

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 7 September 2010

Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services

Subject/Title: Macclesfield High School and Macclesfield School Review

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the process and a summary of the present position and preliminary findings at the mid point of the informal consultation process which ends on 8 October. The panel will also receive a short presentation delivered by Officers reflecting the latest detail.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 No decisions are required by the Scrutiny Committee. Contribution to the consultation is invited from the Committee.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is an integral part of the informal consultation and whilst there is no formal recommendation, the observations and advice of the Committee are an essential part of the validation of the process.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Macclesfield Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Cllr Harold Davenport
Cllr Matthew Davies
Cllr Diana Thompson
Cllr Ainsley Arnold
Cllr John Goddard
Cllr John Narraway,
Cllr Marc Asquith
Cllr Hilda Gaddum
Cllr Lesley Smetham

Cllr Stephen Broadhurst
Cllr David Neilson
Cllr Christine Tomlinson
Cllr Darryl Beckford
Cllr Sandy Bentley
Cllr Martin Hardy
Cllr Paul Findlow
Cllr Thelma Jackson
Cllr Bill Livesley
Cllr Darryl Beckford

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 The Macclesfield School Review will have a range of policy implications around pupil place planning, utilisation of Assets and school transport. These will be more fully described if and when the process of formal consultation is conducted.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 There are no immediate financial implications. The evaluation of each of the proposals will require a summary commentary of both the Capital and Revenue implications. A summary description will be provided in a future decision paper in October and the detailed evaluation will be completed by December 2010 if and when a formal consultation is undertaken.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 There are no immediate legal implications. The evaluation of each of the proposals will require a summary commentary of legal implications. A summary description will be provided in a future decision paper in October and the detailed evaluation will be completed by December 2010 if and when a formal consultation is undertaken.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There are two areas of risk. The first is around the technical and procedural. The impact of not conducting the process correctly is high and the likelihood is low. This is therefore a moderate risk.
- 9.2 The second area of risk is directly associated with each proposal. As part of the preliminary evaluation of each of these, a risk and issues evaluation will be carried out against the criteria.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Cllr Hilda Gaddum, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, considered a proposal on June 24 to begin a formal consultation on plans to close Macclesfield High and for Tytherington High to expand onto the site and run it

as a single split-campus school. At this meeting Cllr Gaddum decided to launch an informal consultation on a wider range of proposals ending 8 October 2010.

- 10.2 Simultaneously, the Local Authority agreed to commence a review of admission arrangements in Macclesfield. This decision was endorsed at a meeting of the Admissions Forum 21 July 2010.
- 10.3 Four, very well attended (386 people) informal consultation events took place at the Tytherington and Macclesfield High Schools in July and two further 'drop in' type events for the wider Macclesfield stakeholders are planned to take place at the Macclesfield Town Hall and Football ground on 15 and 16 September.
- 10.4 A high volume of comments and new proposals have already been received. Alternative options received have been collated alongside the Council's original list of proposals (attached as **Appendix 1**).
- 10.5 Feedback received so far has been categorised under a number of main headings (**Appendix 2**). This will be more fully developed into a commentary once informal consultation is complete.
- 10.6 The Council's website contains a number of informative documents, including the informal consultation document (Appendix 3) and a Frequently Asked Questions sheet. The documents explain the range of options to enable all stakeholders to give their views and feedback. This will be enhanced in early September with a number of further documents providing more detail as the process develops.
- 10.7 In order to: add sufficient challenge and rigour, help with the wider consultation, develop the options appraisal and provide technical support, some modest capacity from external consultants is being sought. The details of this are not available at the time of writing but this will be required during September 2010.

Evaluation Criteria

- 10.8 The review of Macclesfield schools has been triggered as a result of a number of factors, including falling pupil numbers and mixed academic performance and future viability. Given the number and range of options and in order to best utilise limited resources and focus effort, an evaluation framework is being developed. This is built around a number of 'Fundamental Principles' and the current task is to finalise and prioritise these. A preliminary evaluation will be conducted in September by an internal panel led by the Executive member. Each proposal will be tested against these fundamental Criteria and it is expected that a number of proposals will be eliminated on this basis..
- 10.9 The evaluation criteria and process will be published in early September on the Council's website.

11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 11.1 A decision on whether to proceed to formal consultation will be taken in October once informal consultation has concluded. Any formal consultation would be concluded by end of December 2010. A decision on the outcome(s) would be made in January 2011. The year one issues and implications would be described at this stage.

12.0 Access to Information

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

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