



FORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**PROPOSAL FOR THE
CLOSURE OF**

MACCLESFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

UPON

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ACADEMY**

15 November 2010 to 14 January 2011

Cheshire East Council
Children & Families Services
School Organisation and Capital Strategy
Delamere House, (EC)
Delamere Street,
Crewe,
Cheshire CW1 2LL

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools

Formal Consultation on Proposed Change to Secondary School Provision in Macclesfield

At the meeting of 8 November 2010, Councillor Gaddum, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families, approved formal consultation on a 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.

Approval was also given for the continuation of liaison with the Department for Education (DfE) on the confirmation of Macclesfield College as its preferred Academy sponsor. The Council will also continue to liaise with the DfE during this period regarding any further sponsors which may emerge.

Councillor Gaddum approved the recommendation that the Local Authority, with the DfE and Macclesfield College, take the appropriate steps to prepare for the implementation of the new arrangements with effect from 1 September 2011.

The Council is therefore seeking your views on this proposal up until Friday 14 January. A final decision to close Macclesfield High School will be conditional on the establishment of a new Academy on the same site.

The Council is supporting the proposal for closure to enable the establishment of a 600 place Academy (11-16 year olds). It is considered that Macclesfield College would be a strong educational sponsor and would have the appropriate skills and resources to support the Academy in the longer term. If the proposal is approved then the Sponsor would be responsible for running the Academy and, working with local partners, would provide a full range of courses to meet students' academic, vocational and pastoral needs.

Macclesfield College already enjoys close links with the High School thanks to their shared site on the Learning Zone and joint management of the LZ6 Sixth Form College. The proposed option would provide young people with clear progression routes from age 11 to GCSEs through to A Levels or vocational qualifications and on to higher education degrees, **on one modern 11-18 campus.**

The proposed timescale for implementation of 1 September 2011 would reduce the period of uncertainty for all of those potentially affected by this proposal. Should the proposal to close Macclesfield High School be approved after this 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.

All interested parties are now invited to comment on the proposal. There is a response form at the end of this document which you can complete and return to the Council up until the end of the process on 14 January 2011. In accordance with statutory requirements, the consultation will last for a minimum of 6 weeks and during this time we hope to gather as much feedback as possible. Further details about how you can take part in this process are included at the end of this document.

About this consultation document:

This document has been produced by Cheshire East Council as the first part of the formal public consultation process with pupils, parents, staff, governors, the local community and other key stakeholders. It seeks the views of all these interested groups on the proposal to close Macclesfield High School with effect from 31 August 2011 in order to establish an Academy on the existing site. Included in this document is information about the outcome of the recent informal consultation on options for change, which ended on 8 October 2010, and provides background information on the key issues facing the Council to explain why this proposal has been put forward for formal consultation.

Why do we need to make changes?

Background Information:

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

1. Macclesfield High School (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 School

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.

For some time now, discussions have been ongoing with Cheshire East Council officers, school governors and headteachers in Macclesfield aimed at strengthening local secondary provision and to promote fair access to educational opportunity for all young people in the area whilst addressing the issue of a continued decline in pupil numbers resulting in surplus places in some of our schools.

Secondary School Forecast Formula (Pupil Forecasting)

The year 7 secondary school intake figures are arrived at by studying which primary school the pupils came from in the previous September. Using this information the percentage 'feeder school transfer rates' are calculated for each of the primary schools and this is based on an average rate transferring from that primary school to secondary school over the last three years.

These percentage 'feeder school transfer rates' are then applied to the number of pupils actually on roll at the primary schools in January to generate the future number of pupils which it is expected will feed from each of these primary schools into the secondary schools.

As well as using the primary school feeder transfer rates, an estimate of the number of pupils admitted to secondary schools from non-Cheshire East primary schools based on past data is included in the calculation. The projected estimates for numbers on roll in future years are these 'feeder school transfer rates' rolled forward, i.e. Year 7 in 2010 becomes Year 8 in 2011, Year 9 in 2012 and so on.

