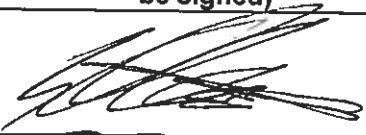



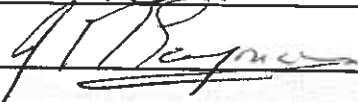


TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CALL-IN REQUEST FORM

Decision reference/minute no.	CB-130
Date of publication of decision:	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2012
Decision taken by:	Cabinet
<p><b>This form must be returned to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy &amp; Public Protection within 3 working days of the decision being published with at least 5 signatures.</b></p>	
Decision Called in:	<p><u>PLANNING FOR SCHOOL PLACES: REVISED PLANS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION UNDER BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE</u></p>
Suggested proposal you would like to be voted on at the call-in meeting:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A complete review of the policy to provide a faith school in Priorslee as opposed to a Community School.</li> <li>2. The lack of a strategic Transport plan for the Borough as a result of the current proposals and the effect on the council's carbon footprint.</li> <li>3. Extra parental cost for transporting pupils.</li> <li>4. Loss of 650 School places in Wellington.</li> <li>5. Lack of places for pupils from the two primary schools in Priorslee at the proposed Priorslee Faith Academy.</li> <li>6. Consider the impact of an overall cut of 400 school places across Telford &amp; Wrekin which, combined with population growth, may see of school places run out in the Borough in the near future.</li> <li>7. The implications of turning down £8m of government funding to help build a brand new Urban Technology College (UTC) in the Borough.</li> <li>8. Implications for the Burton Borough School following Planning Applications for an additional 1100 homes in the Town.</li> <li>9. Reconsider the implications of closing Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and over 1600 objections from worried parents, students and staff.</li> </ol>

**Members requesting call-in of the decision:**

	Name	Signature (e mails from your Council computer will be accepted in lieu of a signature but paper or faxed forms must be signed)	Date
1 LEAD CALL-IN MEMBER	Stephen Burrell		3/5/12
2	Stephen Bentley		3/5/12
3	Miles Hosken		3/5/12
4	Andrew Eade		3/5/12
5	Jacqui Seymour		3/5/12
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

**THIS PART OF THE FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LAW, DEMOCRACY & PUBLIC PROTECTION OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE**

Date and time form received:	8.15pm - 3/5/12
Form processed by (name):	Jonathan Entwagh
Date of publication of decision:	2/5/12
Was the Call-in request received within 3 working days of publication?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO If no reject and inform relevant parties.
Are there at least 5 appropriate member's signatures on the call-in notice?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO If no reject and inform relevant parties

Signature of Chairman of Scrutiny Management Board		Date: 9/5/12
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as amended @ meeting on 9/5/12

**Amendments to Call-in request agreed at preliminary informal meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012, to be voted on by the Scrutiny Management Board on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012.**

1. A complete review of the decision to provide a faith school in Priorslee as opposed to a community school because of:-
  - a. The lack of a strategic Transport plan for the Borough as a result of the current proposals and the effect on the Council's carbon footprint.
  - b. Extra parental cost for transporting pupils.
  - c. Loss of over 500 places in Wellington.
  - d. Lack of places for pupils from the two primary schools in Priorslee at the proposed Priorslee Faith Academy.
2. Failure to properly consider the impact of an overall cut of 400 school places across Telford & Wrekin which, combined with population growth, may see school places run out in the Borough in the near future.
3. Implications for the Burton Borough School following Planning Applications for an additional 1100 homes in the Town.
4. Reconsider the implications of closing Wrockwardine Wood Arts Colleges and over 1600 objections from worried parents, students and staff.

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 26 APRIL 2012**

**PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: REVISED PLANS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION UNDER BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SKILLS**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr P Watling – Children, Young People & Families**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

Following the formal consultation in respect of the revised Building Schools for the Future programme that was completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011, to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation process, and seek a decision on whether to proceed with the plan. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Education, Culture and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, to liaise with the DfE on the final reorganisation proposals and to co-ordinate the implementation of any interim governance arrangements as may be required.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 Having taken into consideration responses to the formal consultation process detailed in this report, give approval to submit the revised plans for the Building Schools for the Future programme to PartnershipsforSchools, namely:**

- **To build a new 900 place Christian faith Academy for ages 11-18 in Priorslee to replace the existing Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College.**
- **To build a new 1200 place Co-operative Academy for ages 11–16 on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site.**
- **To relocate Lord Silkin and Grange Park Primary onto the shared site in Stirchley, to encompass an 1150 place Learning Community comprising primary, secondary and Post 16 education.**
- **To rebuild Charlton School as a 1200 place 11-16 school to enhance secondary provision in Wellington.**

**2.2 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Education, Culture and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, to co-ordinate the implementation of any interim governance arrangements as may be required.**

A further report will be brought to Cabinet once formal approval has been received from the Dioceses of Lichfield and Shrewsbury and PartnershipsforSchools to seek permission to proceed with re-location, amalgamation or closure of schools as appropriate.

**SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>Children &amp; Young People – supports cross cutting strategic priority for developing co-operative learning communities across the borough.</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>Children, young people, parents and the wider community served by each co-operative learning community.</i>
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	<i>To make a decision on the future provision of secondary education between the academic years 2012/13 and 2015/16.</i>	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>The financial implications for BSF Funding remain broadly similar to those included within the Cabinet Report of 10<sup>th</sup> November. The key financial implications and risks are detailed in Section 4. It should be noted that there has been an increase in the short term borrowing requirements since the November report which will cost an additional £333k over the programme period but with an additional cost of £713k falling against the revenue account over the next three years which is not currently built in to the budget projections and will require further savings to be identified. Any further acceleration of the programme is likely to have a further impact on borrowing requirements.</p> <p>In addition the change of status of these schools to Academies will have an impact on funding levels for the Council which will impact on the overall Council resource availability.</p> <p>The proposals for School funding reform were published on 26<sup>th</sup> March and further work needs to be undertaken to understand the full</p>

		implications of them – initial indications are that the changes in funding will increase the importance of having reasonably large secondary schools with stable or increasing pupil numbers, as the financial pressures for schools that are small/shrinking will be sharper under the revised arrangements especially as there will no facility for funding protection. TS/ER/TD 4.4.12
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<i>The Council will need to comply with the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and related regulations as regards consultation, the publication of notices and other matters in relation to the proposed school closures and any other alterations required to implement the reorganisation. It should be noted however, under the Academies Act 2010, Governing Bodies and/or the Secretary of State have the power to initiate this process in certain circumstances.</i>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<i>Changes to attendance areas could impact on home to school transport costs. Changes to Legislation on school organisation (i.e. Academies and Free Schools, expansion of popular schools) could impact on the Authority's ability to regulate the number of available places within the Borough.</i>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	<i>There is potentially Borough wide impact due to parental preference in choosing which schools children attend.</i>

### **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also promote diversity and increase parental choice.

Following the Cabinet decision on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to allow formal consultation to take place, a series of meetings has taken place across the Borough for those most impacted by the new proposals. The proposals were:

- To build a new ecumenical 1050 place Christian Academy for ages 11-18 on the proposed site in Priorslee which will incorporate the Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College and will provide places for the communities of Priorslee and St Georges encompassing the primary attendance areas of Priorslee Academy and Redhill and St George's CE Primary Schools;
- To build a new 1050 place 11-16 Co-operative Academy for the communities of Donnington, Oakengates, Trench and Wrockwardine Wood which incorporates the combined success and expertise of the Sutherland Business and Enterprise College and Wrockwardine Wood Arts College;
- To build a community facility that will develop The Lakeside co-operative educational campus on the Stirchley site encompassing primary, secondary and post 16 education.
- To build a new 1200 place school on the vacated Blessed Robert Johnson site to replace the Charlton School

The consultation period ran for a 6 week period from 11 November 2011 to 23 December 2011. A series of consultation meetings was organised at each of the schools, for the student councils, the staff, the governors and an open meeting for the local community. The meetings were held at each secondary school which would be most affected by the proposals, with an additional meeting held at Redhill primary school for the Priorslee area. Invitations were sent to all parents of pupils at each of the secondary schools involved, and their feeder primary schools, as well as all statutory consultees. In total over 11,000 letters were issued. A list of the consultees for each proposal can be found at **Appendix A**.

