

A number of such options proposed that the Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) at some or all other Macclesfield school should be reduced. This is not recommended as it runs contrary to principles of parental choice. The panel concluded that all the evidence points to the fact that without significant external support and expertise, the rapid improvement in performance required to improve the popularity and make the Macclesfield High School sustainable would not be achieved. In general, most of these options did not satisfy either the deliverability or sustainability criteria.

Those options that sought to close Macclesfield High and replace it with a new entity, either as an Academy or Hard Federation with another school.

The panel concluded that these options were the most likely to succeed, in that they ensured continuity of learning provision on the Macclesfield High site, provided the required significant additional expertise, and allowed the school to make a 'fresh start' with all the attendant positive publicity this would attract. The evaluation panel concluded that an Academy model was more secure and preferable to a Federation model. The panel also concluded in order to differentiate between options that might satisfy all criteria an evaluation of the likelihood, capacity and expertise to enhance and develop Achievement and Attainment should be made.

The panel evaluated the ability of each option to deliver a long term solution which has the most likely chance of delivering improvement in attainment and achievement and therefore delivering the fundamental criterion of better outcomes for children and young people, whilst also addressing the key issue of surplus school places at Macclesfield High School. The Panel recommended that Option 2 - the replacement of this school with an Academy sponsored by a partner able to provide the necessary improvements at Macclesfield High will

provide a more secure, long term arrangement with a higher likelihood of success for delivering improvements in achievement and attainment .

5 Local School Proposals

From the time of the original discussions in early 2010 and when the original single proposal was recommended in June 2010; which had the support of the four secondary headteachers and the Principal of Macclesfield College and subsequently, of the Local Authority and governing bodies of Macclesfield and Tytherington High schools, the local and national context changed significantly. This change shaped a set of evaluation criteria which were different from those made when the original proposals were endorsed by the Authority. The most significant change was under the 'Affordability' criteria in response to changes in the financial climate.

6 Original Proposal

- 6.1 The original option (known as Option A) was: Macclesfield High School (MHS) should close and that Tytherington High School (THS) should expand across the site of the existing school and that of THS incorporating the pupils on roll of MHS into the expanded school. The expanded THS would then deliver 11-18 provision across the two sites but deliver one 6th Form.

Tytherington High School had a number of preconditions which included:

- Significant capital investment was required. An earlier feasibility study indicated that between £10m and £15m was required and this should be made up of a school/local authority bid to central government for matched funding to rationalise and improve the THS site¹.
- There was a significant revenue support programme to cover transition elements from the local authority.
- The Admissions policy for all Macclesfield High Schools should be examined and referred to the Cheshire East Admissions Forum².

- 6.2 After evaluation using the new criteria, the original proposal (Option A) was rejected. Firstly, not all the conditions could be delivered by the Local Authority. Secondly, with the changed national and local context the 'Affordability' and 'Deliverability' criteria could not be satisfied because of the transport and change implications of the 'two site' proposal. The success of any proposal also required it to be deliverable and have a level of support within the Community. The feedback from the informal consultation period did not suggest this proposal had the significant support of the Community. There was a very high proportion of objection from Tytherington High School community and little positive support from the Macclesfield High School community.

¹ THS has separately been awarded a capital grant by the local authority based on its condition and is not linked to this precondition. The exact scheme will be confirmed once the outcome of this review has been concluded.

² After consideration the Local Authority referred Fallibroome's admissions policy to the Schools Adjudicator. The outcome of this is described in Appendix 1

7 Further Proposals

7.1 Discussions with **Fallibroome Academy** covered a number of matters and concluded with a proposal to develop a 'Two-Academy' structure under the overall governance of Fallibroome Academy Trust. As an outstanding school with Academy status this option fell in the preferred structural category of the evaluation panel. The proposal came with a number of preconditions and features:

- The intention is to establish several 'centres' of specialist provision at the Macclesfield High School site for the benefit of both institutions which might feature a pastoral support centre, staff development centre and IT centre.
- The school required total control of the 6th Form element at Macclesfield High School known as LZ6. Fallibroome 6th Form students would be taught from the LZ6 building as well as from the Fallibroome site. After further discussion this position was modified and Fallibroome would seek to negotiate use of the building owned by the College. The Fallibroome post-16 dress code would apply to all members of the 6th form.
- The school could not inherit a budget deficit and would require the Local Authority to explore this with the DfE in discussions over sponsorship and arrival at the funding arrangement with the new school
- The school want a transition grant and support from the Local Authority.
- The achievement of a PAN of 150 may affect the number on roll of other Macclesfield schools and would require the recruitment of pupils who currently choose secondary provision outside Macclesfield.
- The school want to explore all options regarding the recruitment of staff to the new Academy and would not necessarily commit to a TUPE transfer.
- The Fallibroome Academy Trust Board of Governors reserve the right to amend or abort these proposals following the completion of a due diligence exercise.
- Further advice on the potential for a DfE grant is pending