Surplus places

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 takes 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).

Pupil data forecasts for Macclesfield indicate there will be 611 surplus places for 11-16 year olds by 2017, equating to 14.6% of available places. Forecasts for Macclesfield High School indicate surplus places of 30.1% by 2017. Such high levels of surpluses put a significant strain on the budgets for all schools within Cheshire East, effectively diverting funding from provision for pupils into building maintenance and other costs that are unnecessary. Government guidance is clear that Local Authorities must take steps to reduce surplus places to acceptable levels, allowing some latitude for pupil mobility. The proposed admission number for the new school to replace Macclesfield High will ensure that the overall surplus places in Macclesfield will fall to 8.0% by 2017, which is within government guidelines.

Attainment and Achievement

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.

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.

The cost of external interventions into the school during 2009-10 and 2010-11 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.

Population Forecasting

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.

Housing Analysis

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.

Informal Consultation

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 further informal consultation 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.

Further informal consultation was therefore undertaken and 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). Two further options emerged through discussion with other stakeholders resulting in a total of 40 options.

Feedback received by the deadline of 8 October 2010 was summarised in a report for Councillor Gaddum and this was presented at the meeting of 8

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>

November 2010, together with the final list of options and the outcome of the options evaluation process. Copies of these documents are available on the Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools.

Options Evaluation Process

In order to evaluate all options objectively in a fair and consistent manner a framework was produced, which included key criteria that must be met for an option to be recommended to the Council's Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) for formal consultation. The Evaluation Framework was endorsed as a robust process by the Council's Children and Families Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 7 September.

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.

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 analysis and evaluation of the 40 options concluded that the single preferred model, which most closely satisfied the agreed set of fundamental criteria is **the closure of Macclesfield High School and the opening of an 11-16 Academy on the same site for September 2011**. Full details about this evaluation process are available on the Council's website.

Establishing an Academy

To progress the establishment of an Academy it has been necessary to liaise with the 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 Local Authority's consultation on the proposed closure of Macclesfield High School. The sponsor would then take these views into account in developing proposals further and gaining the required approvals from the DfE for progression.

If approved, the Local Authority will work with the sponsors and DfE to ensure a smooth transition between the Macclesfield High School as 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.

The benefits

The establishment of a new Academy could provide many benefits, including:

- A transitional grant for the Academy that would not be available otherwise.
- An opportunity to provide significant and sustained improvement in teaching, learning and pupil attainment.
- Sponsor involvement, which would provide expertise and continuous support throughout the delivery and operation of the Academy.
- The opportunity to establish effective partnerships, encourage true inclusion and promote community involvement.

As the Council's preferred sponsor, Macclesfield College would bring much experience and expertise to the development of the Academy. These include:

- The College's senior team has an excellent track record of improving outcomes for learners by raising educational standards and the aspirations of young people. The College is also a Beacon College, which is the Government's recognition of excellence, and commits the College to working with other institutions to help them to raise their performance and the College was judged as Outstanding in its most recent Ofsted inspection.
- The College propose to appoint an inspirational Head Teacher as a leader for the Academy, and the College's senior team are confident of applying their educational expertise in a secondary setting
- As a partner, co-located on the Learning Zone, Macclesfield College would be in a unique position to provide a sustainable solution to the problem of surplus places, with the minimum disruption to the current students of Macclesfield High School and their parents
- As an 11 to 16 school, the Academy could be more economically viable with 4 forms of entry and so a total planned student population of 600. Shared services across the Learning Zone campus would enhance efficiency and leave more money available to support teaching and learning
- The College already has a number of partnerships with high profile employers in the region which will benefit the school including existing links with Higher Education, including Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Education.
- The proposal opens up the possibility of new curriculum opportunities for Academy students, through partnerships with employers accessed through the College's extensive employer engagement

- Under this proposal the Learning Zone would be able to offer young people clear progression routes from Year 7 right through to Higher Education degrees on one modern integrated campus. Making these opportunities fully visible and accessible on a single campus would raise aspirations.
- Macclesfield College would also build on and enhance its partnership with Park Lane Special School, seeking to develop the opportunities for Park Lane's Key Stage 4 students based upon successful experience within LZ6. Park Lane Special School has also been judged Outstanding by Ofsted and the College would wish to draw on their expertise, particularly in the development of a personalised curriculum and behaviour management

The sponsor will also be consulting the community separately about their proposal to establish a new Academy and about their vision and ethos.