Notes were taken in the form of questions, answers and comments at each of the meetings. Each of the open meetings was well attended by parents, staff, governors, other stakeholders and members of the community. Copies of the notes taken at these meetings can be found at **Appendix B**.

In addition to the meetings, people were invited to respond by either completing a tear off slip attached to the invitation letters sent through schools, by email to the [schoolorganisation@telford.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@telford.gov.uk) email address, or by writing to the Council directly. In addition, a number of people have written to their local Councillor and these have been included in the feedback shown in summary in the following table. This illustrates details of those responses which can be broadly construed as outright positive, outright negative or where no outright view is made, but concerns/comments have been raised about proposals:

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Concerns/Comments</b>
Faith Academy at Priorslee	6	9	37
Relocation of Charlton	16	-	10
Sutherland/Wrockwardine Wood	2	1621	7
Priorslee/Sutherland/Wrockwardine Wood	1	5	6
Lord Silkin	9	-	3
Proposals as a whole	-	-	2

The large number of negative responses in relation to the Sutherland/Wrockwardine Wood proposal were mainly in the form of a standard letter from 'Wrockwardine Wood Arts College Action Group', signed and submitted by parents, students and staff. The opposition to the proposals are made on the following grounds:

- The proposals would be extremely detrimental to the well-being and educational development of all stakeholders.
- There is passion and belief in the school and its future from everyone who is linked to it.

In view of the high level of interest that the original proposals raised, Council officers have conducted a series of follow up meetings with various interest groups to further explore the potential implications of the plans. A well-attended public meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at Redhill Primary School which concentrated on the planning issues relating to the proposals. A further meeting was subsequently held on 28<sup>th</sup> February with representatives of the Priorslee Residents' Action Group to discuss the alternative sites that the Council had previously considered for the new school.

As part of the response to issues raised through this consultation the Council has re-approached the owners of two of the sites originally considered to ascertain whether there is a viable option to purchase these sites in the light of any change in circumstances since the original negotiations took place. The responses we have received to date would indicate that neither of these would be possible. The proposed site for the new school will therefore be the land adjacent to Salisbury Avenue and any outstanding concerns which the Residents' Group have will fully addressed during the planning process.

Meetings have also taken place with representatives of the Dioceses of Shrewsbury, Lichfield and Hereford to consider the further implementation plans to establish a faith based academy. Alongside this the Diocese of Shrewsbury has conducted a further consultation process with local parishioners to elicit their views. Discussions were also held with other faith schools to explore potential admissions arrangements and to consider the potential transport implications.

An analysis of current numbers of baptised catholic children and children of other Christian faiths admitted to our primary schools on faith grounds, indicates that all could be accommodated within a 900 place school without reducing the overall faith admission proportion within the Borough. The proportion of non-faith places is more than sufficient to allow children living locally and likely to opt for the school to be admitted.

The size of the proposed school has been reconsidered as part of our response to the consultation process which demonstrated that pupils attending St Georges CE Primary school had significant links with Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and a proportion of these students were likely in the future to opt to attend the new Academy on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site.

In the light of these further discussions about numbers, the Dioceses of Shrewsbury and Lichfield have indicated that will jointly act as sponsors and, subject to formal approval by their Trustees, will give permission to proceed with the plans to create a

900 place school. The Diocese of Hereford will continue to contribute to the plans for the new school but will not be a formal sponsor for the new academy.

Meetings have also taken place with the Governing Bodies of Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and Sutherland Business and Enterprise College. Strong representation was made that the proposed school on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site should be able to accommodate students from St George's C of E Primary School. This point was also communicated to the Council by the Governing Body of the primary school and, in view of the strength of feeling the proposals have been amended to increase the size of the school to 1200 places. Students attending St George's School who wish to continue their education in a faith school will still be eligible to apply to the new academy in Priorslee.

Concerns were expressed by a number of parents from both Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and Sutherland Business and Enterprise College about a perception of rivalry between the two schools which might inhibit the smooth transfer to a joint school in the future. Discussions have taken place with the head teachers and governing bodies of both schools to ensure that effective planning is developed to enable a smooth transition which builds upon the considerable strengths in each.

The Governing Bodies at both Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and Sutherland Business and Enterprise College now support the creation of a new 1200 place Co-operative Academy on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site and are committed to working together in partnership to develop plans for the new school. There is a recognition that a move to a larger school will present specific management challenges for the future and the two head teachers have worked together to create a change management plan to ensure that the lessons learned from previous school mergers are implemented.

The precise governance arrangements for the interim period have not yet been formally agreed but the Governing Bodies of both schools will continue in close dialogue to ensure that the emphasis in both schools remains firmly focussed on school improvement grounded in Co-operative values. The possibility of a federation or other joint management arrangement is being explored as an interim measure to facilitate the change management process.

Meetings have also been held with the senior staff at Lord Silkin and Grange Park Primary and both schools have expressed strong support for the plan to develop a Learning Campus in Stirchley, though they would like the Council to try to accelerate the plan in order to bring the new build forward. The Co-operative Lakeside Campus will be a community hub with schools at its heart, raising achievements, aspirations and self-esteem for all ages. Each school will have its own distinct identity, working cooperatively and collaboratively for the benefit of all students and the wider learning community. Co-location will provide the opportunity for further working in partnership to strengthen the values, visions and ethos of both schools to enable a true integration of the educational experiences of both sets of students.

The response from the Charlton School was very supportive of the plans although they also expressed the desire for the plans to be accelerated if possible and practicable, in view of some of the limitations that the current site faces. The staff and students all see the potential benefits of the plan to create another new school in

Wellington to complement the new Learning Community at Ercall Wood Technology College.

The following bodies may appeal against an LA decision on prescribed alteration proposals:

- the local Church of England diocese;
- the bishop of the local Roman Catholic diocese;
- the LSC where the school provides education for pupils aged 14 and over; and
- the governors and trustees of a foundation (including Trust) or voluntary school that is subject to the proposals.

Any appeals **must** be submitted to the LA within 4 weeks of the notification of the LA's decision. On receipt of an appeal the LA **must** then send the proposals, and the representations received, to the schools adjudicator. It is believed that with the support of the dioceses and governing bodies, for each of the proposals, as described above that there will not be any appeal lodged.

### **Changes since November 2011 Cabinet Report following Consultation**

- Reduce the size of the proposed Faith Academy in Priorslee from 1050 places to 900 places.
- Increase the size of the proposed Co-operative Academy on the Oakengates Leisure Centre Site from 1050 places to 1200 places.

Neither of these changes require the Council to undertake further consultation as they are both in direct response to outcomes of this initial consultation process.

## **3. INFORMATION**

### **Closing schools to be replaced by Academies**

Academies are publicly funded independent schools, which do not fall under School Organisation regulations. Where a maintained/VA/Trust school is proposed for closure, to be replaced by an Academy, the normal statutory process applies to the school closure proposals, but not to the new Academy. Section 1(1) of the Academies Act 2010 provides for the Secretary of State to enter into funding agreements for new Academies with sponsors.