7.2 Discussions with **Macclesfield College of Further Education** (the College), covered a number of matters and concluded with a proposal to develop a new Academy with the college as principal sponsor. As an outstanding College, the Department of Education has confirmed that it can, like outstanding schools, be a principal sponsor. This option fell in the preferred structural category of the evaluation panel and was like the Fallibroome Academy proposal, a variant of the original Option 2. The proposal came with a number of preconditions and features:

- The Macclesfield High School would close and a new 11-16 Academy would immediately open on the site with the College as sponsor and deliverer of the current post 16 provision on the site.
- The post 16 provision would be maintained and developed and include the A Level offer of the Macclesfield High School.
- Macclesfield College is an Associate College of Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The University strongly welcome the creation of an Academy and would provide additional expertise from their Institute of Education to ensure that high academic standards are achieved.
- The college would seek the support of a 'blue chip' company as an associate to this option.
- The College would want to further develop the Learning Zone as a focal point for other diverse community activity and access to facilities.
- The College are keen to expand their provision into vocational performing arts and construction options to reduce leakage out of the Authority.
- The College do not want to inherit a budget deficit and would ask the LA to explore this with the DfE in discussions over sponsorship and arrival at the funding arrangement with the new school
- The College would want to market and manage the site with one unified ethos and vision and would deliver the operation for the whole site with a well developed HR, Financial and site management teams.
- The College would want to enhance its positive record of working closely with Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD) and strengthen the good links with Park Lane School involvement and being fully inclusive within the 11-16 school.

8 Conclusions

8.1 The panel concluded that the options most likely to meet the criteria were ones which centred on the opening of an Academy on the same site as the Macclesfield High School for September 2011. Of the original options therefore, Option 2 was the closest. During the informal consultation period a further three options came forward which basically satisfied the criteria to a greater or lesser degree. These were Options 33, 35 and 38:

- Option 2 - To establish a Macclesfield Academy involving Macclesfield High School and another local high school. (Option B)
- Option 33 - Hard Federation with another school, reduction in capacity at Macclesfield High School.

- Option 35 - Close Macclesfield High School. In partnership with Macclesfield College open a new 11-16 high school (with a reduced capacity) within the old Macclesfield High School buildings in September 2011. Macclesfield College appoints a Head teacher. Fully integrate the Macclesfield High School 6th form in to the LZ6. Macclesfield College Corporation would appropriate governance arrangements within the Academy arrangements.
- Option 38 - Merge Tytherington High School & Macclesfield High School as one split-site school. Teach age 11-16 cohorts on each site. Remove the Sixth form provision at the Tytherington site, with a shared 6th form at the Macclesfield High Site.

Whilst Options 33, 35 and 38 satisfied the criteria they were not scored as highly as Options 2, 39 or 40 because an Academy model was more secure and preferable to a Federation model.

8.2 As variants of Option 2, Options 39 and 40 went forward for further consideration.

Option 39 was rejected because of the preconditions and the inability of the Authority to underwrite and commit to transitional revenue support. The ownership of the LZ6 resource by the College was also a significant aspect. The Authority in its discussions with parties assessed the likelihood of a negotiated agreement between the College and Fallibroome for access in the way that Fallibroome described in their vision of the 6th Form, as low. This would also potentially result in damaging competition between the two current 6th Form providers on the single site.

9 Recommended Option

Option 40 therefore satisfied each of the Fundamental Criteria and in the opinion of the Evaluation Panel, was the most logical and had the greatest potential to deliver further improvement in Achievement and Attainment for children and young people. The explicit and enthusiastic support of Manchester Metropolitan University and the Colleges links to Industry and the further commitment to develop the Learning Zone as a focal point for other community activity were also significant elements. The College had already secured the backing of their Corporation and the equivalent dialogue from discussions with the Authority was not evident from Fallibroome. The timescales to deliver this option by September 2011 are very tight and the Authority felt that the College was better positioned to deliver this in time and to the high standard required.

This table must be read in conjunction with the Council's '**Evaluation Framework**', which explains the assumptions made and defines the criteria used to evaluate each option at the pre-statutory stage of the school re-organisation process.

