



# Macclesfield Town Secondary School Provision

## “Options for Change”

Informal Consultation  
24 June - 8 October 2010

**Cheshire East Council  
Children & Families Services  
School Organisation and Capital Strategy  
Delamere House, (EC)  
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## **Have your say on changes to secondary school provision in Macclesfield Town.**

### **Cabinet Member Meeting of 24 June**

As you may be aware, the Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families Services met on 24 June to consider a request for permission to proceed with formal consultation on proposed changes to secondary school provision in Macclesfield. For some time now, discussions have been ongoing with Cheshire East 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. At this stage, a number of options were explored resulting in the recommended option of consultation on the closure of Macclesfield High School at the end of August 2011 and expansion of Tytherington High School utilising both school sites with effect from September 2011.

At the meeting of 24 June it was agreed that a decision to commence formal consultation should be deferred to allow more detailed consideration of all options, including any additional options that may emerge through this process. Informal consultation will therefore be ongoing until 8 October 2010 and a further meeting will be arranged for November for the Council's Cabinet Member to agree the next steps, which may include formal consultation on revised options. Full details about the decision of the 24 June are available on the Council's website at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools).

### **About this consultation document:**

This consultation document is designed to ensure that all interested parties are made aware of the full range of options that have been considered during the early stages of this process and to provide you with information on how you can feedback your views to the Council as part of this agreed informal consultation process. Additionally, any further options proposed for consideration through this process will be considered.

All feedback will be collated and presented in a report to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families Services with an analysis of the responses received and recommendations on the next steps, which may include permission to proceed with formal consultation on specific options.

We therefore urge you to consider the information presented in this document and to return your comments and views to this Council by completing the feedback form provided.

## **Background:**

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. Fallibroome High
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 schools and was established with £15,948,507 investment. The Sixth Form provision on the Macclesfield High School site is a shared provision with Macclesfield College.

The total number of places available in the town's four high schools, including all sixth form provision, is 4,910. The number of pupils attending these high schools has fallen over the past years from 5,000 pupils in 2002 to 4,570 in May 2010 (i.e. using the latest data) and a further fall is projected at 4,174 pupils by September 2016. This indicates a continued decline in the number of pupils on roll at these four high schools with an overall reduction over this period projected at 16.5% less pupils, with this resulting in 34% surplus places in Macclesfield High School based on the Local Authority's 'secondary forecast formula'.

## **Secondary Forecast Formula**

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 we then calculate percentage 'feeder school transfer rates' for each of the primary schools, based on an average rate transferring from that primary school to secondary school over the last three years. We do not calculate a transfer rate between the primary and secondary school if only one pupil transferred from the primary school last September.

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, we also include an estimate of the number of pupils admitted to secondary schools from non-Cheshire East primary schools based on past data.

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 etc.

Please note that:

1. Primary school transfer feeder rates have been updated to include data collated in May 2010, which is the most up to date information available at the time this was produced.
2. The Macclesfield High School net capacity has been calculated to include capacity for 300 pupils as the Learning Zone 6 sixth form centre is shared with the college.

Based on the May 2010 pupil count projections indicate that there will be a significant increase in surplus school places in the Macclesfield area, with most being at Macclesfield High School. As result of this projected increase in surplus places, it is recognised that there is a need to consider options for change to secondary school provision in the town in order to ensure sustainability for the foreseeable future.

The number of surplus places is projected to increase to 919 across the town by 2016 resulting in a 22% surplus overall.

Macclesfield High School is expected to have the largest proportion of the surplus places by this date, which is projected to be 407 by 2016 resulting in a 34% surplus. This figure needs to be considered alongside the intakes to the other three high schools, with surplus places projected at All Hallows Catholic College at 22% by 2016; Fallibroome High School at 0%; and 19% at Tytherington High School. All projected figures are based on the secondary forecast formula. However, in view of the established pattern of parental preference in the town, it is anticipated that surplus places in three of the high schools will be lower than the formula predicts as a result of more parents and carers securing places for their children in accordance with preferences made through the coordinated admission scheme for admission into year 7, i.e. the normal point of entry to the school. Projections indicate that, if this pattern continues to September 2016, the number of surplus places in Macclesfield High School could reach as high as 56%.

### **Academic Standards**

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 with current 5+ A\*- C including English and Maths just above the 30% national baseline.

The Local Authority, with governor support, decided to include the school within the National Challenge programme in September 2009 in response to the deterioration in standards and a clear need to establish robust monitoring arrangements. The inclusion of any school within the National Challenge programme requires the LA to seriously consider 'structural solutions' where there is the possibility of standards not improving. Macclesfield High was inspected in February 2010, which resulted in a 'Notice to Improve' because the school was judged to need significant improvement in attainment, the progress made by students and the quality of learning and attendance.

## **‘Options for Change’**

The following presents a summary of the current options that you are invited to consider and feedback your views on as part of this informal consultation process. Other options that emerge during consultation will also be collated for consideration.

### **Option A: Closure of Macclesfield High School and Expansion of Tytherington High School**

This option would require the closure of Macclesfield High School on 31 August 2011 and the expansion of Tytherington High School with effect from 1 September 2011 with an increase in the number admitted into Year 7 from 210 to 300 pupils.

This option includes the continued use of both school sites, with pupils aged 11-14 being taught on the Tytherington High School site and 14-19 education delivered on the Macclesfield High School/Learning Zone 6 site.

The concept of a split site school organised in this way offers the ability to create increased flexibility at Key Stage 3.