The school closure proposals, if approved, must be conditional upon the Funding Agreement being signed, which would be explained in "Explanatory Notes" in the statutory notice along the lines of:

*Academies are publicly funded independent schools with sponsors from the private and voluntary sectors. The establishment of an Academy is subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. It is proposed that the closure of X school(s) should be approved to take effect only if by the date of closure an agreement has been made*

*under section 482(1) of the Education Act 1996 for the establishment of an Academy to replace X school(s).*

[NOTE: The minimum amount of information about the proposed Academy **should** be included in the closure notice; the proposals are about the closure of the school(s), not the specifications of the new Academy. Because Academy proposals do not fall under School Organisation regulations, they are not considered as “related” to the school closure proposal(s).]

Steps will need to be taken to ensure that the reorganisation profile matches the capital funding approved under the Building Schools for the Future programme and has been approved by DfE for the purposes of BSF funding.

The new build work will also be dependent on the successful procurement of the Framework 2 Contractor, future schools proposals being agreed for each of the schemes with the Contractor and Final Business Case approval from DfE.

#### **4. FINANCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY**

##### **Implications for BSF Funding**

The financial implications for BSF Funding remain broadly similar to those included within the Cabinet Report of 10<sup>th</sup> November where the key financial implications and risks were as follows –

- A revenue impact saving totalling £0.76m cumulatively over the first 4 years of the programme.
- In respect of the proposals for Charlton School the financial modelling demonstrates an additional funding requirement of **£9.2m** for a new build Charlton proposal on top of the £7.0m of BSF funding allocated to the school to deliver DfE Policy following the national review of the BSF Programme. A number of other funding options totalling **£7.5m** have been identified to reduce this shortfall to **£1.7m** to be met from prudential borrowing. There are a number of financial risks which need to be taken into account when considering these funding options as follows:
  - the affordability shortfall for a new build Charlton and the proposals for the new Grange Park Primary School rely on the successful negotiation regarding a cost neutral land swap with the diocese for the BRJ site with the Catholic diocese;
  - the risk of the non approval of the DfE to the reallocation of £2.2m of funding already approved for specific schemes ;
  - use of £3.2m of programme contingency therefore reducing the level of contingency held to below that anticipated for the size of the programme (currently 3.6% of construction costs); and
  - use of £2.1m of future allocations of Modernisation Grant with the risk of current levels (or any level) of this grant not being maintained into the future.
- If there were to be any reduction in the **£7.5m** funding identified above the shortfall would have to be met from any remaining amount within the

contingency or from further prudential borrowing potentially impacting on the Council's revenue budget – every additional £1m borrowed adds £75k per annum to the Council's revenue requirement.

The reallocation of 150 places between Priorslee and Oakengates schemes and the revised construction programme associated with the Oakengates scheme have led to an overall increase in construction cost of £330k. This increase will be absorbed by the grant funded programme contingency which will reduce the overall contingency contained within the programme to £4.2m

The implication of the change in implementation dates poses further financial implications and risks. The requirement to relocate Grange Park onto a shared site in Stirchley by September 2014 as opposed to March 2016 will require short-term borrowing to be taken sooner than originally anticipated. A revised summary of borrowing has been included at Appendix C.

The current BSF Programme assumes that Charlton new build will begin once the Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College vacate the Wellington site and the appropriate land swap agreements have taken place. This assumption has not changed from the November Cabinet Report. The acceleration of the Charlton scheme would have further financial implications.

### **Risks**

Any delay in delivering these projects by the implementation dates would increase the estimated construction costs, through the application of inflation, without there being a reciprocal increase in grant funding, in-line with standard PfS BSF funding methodology. Dependent upon the level of the cost increase this may impact on the use of BSF contingency to support the new build scheme for Charlton School.

The ability to be able to deliver the new schemes at Priorslee, Oakengates and Stirchley in-line with the implementation dates highlighted will require the Council to undertake a significant amount of work. The cost of resourcing the procurement and delivery of the remaining BSF Programme has been modelled using the latest information available. The model has established there is sufficient funding currently identified to support the delivery of the remaining schemes, however the phasing of the resources has changed. These incidences have been incorporated into Appendix B. The cost of project support will be closely monitored and reported to the BSF Project Board throughout the delivery of the programme.

It has been assumed that the existing school use of Council provided leisure facilities at Stirchley and Oakengates will continue. As part of the ongoing design and procurement process of these schemes a detailed Joint Use Agreement will need to be formulated. The financial implications of the agreement will need to be carefully considered.

The risks identified in the November Cabinet report and included above still remain.

### **Summary**

The table below summaries the increase in borrowing costs associated with the revised programme on the Lakeside scheme and the revised timings associated with the updated Project Support resource.

<b>Year</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2011/12	(24.9)	
2012/13	2.0	
2013/14	144.7	Impacts on medium term budget strategy
2014/15	319.7	Impacts on medium term budget strategy
2015/16	247.7	
2016/17	(77.7)	
2017/18	(87.0)	
2018/19	<u>(191.4)</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>333.2</b>	

### **Revenue Implications – Impact on the Council’s Funding**

The proposed conversion of Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood schools to academies, earlier than originally planned, will lead to funds being taken from the local authority to fund the academies from the earlier date. Funds for academies are taken from both the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) used to fund central education services and from Formula Grant, used to fund the LA’s general budget, which includes some education services.

For DSG, the 2011/12 deduction rate was £78.45 per pupil for T&W secondary academies. The equivalent figure for 2012/13 will only be available once the section 251 budget return for the year has been completed. For Formula Grant, the 2012/13 deduction has already been announced at £378,584 and this will not increase regardless of any conversions in the financial year.

The DfE have recently announced changes to take place from 2013/14 and beyond.

For DSG, the grant will be split into 3 blocks: Schools, Early Years and High Needs. The Schools Block will be fully delegated to maintained schools. Currently some of this is held back to fund central services for schools. Therefore, regarding DSG, maintained schools will only differ from academies in that maintained schools will be able to collectively agree, via the Schools Forum, to pass some of this money back to fund central services. Any funds from academies would only be received if there was an SLA in place with each individual academy.

For Formula Grant, the DfE had previously announced a ‘minded to’ decision for deductions from 2013/14 onwards which will base each LA’s deductions on the number of pupils in academies that converted after September 2010. The latest school funding reform documents include a plan to have a separate education grant which would be paid to LAs based on the number of pupils in maintained schools, i.e. the deduction for academies would be made prior to payment to LAs. The DfE have also published national average LACSEG per pupil amounts based on 2011/12 section 251 returns. Future years are likely to be somewhat lower due to LA spending cuts and T&W’s figure will depend upon the actual level of expenditure in relevant areas in the future. However using these average figures, January 2012 pupil numbers and 2011/12 DSG LACSEG rates, indicative annual deductions for 2015/16 (when all the proposed new academies in the BSF plan are open for the full financial year) and beyond could be as follows:

	DSG Deduction	Formula Grant Deduction
3 existing post Sep 2010 academies: Priorslee Primary Newport High Adams Grammar	Primary 332 pupils x £48.45 = £16,085 Secondary 811 pupils x £78.45 = £63,623	Primary 332 pupils x £156 = £51,792 Secondary 811 pupils x £156 = £126,516
5 proposed new academies: Sutherland Wrockwardine Wood Charlton BRJ Lord Silkin	Secondary 3,482 pupils x £78.45 = £273,163	Secondary 3,488 pupils x £156 = £543,192
Total deductions	£352,871	£721,500

For Sutherland & Wrockwardine Wood, the 2 academies proposed to open in September 2012, their element of the full year figures above is £96,650 for DSG and £192,192 for Formula Grant, i.e. an annual reduction in funding of £288,842.

The conversion of these schools to Academy status will therefore have an adverse financial impact on the overall funding available to the Council.

### **Revenue Implications – Change to School Funding Arrangements**

The DfE have recently published details of revised funding arrangements for schools from 2013/14. More work will need to be carried out to understand the full implications of the changes on individual T&W schools but a significant change is a restriction in the factors that can be used to delegate funding to schools. In particular, for secondary schools, we will not be able to continue to have ‘parachute’ funding to cushion the loss of income arising from falling pupil numbers. In addition, the lump sum element of the funding formula will not be allowed to exceed £150,000, and will be possibly be as low as £100,000, whereas secondary schools currently receive lump sum allocations totalling at least £239,000 per school. The possibility is also raised of limiting the allowable ratio of secondary to primary funding per pupil from 2014/15, under T&W current arrangements this is likely to reduce the amount of funding which can be allocated to secondary schools.