No	Options	Notes	Removes Surplus Places	Affordable	Deliverable	Sustainable	Commentary	Improves Attainment and Achievement (Ranking: 1 = Strongest)
1	Closure of Macclesfield High School and Expansion of Tytherington High School. (Option A)				X		Dispersal of pupils across two sites	N/A
2	To establish a Macclesfield Academy involving Macclesfield High School and another local high school. (Option B)	<i>Assumes continuing 6th Form offer for MHS students</i>						Ranking: 1 - Provides secure, long term arrangement with high likelihood of improvement in A and A
3	No change (Option C)		X				Does not remove surplus	N/A
4	The establishment of a single Trust working across the high schools in Macclesfield. (Option D)		X				Does not remove surplus	N/A

5	Creation of a 3-19 all-through school, integrating a local primary school on the Macclesfield High School site. (Option E)			X			Requires capital investment to remodel primary requirements	N/A
6	Re-launch of Macclesfield High School as a Specialist Vocational/'Technical' School (Option F)	<i>Presumed reduction in pupil numbers</i>		X			Requires capital investment to remodel vocational/ technical requirements	N/A
7	Closure of Macclesfield High School and redistribution of pupils across the remaining secondary schools. (Option G)				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A
8	Use of Macclesfield High School site for Post 16 provision for the whole town (Option H)				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A
9	Current Macclesfield high schools each lose one form entry to Macclesfield High School. (Option I)				X		Would not be supported by all schools. Does not address MHS issues	N/A

10	<p>The expansion of Tytherington High School and closure of Macclesfield High School. Tytherington High School to comprise: a) Tytherington High School North (Manchester Road) and b) Tytherington High School South (Park Lane). Each site teaches years 7 to 11 to those children in their catchment areas. (Tytherington High School South pupils will not attend the north site and visa versa). The 6th form college would only exist on Tytherington High School South site. Taking away 6th form students from the Tytherington High School North site would increase the total number of pupils at the Tytherington High School South site.</p>				X		Requires substantial pupil movement	N/A
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11	<p>Tytherington High School and Macclesfield High School form a hard federation with one governing body having full financial control of sites, benefiting from economies of shared resources, shared specialist facilities, shared teaching staff. Positive marketing and public relations of Macclesfield High School. Separate shared sixth form between Tytherington High School and Macclesfield High School, to be located at LZ6. Subject to securing capital investment on Tytherington High School site for its 7 - 11 students.</p>	<i>Presumed reduction in pupil numbers at MHS</i>	X				Does not remove surplus	N/A
12	<p>Macclesfield High School closure. Part/Full Macclesfield High School site to be used for Cheshire East Special Educational Needs Provision for Secondary SEN and Autistic Spectrum Condition. Additional surplus space (capacity) could also be allocated for the use of Park Lane Special School. Students of the High School should be divided between the 3 remaining high schools could be managed in two years time,</p>				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A

13	Put a cap on entry into Macclesfield High School (i.e. propose closure: phasing out all existing year groups) and run the school from Tytherington High School to ensure access to curriculum. Allow the other three High Schools to increase their intake by one form, empty Macclesfield High School building to be used for Special Education Need provision. If Tytherington High School needs capital investment on the site then they should receive it regardless.			X			Requires capital expenditure at other school	N/A
14	Consider a public/private partnership federation (possibly with King's school) using the Tytherington High School campus, transferring pupils from Macclesfield High School to Tytherington High School/Kings.				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A

15	A single 6th form located on the LZ6 campus but in an effort to offer greater flexibility at post 16 education, the college undertakes a feasibility study to the opening of a Construction/Tradesmen type training college offering City & Guilds level training and qualification in Brick laying, Electrical, Carpentry/Joiners, Painting and Decorating, Plumbers etc making it a Cheshire centre of excellence for the building trade and associated companies.	<i>Presumed increase in pupil numbers at other sites</i>		X			Requires capital expenditure at other school	N/A
16	Macclesfield College acquires Macclesfield High School surplus accommodation for greater provision of Technology & Science Specialism	<i>Not an option - suggestion for re-use of building</i>						N/A
17	Integration of the town's sixth forms together on one site.				X		Would not be supported by schools	N/A
18	Macclesfield High School problems to be fixed at Macclesfield High School. Mothball redundant classrooms; reduce staffing numbers to suit the expected pupil intake.		X				Does not remove surplus places	N/A