School Admissions

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.

Future admission arrangements for the new Academy would be the responsibility of the Sponsor and further information about this will be presented during the consultation process implemented by the sponsors.

Your Role in this Formal Consultation Process

Please consider the information presented in this document and return your comments and views to this Council by 14 January by completing the feedback form provided at the end of this document. All feedback is extremely important to us.

All feedback received during formal consultation will be collated and presented in a report to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families on the proposed date of 7 February 2011 (date to be confirmed) with an analysis of the responses received and recommendations on the next steps, which may include a decision to publish statutory notices on the proposal to close Macclesfield High School with effect from 31 August 2011, conditional on the establishment of a new Academy for September 2011 utilising the same site.

If a decision is taken to publish statutory notices, there will be a further opportunity to send comments to the Council about the proposal. The feedback received will be summarised in a report with an analysis of the outcomes of the consultation and recommendations on the next steps. The

report is then taken to a meeting of the Council's Cabinet Sub Committee, where they have the following options;

- To decide not to take the proposals any further
- To change the proposal in some way
- To proceed with the original proposal

If the Council's Cabinet Sub Committee wanted to make a major change to the proposal then a fresh public consultation would need to be carried out.

Key Dates:

8 November 2010	Formal Consultation approved
15 November	Consultation begins
14 January 2011	Consultation ends
7 February 2011 (TBC)	Cabinet Member to consider outcomes from formal consultation and for a decision on the next steps, which may include publishing statutory notices on the proposal to close Macclesfield High School
14 February 2011 (TBC)	<i>If approved</i> , statutory notices published conditional on the establishment of an Academy on the same site. (6 weeks fixed period for representation to be made to the Council)
28 March 2011 (TBC)	End of Notice Period
Date TBC	Report to the Council's Cabinet Sub Committee for a decision on the proposed closure of Macclesfield High School conditional on the establishment of an Academy
31 August 2011	<i>If approved</i> , implementation of School closure
1 September 2011	Academy opens

Consultation Events

There are two public formal consultation 'drop in' events arranged for December. These are open to anyone interested in the proposed Macclesfield reorganisation:

6 December at Macclesfield High School from 4 - 8pm

7 December at Macclesfield Town Football Club from 1.30 – 3.30 & 5 – 8pm

You are welcome to attend whichever of the two events is more convenient for you. All interested parties will be able to meet with officers from the Council and the College who will respond to any questions and will record feedback. Further information on is available on our website at

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools

During this formal consultation period there will be a separate consultation on the establishment of the proposed new Academy, which will be led by the Sponsor and will give you insight into this proposal.

How to be involved

1. Send in your views using the electronic feedback form available on our website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools or by completing the paper version of the form provided at the end of this document:

Completed paper feedback forms should be returned to the Council at the address provided on the form.

2. Attend the 'drop in' events in December where you will be able to discuss the proposal with officers of the Council and provide feedback.
3. Alternatively, you may prefer to return your comments by:
 - e-mail to SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk;
 - telephone on 0300 123 5012;
 - letter to School Organisation and Capital Strategy at the address on the front page of the document.
 - fax to 01270 686491

Informal consultation will end on **14th January 2011**. Please note: Any feedback received after this deadline cannot be considered.

All feedback is extremely important to us and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support during this process.

Formal Consultation

Overview of the Process for Agreeing School Organisation Changes