However, the national Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will remain for at least the next two years, at minus 1.5% in each of 2013/14 and 2014/15, the same as 2012/13. This means that whatever changes are made, schools funding will not be allowed to fall by more than 1.5% per pupil per year.

The net result of these changes is:

- Secondary schools will feel the full budgetary impact of falls in pupil numbers from 2013/14 onwards. The amount per pupil will depend upon the school, but could be around £5,000 per pupil;
- Over the next few years, the MFG will limit the impact of funding changes not linked to pupil numbers, but in the long term, the limitation of the lump sum will place more pressure on the budgets of small secondary schools, as a larger lump sum provides some compensation for lower pupil based funding.

Overall, the changes will increase the importance of having reasonably large secondary schools with stable or increasing pupil numbers, as the financial pressures for schools that are small/shrinking will be sharper under the revised arrangements.

**5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Decision **CB-45** – Cabinet meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.
- Decision **CB-69** – Cabinet meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet Paper 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 - Planning of School Places: Secondary School Provision. Informal consultation.
- Cabinet Paper 10th November 2011 - Planning of School Places: Secondary School Provision. Permission to start formal consultation.

**Report prepared by Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager – Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning, Telephone: 01952 380905**

**BRJ List of Consultees**

BRJ parents  
BRJ Governing Body  
Shropshire Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
Trade Unions - ATL, NUT, NASUWT, NAHT, UNISON, GMB, Unite  
Shrewsbury Diocese  
Hereford Diocese  
Lichfield Diocese  
Parish Councils – Stirchley & Brookside, Hollinswood & Randlay  
Local MPs – David Wright, Mark Pritchard  
EYDCP  
YPLA  
TCAT  
New College  
Ercall Wood Governors  
Charlton Governors  
St Luke's Governors  
St Mary's Governors  
SS Peter & Paul's Governors  
St Patrick's Governors  
Dothill Governors  
Wrekin View Governors  
Bratton CE Governors  
Short Wood Primary Governors  
Millbrook Primary Governors  
Apley Wood Primary Governors  
St Luke's Parents  
St Patrick's Parents  
St Mary's Parents  
SS Peter & Paul's Parents  
Redhill Parents  
Priorslee Parents  
St Georges Parents

***Controlled CE Schools Governors:*** Coalbrookdale, Dawley CE, St Georges, St Lawrence, Donnington Wood Jnr, Edgmond CE, St Matthew's, John Fletcher, Newport Jnr, Tibberton, Wrockwardine Wood Jnr

## **Charlton List of Consultees**

Charlton parents  
Charlton Foundation Governing Body  
Shropshire Council  
Trade Unions - ATL, NUT, NASUWT, NAHT, UNISON, GMB, Unite  
Shrewsbury Diocese  
Hereford Diocese  
Lichfield Diocese  
Parish Councils – Wellington, Wrockwardine, Eyton upon the Wealdmoors,  
Kynnersley, Waters Upton, Preston on the Wealdmoors, Ercall Magna, Hadley &  
Leegomery  
Local MPs – David Wright, Mark Pritchard  
EYDCP  
BRJ Governors  
Ercall Wood Governors  
HLC Governors  
Dothill Governors  
Wrekin View Governors  
Bratton CE Governors  
Short Wood Primary Governors  
Apley Wood Primary Governors  
Crudgington Governors  
High Ercall Governors  
St Lawrence Governors  
St Patrick's Governors  
Dothill parents  
Wrekin View parents  
Bratton CE parents  
Apley Wood Primary parents  
Crudgington parents  
High Ercall parents  
St Lawrence parents  
St Patrick's parents

## **Lord Silkin and Grange Park Primary List of Consultees**

Lord Silkin Parents  
Grange Park Primary Parents  
LS Governing Body  
Grange Park Governing Body  
LS Trustees (Trust body)  
Shropshire Council  
Trade Unions - ATL, NUT, NASUWT, NAHT, UNISON, GMB, Unite  
Shrewsbury Diocese  
Hereford Diocese  
Lichfield Diocese  
Parish Councils – Stirchley & Brookside, Hollinswood & Randlay  
Local MPs – David Wright, Mark Pritchard  
EYDCP  
YPLA  
New College  
TCAT  
Madeley Academy Governors  
Abraham Darby Governors  
Phoenix Governors  
Windmill Governors  
Holmer Lake Governors  
Randlay Governors  
Hollinswood Infant Governors  
Hollinswood Junior Governors  
Windmill Parents  
Holmer Lake Parents  
Randlay Parents  
Hollinswood Infant Parents  
Hollinswood Junior Parents

## **Wrockwardine Wood and Sutherland List of Consultees**

WW parents  
SU Parents  
WW Governing Body  
WW Trustees (Pegasus Trust)  
SU Governing Body  
SU Trustees (Co-operative Trust)  
Shropshire Council  
Trade Unions - ATL, NUT, NASUWT, NAHT, UNISON, GMB, Unite  
Shrewsbury Diocese  
Hereford Diocese  
Lichfield Diocese  
Parish Councils – Oakengates, Wrockwardine Wood and Trench, St George’s & Priorslee, Lilleshall Donnington & Muxton, Hadley & Leegomery  
Local MPs – David Wright, Mark Pritchard  
EYDCP  
YPLA  
New College  
TCAT  
HLC Governors  
Redhill Governors  
Priorslee Governors  
St Georges Governors  
Wombridge Governors  
Queenswood Governors  
Teagues Bridge Governors  
Donnington Wood Infant Governors  
Donnington Wood Junior Governors  
Wrockwardine Wood Infant Governors  
Wrockwardine Wood Junior Governors  
Muxton Governors  
Lilleshall Governors  
St Matthew’s Governors  
St Luke’s Governors  
St Lawrence Governors  
Redhill Parents  
Priorslee Parents  
St Georges Parents  
Wombridge Parents  
Queenswood Parents  
Teagues Bridge Parents  
Donnington Wood Infant Parents  
Donnington Wood Junior Parents  
Wrockwardine Wood Infant Parents  
Wrockwardine Wood Junior Parents  
St Matthew’s Parents  
St Luke’s Parents

**Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College**

**Building Schools for the Future  
Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

**School Council Meeting – 2pm 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was well attended, with 12 pupil representatives of the school from a number of year groups including the 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background reasons for the consultation process, and presented a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: What would happen with transport arrangements?

A: A decision on transport would be part of the funding agreement with the school, which would need to involve the Diocese, Governors and school in the decision.

Q: What would happen about current feeder schools, for instance St Patrick's?

A: Jim explained that local schools in Priorslee will be feeders i.e. Priorslee, Redhill and St Georges, however the links would remain with the Catholic schools also.

Q: Will there be a new uniform?

A: This would be a decision for the governors, however it would be highly likely.

Q: What is the difference between a school and an Academy?

A: An Academy is independent of the Local Authority. The funding to run it comes directly from central government.

Q: How welcoming will the faith school be to other non-Christian faiths?

A: There would be no difference in the way the school operates now with regard to all faiths, Christian or otherwise.

Q: Will the 6<sup>th</sup> form remain?

A: Yes, but it would be larger offering 150 places, and also possibly linked to the Newport schools.

Q: Will there be a swimming pool?

A: There are no plans to incorporate a swimming pool in the design at this time.