19	Make Macclesfield High School attractive with new management and a new core focus.		X				Does not remove surplus places	N/A
20	Appoint a 'Super-Head'. Financial 'incentives and rewards' for a successful head from a neighbouring high school. They will adopt the role of 'super head' to set up and guide a new leader/management team to run the schools to raise their standards.		X				Does not remove surplus places	N/A
21	Use the state of the art purpose built premises of Macclesfield High School as the main school in Macclesfield to accept new form entries from the other schools.		X				Does not remove surplus places	N/A
22	Close Tytherington High School and with high quality leadership make Macclesfield High School the best school in the Cheshire East.				X		Removes provision on THS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A
23	Demolish Tytherington High School and send pupils to Poynton High School and to Macclesfield High School				X		Removes provision on THS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A

24	Close Macclesfield High School and expand Fallibroome High School and All Hallows Catholic College				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A
25	Create a "super" primary school out of the Macclesfield High School.				X		Removes provision on MHS site and requires relocation of pupils	N/A
26	A school specialising in Science and Technology would be an asset to Macclesfield - Ground breaking educational (vocational diploma) course at the new Macclesfield Technical High School.	See option 6						N/A
27	Close Macclesfield High School. Create a Free school under group/parent leadership on the Macclesfield High School site.	See option 2						N/A
28	Close MHS. Establish a University Technical College on the site of the MHS.				X		Would not be supported by schools. Requires pupil movement	N/A

29	Fallibroome High School federation with Macclesfield High School. Macclesfield High School ceases to be foundation school and would federate with Fallibroome Academy specialising in vocational learning and Visual/Media arts. Governance would become the responsibility of Fallibroome Academy Trust under direction of an executive Head with Heads of school on each site.	See option 33						N/A
30	Reduce Macclesfield High School accommodation to meet current capacity. Expand the Park Lane Special School to include the surplus accommodation relinquished following the reduction. Locate Secondary aged pupils from Park Lane Special School in the 'shared' site building, leaving Park Lane Special School to expand their capacity for infant and primary aged pupils.			X			Requires capital expenditure to remodel to special school	N/A
31	Close Macclesfield High School and open an Academy with a reduced capacity.	See option 2						N/A

32	With another school, open an Academy with a reduced capacity – on the Macclesfield High School site.	See <i>option 3</i>						N/A
33	Hard Federation with another school, reduction in capacity at Macclesfield High School.							Ranking 2 - Does not provide security of arrangement and long term relationship. Good potential to improve A and A
34	Macclesfield High School to remain open. Appoint an outstanding management team. Address surplus places by LA objecting to Fallibroome Academy Admission arrangements re: PAN, thus reducing its intake to 7FE (from 8FE).		X				Does not remove surplus places	N/A

35	Close Macclesfield High School. In partnership with Macclesfield College open a new 11-16 high school (with a reduced capacity) within the old Macclesfield High School buildings in September 2011. Macclesfield College appoints a Head teacher. Fully integrate the Macclesfield High School Sixthform in to the LZ6. Macclesfield College Corporation would become the Governing Body of the new school.							Ranking: 2 - Does not provide security of arrangement and long term relationship. Good potential to improve A and A
36	Carry out a merger / arrangement with All Hallows which is acceptable in legal terms within the Macclesfield High School catchment Area (following a review of Macclesfield catchment areas)				x		Limits provision for non-faith pupils	N/A
37	Create a Centre of Excellence for Teachers – to create an environment where both teachers and students reach the highest possible standards. Single contact centre for health and educational professionals ie speech & language, OT, etc... Also a training centre for teachers from mainstream schools.	<i>Not an option - suggestion for re-use of building</i>						N/A

38	Merge Tytherington High School & Macclesfield High School as one split-site school. Teach age 11-16 cohorts on each site. Remove the 6th form provision at the Tytherington site, with a shared 6th form at the Macclesfield High Site.	<i>Presumes reduction in places and reuse of accommodation for 6th form</i>						Ranking: 2 - Does not provide security of arrangement and long term relationship Has the potential to improve A and A
39	'Two-Academy' model with Fallibroome Academy having overall governance control and developing a number of specialist centres for pastoral support, staff development and IT. Split Fallibroome 6th Form between the THS and MHS sites.				X		Preconditions are not deliverable	N/A
40	Macclesfield College of Further Education as main sponsor creating a new 11-16 Academy with the College delivering all post 16 provision and maintaining present A level offer with Manchester Metropolitan University Institute of Education as a provider of expertise to ensure high academic standards.						This is the preferred option of the Evaluation Panel	Ranking: 1 - Provides secure, long term arrangement with high likelihood of improvement in Achievement and Attainment and A

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