Choosing to base the 14-19 provision on the Macclesfield High School Site would provide a unique and new high quality resource for an expanded Tytherington High School, offering opportunities in terms of Key Stage 4 and Post 16 curriculum entitlement.

### **Option B: To establish a Macclesfield Academy involving Macclesfield High School and another local high school.**

This option would address the overall need to reduce the surplus capacity in the town through a reduction in the number of schools from 4 to 3.

This option has the potential to provide a new approach to education utilising the academy ethos to learning. This would maintain secondary provision on the Learning Zone site.

This option would require the closure of two high schools and would provide an opportunity to utilise the Macclesfield High School site or a combination of two sites creating a split site campus.

This would require approval by the Secretary of State.

### **Option C: No change**

This option would not address the overall need to reduce the surplus capacity in the town through a reduction in the number of schools from 4 to 3 resulting in an inefficient use of resources across the town.

This option would not effectively deal with the ‘Notice to Improve’ regarding Macclesfield High School.

A declining budget would not be able to sustain a high quality curriculum and the school's sixth form offer would become significantly reduced.

**Option D: The establishment of a single Trust working across the high schools in Macclesfield.**

This option could include the closure of Macclesfield High School to address the surplus places issue.

It would require the schools involved to agree to be part of a single trust which provides collective responsibility for all secondary provision in Macclesfield town but retains independence for each of the remaining schools.

This proposal could mean that the Governance arrangements of the trust would be better placed to take a "whole town view" of the provision and pattern of secondary education.

The proposal would require new admissions arrangements to cater for the schools involved in the Trust.

**Option E: Creation of a 3-19 all-through school, integrating a local primary school on the Macclesfield High School site.**

This option would address the need to reduce surplus capacity in the short term with surplus accommodation being utilised through the integration of a primary school to create an all-through 3-19 school on the same site. However, in order for this to be sustained and to minimise the risk of a secondary school with an intake of less than four forms of entry in the future, the current intake numbers would need to be maintained.

This option does have the potential to add value to the concept of the Learning Zone.

It would require significant capital investment to enable this option to be viable.

**Option F: Re-launch of Macclesfield High School as a Specialist Vocational/'Technical' School**

University Technical Colleges are a new concept in education designed to provide 14-19 year olds with the opportunity to take technically orientated courses usually focussed around two broad areas of study.

This option would see the establishment of a range of disciplines and a centre of excellence *specialist* excellence for the benefit of Macclesfield and the wider area. It would involve the establishment of a new leadership team and a renewed image for Macclesfield High School to take the school forward and promote it within the local community.

This option has the potential to offer additional vocational options and attract additional sponsors to the Learning Zone.

**Option G: Closure of Macclesfield High School and redistribution of pupils across the remaining secondary schools.**

This initially solves the issue of surplus places in the town. There would need to be revised admission arrangements across the town leading to a more equitable distribution of pupils across the remaining high schools.

The lack of clear ownership of revised provision on Macclesfield High School site has the potential to impact on quality provision across Learning Zone.

The redistribution of pupils across the remaining high schools creates capacity and accommodation issues which would require significant capital investment to address.

This option would require a review of the partnership arrangements between Park Lane School and the Macclesfield College.

**Option H: Use of Macclesfield High School site for Post 16 provision for the whole town.**

This option would see the creation of a Key Stage 4 and Post 16 collaboration or federation across all high schools in the town, which would provide a an opportunity to consider new qualifications for all learners.

It would require the development and location of specialist Key Stage 4 and Post 16 resources on a single site. Such a development would require greater collaboration between Macclesfield schools at Key Stage 4 and Post 16.

This option would increase vocational opportunities at sixth form level and could address issues relating to the Raising of the Participation Age.

This option would result in all Macclesfield schools losing their independence for post 16 provision. The budgetary implications of sustaining such a provision would have an impact on all the high schools. There would need to be clarity around the management and governance arrangements.

**Option I: Current Macclesfield high schools each lose one form entry to Macclesfield High School.**

This option would require a reduction in the capacity at the other three high schools and for the relevant admission authorities to agree new admissions arrangements to include a reduction in the existing published admission numbers (PANS), which determine the number of pupils that will be admitted into year 7, i.e. the normal point of entry to the school.

In order for the local authority to influence changes to admission arrangements in the area, it would need to challenge arrangements

determined by governing bodies of schools that are their own admission authority and therefore such a change cannot be guaranteed. Bringing about change to the established pattern of parental preference in the town would involve a long term vision and could result in a high percentage of parental dissatisfaction in interim years.

### **Option J: Your views**

In addition to your feedback on the options listed in this document, we are also inviting you to contribute any alternative options that you feel would address the current issues around secondary school provision in Macclesfield town.

### **Now have your say....**

Please consider the information presented in this document and return your comments and views to this Council by completing the feedback form provided.

Informal consultation will end on **8 October 2010**. Any feedback received prior to the decision of 24 June will be included in the decision report presented to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Families Services in November. Please note: Any feedback received after 8 October 2010 may not be included in the decision report.

**Completed forms should be returned to the Council at the address provided on the form. Alternatively, you may prefer to return your comments by:**

- e-mail to [SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto: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

### **Consultation Events**

There are two public informal consultation 'drop in' events arranged for September, which are open to anyone interested in the proposed reorganisation of secondary school provision in Macclesfield.

All interested parties will be able to meet with officers from the Local Authority who will record your comments on the aforementioned options and to respond to any questions that you may have. Further information on these events will shortly be published on our website at **[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools)**.



**Overview of the Process for Agreeing School Organisation Changes**