- Q: What will happen to the current teaching staff?  
A: It will depend on what arrangements will be made by the Governing Body, but as a larger school, it is more likely that staff numbers will grow rather than not. It would be likely that the current staff would be accommodated in the new school, but this couldn't be known for certain yet.
- Q: Will the current tutor groups remain?  
A: This is unknown as of yet – Governors and staff would need to decide on the pastoral system at a later stage.
- Q: Will all current students be offered a place in the new school?  
A: Yes.
- Q: What will happen to Wrockwardine Wood?  
A: Wrockwardine Wood would no longer be moving to Priorslee, but would be incorporated into a new school with Sutherland on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site.
- Q: What would happen with those pupils half way through their GCSEs?  
A: It would be paramount that the disruption for these pupils be kept to a minimum. The provision of a new school would in many ways be better for continuity rather than refurbishment on the current site, with its associated noise and potential upheaval for lessons/exams. The relocation would operate to ensure the least disruption possible.
- Q: Will pupils be able to get involved in the design?  
A: Yes certainly. The BSF Team would seek the involvement of pupils, governors and staff.
- Q: Will there be a Library?  
A: Cannot say with any certainty that there would be a Library in the classic sense, however there would certainly be some kind of learning resource centre.
- Q: Will there be more pupils?  
A: The new school would admit 180 pupils per year, more places than BRJ currently offer. The 6<sup>th</sup> form would also be larger, able to accommodate 150 pupils.
- Q: Would there be a Sports Hall?  
A: Yes this would be included in the design.
- Q: Will there be facilities for prayer for other faiths?  
A: This would be an expectation in a multi faith school.
- Q: Will there be a Gym?  
A: Yes.
- Q: What are the timescales?

- A: These were shown on the accompanying presentation.
- Q: How likely is it that it will happen?  
A: It will depend on the feedback received from this consultation process. The Council's Cabinet will make a final decision on whether proposals are accepted taking into account the views of all stakeholders.
- Q: Will the time of the school day change?  
A: Unknown as yet, this would need to be decided by the school and governors.
- Q: Will there be Rugby/Football pitches for PE and for after school clubs?  
A: The new site is generous with playing field space. How the pitches are marked out will be a decision for staff and governors.
- Q: Can we have new PE equipment such as hockey sticks?  
A: Good question, as funding is for replacement of the buildings rather than for replacing equipment within the school. The funding available through these proposals wouldn't be for equipment.
- Q: How much would the new school cost?  
A: Approximately £15M to £20M.
- Q: Why did Telford & Wrekin remain in the BSF Programme?  
A: It is likely that it would have cost a lot more to break the framework contract at the point that the programme was halted.
- Q: Will there be astro turf pitches?  
A: It was hoped that there would be such pitches, to allow for community use and to provide a source of income out of school hours.
- Q: A better fire alarm system would be good to stop false alarms.  
A: Building regulations indicate that manual alarms are necessary in a school building.

On the whole, the discussions held during the meeting and comments received were favourable toward the proposals, and those present appeared supportive should the outcome of the consultation suggest that proposals go ahead. A show of hands indicated that 9 pupils felt the proposals were a good idea. One concern that was raised was that a larger 6<sup>th</sup> form would be undesirable. It was explained that this would make the provision more sustainable, as currently the partnership with New College meant the 6<sup>th</sup> form continued to operate at its small size, however this would not be possible to maintain in its current form should the new school go ahead.

A further list of questions not asked during the meeting were received, as follows:

- What will the layout of the school be like?
- How are we going to get there?
- Will there be school buses to get there?
- Will we get a say in the design of the uniform?
- Will we have the same amount of lessons in the day?

In response to the above, Jim explained that such decisions would need to be made by the new governing body of the school in liaison with the Diocese, staff and pupils.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 2.45pm.

## **Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Non-teaching Staff Meeting – 2.45pm 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was held for non-teaching staff prior to the teaching staff meeting, as most of the cleaners would start work at the originally proposed time of 3.30pm for all staff. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 staff, including the Headteacher, Rob Hall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Sue Ross, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: What would happen if the proposals were not approved?

A: The Council would go back to the original plan in all likelihood, i.e. many schools would be remodelled rather than rebuilt; although it should be noted that ministers gave their approval for this consultation to take place.

Q: LSAs that are on 12 month contracts – are they protected by TUPE?

A: This would be unknown until after the consultation process – we would be able to answer this after May 2012. A timeline would be put together by HR at that point, but it would still be two years before the potential move.

Comment: The head made the point that when you move house, you take the people with you. It was also expected that the vast majority of pupils would move, therefore linked staff would hopefully move also. Indeed there would also be growth in pupil numbers expected because of the larger size of the school.

Q: It was very positive that the move would allow the school to grow, and particularly the 6<sup>th</sup> form. However, what about the school's current learning community?

A: It is yet to be decided how the new learning community would operate, and it would need the involvement of the Dioceses and the governors to draw up the new admissions criteria. The head explained that although there will be an attendance area, the links will still remain with the Catholic primary schools. The governors had no intention of this changing.

Q: A lot of the cleaners live locally to the school and don't drive. Any suggestions?

A: There was no easy solution to this issue, unless the governors were in a position to offer support.

Q: Students who currently receive transport – would this continue?

A: The head explained that the governors would want assurances that current BRJ students would be able to access the new site.

Q: Are there any examples of CE/Catholic schools elsewhere?

A: Yes – one example being the Hope Academy which was built on the same ethos that was being proposed. Jim and Rob had visited. It was also pointed out that BRJ currently welcomes many faiths.

Q: What about students from CE schools like Bratton?

A: It will depend on the admissions criteria, which will be up to the new governing body. Primary schools or even parishes can be nominated in admission criteria.

Q: How will staffing posts be filled?

A: First thing to do is work out whether this is a new school or a relocation, which will need a legal ruling on whether BRJ is considered a predecessor school, which would affect whether TUPE applies. This was still to be determined. It wasn't possible to say whether jobs would need to be applied for at this stage, that could only be known after proposals had been decided upon after the consultation, when there was a new Governing Body established. It was expected that a final decision would be known by the very latest July 2012.

Q: Was the proposal received well by the Student Council?

A: Yes, it had been well received, with some very good questions raised.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 2.45pm.

## **Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Teaching Staff Meeting – 3.30pm 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by approximately 40 staff, including the Headteacher, Rob Hall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Sue Ross, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Based on projections of pupil numbers, will the current number of staff need to be retained?

A: The declining primary roll is now impacting on secondary numbers, this is set to remain the case, but it appears that the September 2012 year 7 intake is the lowest point in this trajectory. It is hard to say precisely what impact on the number of teachers this would have, but it was certainly planned that the new school would be larger and need more staff. The head also explained that the new type of school at Priorslee may help stem the flow of pupils out to Shropshire schools.

Q: What provision would be made for pupils from current feeder schools?

A: 50% of places can be determined by faith in the admissions criteria. This would allow Catholic pupils from current feeder primaries to continue to access places in the new school.

Q: How would the admissions criteria allow for baptised CE pupils?

A: This was still to be decided by the three Diocesan bodies, and would be set by the new governing body.

Q: There would be no other option in Shropshire for a catholic education.

A: The new school would become the only Christian secondary school in Shropshire.

Q: If there was a change of government, what would happen?

A: Telford & Wrekin had already entered into a framework contract, so chances are likely it would be able to continue. Most of the proposals would be very much progressed before 2015.

Q: With regard to pupils, would transport be provided?

A: This still needs to be decided – if children currently attend, we may be duty bound to transport these pupils to the new site. The decision was still to be made following discussions with the Dioceses, governing body and local authority.

Q: Bus services in Priorslee were not as good as those in Wellington.

A: We are already discussing this issue with transport colleagues with a view to finding a solution.

Q: Is the school closing or moving?

A: It is not possible to answer this yet with certainty. There could be an argument made for both. Legal advice was still being sought on the issue.

Q: Are staff more at risk if BRJ closes?

A: Technically a closure would mean new appointments would need to be made to the new school. The head explained that the Diocese had appointed solicitors to look into the issue on the schools behalf. Their initial view was that BRJ should be considered as a predecessor school.

Q: Will we know if it will be a closure or a relocation before May 2012?

A: No, it would only be definite by Summer 2012.

Q: What is the rationale behind the new school being an Academy?

A: Academies are now supported by the Diocese. Following the recent Education Bill receiving Royal Assent, where a new school is now proposed there is a presumption that it will open as an Academy.

Q: If the new school is classified as a relocation, how does that impact the governing body?

A: It would still have to be a new governing body because of the Academy status. Many current governors may still be appointed to the new governing body.

Comment: Staff may be more concerned about the new Academy status rather than the proposals for a new school, because of the impact of potential changes to terms and conditions.

Q: What is the staff's role in the consultation process? Many of their questions could not yet be answered.

A: It was crucial that staff shared their thoughts at this point. If it was generally felt that the proposals weren't a good idea, that fact should be known. The feeling of all stakeholders was important to gauge the level of support. The consultation will influence strongly how the governing body is set up. Academy governors make decisions on such things as pay and conditions,

but in Telford & Wrekin our experiences so far had been that Academies had for the most part adopted the previous pay and conditions of the LA.

Q: If governors are appointing staff, would the LA stipulate that staff at risk must be taken from existing schools in the LA?

A: If TUPE didn't apply, Telford & Wrekin would expect ring fencing and protection to apply to Telford & Wrekin staff. The head reiterated that the governing body were pursuing the case for BRJ to be a predecessor school, therefore if agreed TUPE would apply.

Comment: If the move were to happen, staff must take with them what is special about BRJ. Such considerations were important to form part of this consultation, as there would be a reliance on current staff to ensure this happened.

Q: Would there be a danger of redundancies between now and the opening in September 2014?

A: It is pupil numbers which drive the budgets of schools. It is expected that secondary numbers will decline in the intervening years. It would be crucial that BRJ plan ahead to address these issues.

Comment: The way the school currently operates as a Voluntary Aided school is very similar to the way an Academy operates, it would be likely that the staff and the ethos of the school would likely be retained because of this. The aspiration would be that the proposal would build on current strengths.

Q: Would there be any difference financially between opening a new school or being BRJ being identified as a predecessor school?

A: It was unlikely there would be much difference financially. Funding would still remain as pupil led. The advice of finance colleagues would need to be sought to identify the differences.

Q: Would the new buildings be a modular design?

A: Yes. It is a national standardised design for all new BSF schools. Linda Morley and Stephen Ashton would work with the school through the design process. A modular design would also be easily extendable due to its design.

Q: What is happening with Wrockwardine Wood and Sutherland? Are they closing or relocating?

A: There are a few options – one would be to close one school and expand the other (either school); another would be both schools to work together in tandem until they both close. They may also federate, but it would be their governors' decision.

Q: How many from Priorslee area go to Idsall currently?

A: It averages around 80 pupils per year. It would be hoped that this could be reduced with the presence of a new 11-18 school in their local area.

Q: Can the Council guarantee funding for the interim period?

A: We can give no guarantees, as the funding formula is closely regulated. What we must do is deliver a message to parents that this is a positive plan for the future. The new proposals may even improve the popularity in the short term. It was very important to work with the primary schools.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 4.40pm.

**Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College**

**Building Schools for the Future  
Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

**Governors Meeting – 5.30pm 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by 11 governors, plus the Headteacher, Rob Hall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Would admission be restricted to the new Priorslee attendance area?

A: No – the admissions criteria could be 50% faith places and 50% from attendance area.

Q: Does the decision on whether the school is a new school or BRJ is considered a predecessor school have implications for transport?

A: We cannot yet say whether transport will be available and in what form, those decisions were still to be made once a new governing body was formed, but we are aware it is a key aspect.

Q: Would there be a chance that good staff would be lost in the intervening period because of uncertainty?

A: We would need to give whatever reassurances we could as the proposals progressed, but a definitive position wouldn't be known until proposals had been decided.

Q: How will the make up of the new Governing Body be decided?

A: The Diocese currently appoint foundation governors. Unsure of other categories involved with an Academy, but DfE would provide advice on the constitution. Governors can also invite into another 'associated' category.

Q: Within the 50% faith places offered, would half be Catholic and half be other Christian faiths?

A: No, it was expected that it would be 50% Christian overall. The Hope Academy was a good idea of how this operates in practice. As a larger school at Priorslee, this would see higher numbers overall.

- Q: People who live locally who may not be catholic or indeed Christian, would need to know the decision as soon as possible as it would have major implications for their decision on which school their child should attend. Any doubts need to be alleviated quickly to ensure the school don't lose pupils.
- A: If it was agreed that BRJ was considered as a predecessor school, a place would be available at the new Priorslee school. Transport arrangements would still need to be decided however. As for the uncertainty, the current roll at BRJ is falling however the new school would grow in capacity to 1050.
- Q: As a Catholic school, BRJ admits pupils from all over Shropshire, in effect serving a very wide attendance area. Could the case for BRJ being a predecessor school therefore be stronger?
- A: A very good point – this may be backed up by the Dioceses recent legal advice from solicitors Browne Jacobson.
- Q: The land transaction was pivotal to the whole process, as everything hinged on it being resolved quickly. The timescale must be factored in, and the Governors and Diocese must feel comfortable with the answers they get to issues to ensure the process works in a timely manner.
- A: Certainly the Dioceses legal team need to liaise with the Council's Legal Services over such issues very quickly.
- Q: What percentage of parents currently access subsidised transport?
- A: We would need to ask transport colleagues for more detailed information on numbers of pupils. The head pointed out that many non-catholic families choose to come to BRJ from all over Telford and bear the full cost of transport themselves.
- Q: The biggest transport issue faced by parents would be those in the Wellington area.
- A: This was understood.
- Q: What is the actual size of the land at Priorslee for the new site?
- A: We would need to check with colleagues in the BSF Team to find out the exact size, but it is a large site.
- Q: What are the views of Priorslee residents? Priorslee is an affluent area and there may be strong feeling in the area with regard to the school.
- A: We are hoping it will be seen as a positive step for the Priorslee area to have a secondary school which serves local children.
- Q: Is there a Council wide strategic travel plan?
- A: Yes, and it would need to remain a co-ordinated plan so issues on public and school routes do not cause hindrance. The site itself should also have a travel plan put in place.
- Q: What about the Wellington pupils who would not qualify for subsidised transport to Priorslee?

A: There may be different ways to approach the transport issues – all possible solutions will need to be considered.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

## **Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Parents/Open Meeting – 6.30pm 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by 180+ parents, and members of the community, governors and some staff and pupils, plus the Headteacher, Rob Hall,.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Why not move Charlton to the Priorslee site?

A: A large number of pupils from Wellington go to Charlton – the vast majority of it's roll. The proportion of local pupils attending BRJ is much lower, and BRJ does not currently have a geographical attendance area.

Q: Are there more children coming from outside the area or from Wellington?

A: About one third of pupils at BRJ travel in by bus, a number of others are brought by their parents.

Q: BRJ has a large intake of Catholics from outside Telford & Wrekin. If BRJ loses its Catholic ethos there will be no further choice of catholic provision in the area.

A: The head responded to say the catholic ethos will not be watered down. However if there were no change to the current provision, the likelihood might be that in 10 years time there may not be viable provision at all. The head mentioned the Hope Academy and it's Christian ethos which was a tremendous facility. Any future provision had to be of high quality and sustainable.

Q: What about the attendance area? Most people are local to BRJ. How are the needs of the Wellington parents to be dealt with?

A: The new governing body for the Priorslee school would be tasked with setting the admissions criteria. The parameters may potentially mirror the current BRJ policy.

Q: How many places would be available for catholic children in the new school?

A: Current admissions rules allow for 50% of places to be offered on faith grounds. The shadow governing body will need to be in existence to set the admissions criteria. The governing body would have representatives from the catholic and Anglican Dioceses. We do not know what the demand might be for places as yet. It is likely that the new admission arrangements would continue to designate the catholic primaries as feeder schools as happens now.

Comment: The head explained the difference between a new school and a successor school (where BRJ is considered a predecessor school). The Diocese would want reassurances that the new school remained a viable choice for the current school community. BRJ must remain as a practical choice, not a theoretical one.

Q: Surely residents at Priorslee will feel that the new school is theirs?

A: Priority would still be for faith places, then to those in the locality. The new governors would be drawing up the admission arrangements.

Q: Why go for Academy status?

A: The Education Act that has just received Royal Assent states that there is a presumption that new schools will be Academies. The school wouldn't just be a new building, it would be a new school therefore a new legal entity.

Q: How would the new school being an Academy impact staff?

A: As long as it could be argued that BRJ was a predecessor school, it would mean staff would be subject to TUPE.

Q: Is it the case that a non-catholic pupil would now be further down the admission criteria?

A: It would be expected that it may take some time for the school to grow into its larger capacity. Hopefully they would still be able to accommodate all pupils wishing to attend at least in the short term. It was likely that sibling links would be included in arrangements as most schools do this.

Q: What about the suitability of the new site for access?

A: The travel plan would need to be developed by the school and certainly safe routes to school would be a major consideration. Also, the new school would be subject to the planning process.

Q: Will the design be adjusted for BRJ?

A: Yes. The old plans for Wrockwardine Wood on the site would be scrapped. The design would be from the ground up, and the visioning process would start anew.

Q: What did the Hope Academy ethos look and feel like?

A: The head explained their experiences following the visit to the Academy, and how worship was dealt with for different faiths.

Q: What about non-Christian and non-religious families?

A: It was explained where local pupils might fit into the admission arrangements, but reiterated it would be for the governors to decide on the criteria that was set. The location of the new school was explained.

Q: Will Priorslee parents still be able to express a preference for other schools?

A: Yes, the proposals did not effect parental preference.

Comment: Increasing the diversity of provision was an excellent way forward.

Q: Aren't there enough pupils from the intended feeder schools to fill the places from the attendance area alone?

A: Many parents from that area currently express a preference for other schools than their local school currently, particularly to Shropshire.

Q: What will happen to staffing, particularly where it may impact on GCSE years?

A: The school and governors will continue to push to have BRJ considered the predecessor school so that the impact on staff can be kept to a minimum.

Q: What will happen to denominational transport?

A: This is a key component of discussions with the Diocese. The Diocese want it to be maintained and there will need to be further discussions surrounding this. At no time has the plan been to remove denominational transport as part of the proposals.

Q: What would the cost be for transporting a pupil per year?

A: This could not be answered currently.

Q: Do I have to take my children out of the school if I cannot get them to Priorslee?

A: The Diocese and school would be supportive of transport being made available to current pupils who may be displaced by the move of sites. The implications were still being discussed.

Q: What about pupils attending after school clubs? Presently the availability of public transport in Wellington allowed for this. Priorslee area public transport was considered to be worse.

A: The Councils strategic transport plan would have to attempt to address any such issues. As an Academy it may also be that the additional freedoms allowed the Academy Trust to look at potential subsidies.

Comment: It was suggested that at the next stage of consultation, the Dioceses should be represented. It was also suggested that anybody interested in a good example of a joint Christian faith school could look at the website of The St Chad's School in Runcorn which had been in operation for two years. It had also been subject of a section 48 Ofsted inspection (faith based) and had come out well.

Q: How many pupils currently walked to school at BRJ?

A: The estimate was made that approximately 300 pupils walked to school.

- Q: Was there a risk that, as land for an Academy would not be owned by the Diocese, that if the Academy failed the land would be relinquished?
- A: The Diocese now feel there are sufficient safeguards to ensure a faith school would continue to exist on a site should this be the case.
- Q: Will parents be told that they are applying for a faith based school?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Would free transport be opened out to a wider group?
- A: This is what the governors and the Dioceses must consider.
- Q: Will parent governors remain on the governing body?
- A: Yes they would, however the ratio was not known.
- Q: The proposals had only presented one model. What were the alternatives?
- A: If the proposals were not accepted by Cabinet following consultation it would be expected that the previous plans would continue, i.e. remodelling on the current site.
- Q: The current site did not cater for pupils or adults with disabilities.
- A: The new Priorslee site would be 100% accessible.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.30pm, however officers remained to field further questions. It was offered that further meetings would be held during the second consultation process in the spring. It was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## **Redhill Primary School**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Parents/Open Meeting – 6.30pm 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by around 100 parents and members of the community.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Wendy Tonge, Locality Manager, North Telford (Chair)
- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: The intention for the Priorslee school to be a Faith Academy has come around all of a sudden. What if people don't want a faith based education for their children?

A: Already have one faith based school in the Borough, so this is why it is included in the revised proposals. It will be for parents to decide whether the new school is for them. A good example of a faith Academy operating currently was the Hope Academy in Liverpool, providing for catholic pupils, Christian pupils, other faiths and non-faith pupils. All were supported, valued and listened to. Of course it would be open to all parents to continue to express a preference for any school within, or outside of the Borough.

Q: What consideration has been given to traffic implications?

A: A strategic transport plan will be needed, to cover all aspects including public transport and pedestrian access.

Q: What other sites have been looked at in the Priorslee area?

A: It was thought that two other sites had been considered – the site adjacent Ricoh by the University (which was subsequently made unavailable) and another site to the north of the A5. It was not known at the meeting what the reasons were for not considering this site further.

Comment: If the access to the site was planned for Salisbury Avenue it would not cope with the additional traffic, particularly in winter. The increase in parents

dropping pupils off by car and people accessing community facilities would cause major disruption for residents.

Q: Will preference for admission be given to pupils of particular faiths or local pupils?

A: It was expected that the new school would offer up to 50% of places on a faith basis, and 50% for pupils in the attendance area. The criteria would have to be set by the new Governing Body, however this is what was expected.

Q: Why an Academy and how will it impact on staff?

A: Following the recent Education Bill, when proposing a new school there is now a presumption that it will open as an Academy. Staff would be fully involved in the consultation process, and if possible TUPE protection would apply (this was still to be resolved).

Q: What about car parking on the proposed site?

A: The question was noted however we wouldn't be able to provide an answer at this point. There would need to be further consultation at a later stage covering such issues.

Q: At the planning stages will there be opportunity for residents to comment on the traffic impact assessment, equalities impact assessment etc.

A: Yes, this would form part of the outline planning application process in the Spring, there would be public consultation at that point.

Q: What about families who have chosen to send their children to Idsall?

A: The desire to build a new school in Priorslee is to try and provide for those families who want to consider a local secondary school. It is hoped that the school would prove popular with parents who may previously have been considering sending their children to Idsall.

Q: Currently Wrockwardine Wood is the attendance area secondary school. What will happen in the interim period for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 who will be transferring to secondary school in the intervening years?

A: Wrockwardine Wood will remain as the local school in the intervening period, however parents may apply for places at any school.

Comment: A parent with three children commented that they were positive about the proposal, notwithstanding the practical problems. They were glad it was to be a faith school.

Q: What about construction traffic - how would this be managed?

A: A valid point – again, it was more an issue for the planning process to resolve.

Q: Will local residents be guaranteed a place at the local school? At the BRJ meeting, the focus seemed to be on the new school keeping it's Catholic ethos. Who will set the admissions policy?

A: A new faith school can only admit 50% of its pupils on a faith basis. The remaining criteria would need to be set by the Governors. Places can never be guaranteed, but the expectancy is that 50% of available places will be for

local children. When the shadow governing body was set up the LA would champion local parents being involved as parent governors.

Comment: Shaun Tyas, Headteacher at St George's commented that a 50% intake from the attendance area resulted in 90 places being available per year. The Year 6 cohorts of the combined three primary attendance areas amounted to 180 pupils between them potentially. By redrawing the secondary attendance area to incorporate St George's, there was a danger of families not being able to access places at the new Oakengates proposed school. Also, all partners in the new Priorslee School will need to be involved in evolving the ethos of the new school, not just the Catholic Diocese.

Q: Has the land at Priorslee already been purchased? Is it a fait accompli?

A: It was believed that there was an outline agreement to purchase the land. It was agreed that at the next stage of consultation would need to involve representatives from Planning and the BSF Project Team.

The meeting was brought to a close at 7.45pm. It was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## Charlton School

### Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision School Council Meeting – 2.30pm 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The meeting was well attended by approximately 12 students.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Will there be an all weather pitch? How about an archery range?

A: These are possibilities for the site, they would have to be agreed at the design stage, which pupils and staff will have the opportunity to feed in to.

Q: How about a swimming pool?

A: A swimming pool would not be included in the design, as they are very expensive to maintain and Wellington already has sufficient provision.

Q: Can pupils have lockers in the new school?

A: It is important that a new design looks at social spaces, but it will be important to keep a balance between practical space and social space. Lockers take up a lot of room, however again this could be looked at as part of the design stage.

Q: Would there be the same level of ICT provision, or better?

A: As a Science College, it is understandable that this would be high on pupils' agenda.

Q: Is the BRJ site bigger?

A: Yes it is. Charlton was build for up to 900 pupils, the BRJ site could accommodate 1200 pupils with the right building design.

Q: Why are there more children at Charlton?

A: It is currently very popular, a lot of this has to do with parental perception.

Q: Will the new building have additional facilities which are not available in the current building?

A: It is difficult to answer, as there will actually be less money available overall. The design will be a modular build, however would be a good deal better than now.

Q: Who would design the new school?

A: There would be an architect team appointed.

Q: What would be the effect of this on pupils' learning?

A: There isn't expected to be a detrimental effect on learning. The previous plan for refurbishment on the same site was perhaps more likely to disturb pupils.

Q: What would happen to the current Charlton site?

A: As it would no longer house a school it would be expected to be sold for redevelopment. This would be a Planning matter.

Q: Will the new site have more community use, like HLC?

A: There will hopefully be much more community use, but it wouldn't be on a par with the HLC site. It would however utilise the Sports block, pitches, Hall etc.

Q: Would the buildings be in blocks dedicated to subjects?

A: It would be for the school design team to decide such things in liaison with the school.

Q: Would the facilities be available to pupils after school?

A: Hopefully – the decision would be for school staff and governors to make.

Q: If the Charlton's current land were sold for housing, would it have other facilities built too?

A: Possibly, it is normal for the Council to expect other infrastructure and facilities to be created or improved when developers make proposals for housing development.

Q: Will Dothill Primary move to the new site too?

A: This is not part of these proposals, no. Certainly not in the short term.

Q: Will it mean the creation of a different learning community?

A: This needs to be considered, but it is not expected that the learning community relationship between Charlton and Dothill will change.

The meeting concluded at 3.05pm.

## Charlton School

### Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision Staff Meeting – 3.30pm 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The meeting was well attended by approximately 30 staff, plus the Principal, Nick Renshaw and Headteacher Lee Tristham.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Susan Ross, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: As the school leaving age is rising, why isn't a 6<sup>th</sup> form being planned for Charlton?

A: The Wellington area already has TCAT and New College. When consulted in 2008, the figure for staying on in Post 16/Training was 67%. As at September 2011 it was 91%, so there is no need to increase capacity significantly for the remaining 9%.

Q: It has been stated that TUPE transfer of staff would not apply for Charlton, staff would simply move to the new site. Why is that the case for Charlton and not Lord Silkin?

A: The situation at Lord Silkin is being looked into, but we believe that TUPE transfer will apply there. Charlton Governors have not intimated that they are interested in pursuing Academy status.

Q: There seems to be a bias towards the creation of Academies in the plans. Does it not jeopardise the future of the Local Authority? Is this just a stealthy way to create more Academies?

A: Not all schools will be Academies under the revised plans. The Secretary of State now makes a presumption that new schools will be Academies, as this is the current Governments' push. Cabinet recognise this and it is the reason why they wish to work with the Schools Co-operative Society, who are more open to working with the LA in a co-operative way. It is important that schools are made sustainable for the future to protect, as far as possible, posts for staff.

Q: What will happen to Oakengates Leisure Centre?

A: The Centre will remain, perhaps as an integral part of the new Academy, or operating alongside. How it will operate has yet to be fully considered. These proposals for consultation are only looking at the overall Borough provision of secondary places initially.

Q: Why do some schools have to become Academies? Will the approach change for Charlton?

A: It would be a decision of the Governors whether to consider Academy status for Charlton. The only other way to become an Academy is if the school were issued a 'Notice to Improve', which was extremely unlikely. The Education Bill has made a presumption that all new schools would be Academies, but under these plans it is a relocation rather than a new school being proposed.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 4.10pm.

## **Charlton School**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Governors Meeting – 5.30pm 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was attended by 15 governors, plus the Principal, Nick Renshaw and Headteacher Lee Tristham.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on. The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: What will happen with the BRJ pupils in Wellington?

A: It is expected that some of them will continue to go to BRJ when it relocates. Those remaining in Wellington will be able to access spare capacity in other schools. Although Charlton is only 25 additional places, Ercall Wood is being rebuilt as a 900 place school (this was 750 under previous plans), and HLC still has capacity to take up to 1200 pupils.

Q: How confident is the Council that the funding is secure?

A: It isn't possible to give a guarantee that funding is secure, as we have been in this situation once before, but to the best of our knowledge this is committed to by central government. The real risk may have more to do with possibility of slippage in the overall programme.

Q: Dothill Primary numbers are now rising, is 1200 pupils for Charlton going to be large enough?

A: The size of the site is actually the limiting factor, however Charlton should be able to continue to provide for it's in area pupils. There will be capacity for others at Ercall Wood and HLC.

Q: It will be 5 years until 2016 – at what point does this plan become a certainty?

A: It would be certain once contracts are signed. This would be after May 2012.

Q: Could the other land the HCA currently owns behind BRJ be incorporated?

A: We are aware of the other area of land, however it's status is currently unclear, it had been proposed for housing development at some stage previously.

Q: What about the current Charlton Sports Hall?

A: Whatever happens to redevelop the current Charlton site, it may be possible for the Sports Hall to remain perhaps as a community facility.

Comment: There was a change proposed to the admissions area for Wrekin View to be redefined into Ercall Wood's area. Charlton's Admissions Committee did not feel it was in favour of the change.

Q: What if the Sutherland/Wrockwardine Wood proposals meet with a lot of negativity? Would this impact on the Charlton plans?

A: If on the whole the plans are supported, the outcome must be considered on a Borough wide basis to treat all pupils in the Borough fairly. It is important that we hear from those who may be in support also.

Comment: There is a local concern that the current Charlton site would be earmarked for housing. This would increase pupil numbers, and it would be important to keep this in mind and incorporate into future projections. Overall, very pleased that this is now proposed to be a rebuilt school rather than just remodelling.

Q: There is no 6<sup>th</sup> form proposed for the Charlton school. Why is this?

A: The Wellington area already has TCAT and New College. When consulted in 2008, the figure for staying on in Post 16/Training was 67%. As at September 2011 it was 91%, so there is no need to increase capacity significantly for the remaining 9%.

Comment: this is a brilliant opportunity for Charlton and for local pupils.

Q: Is there a risk of overspending in the intervening years meaning that by 2016 there is a lack of funding for the Charlton proposal?

A: Each of the projects will have its own contingency built in to the budget, however such concerns are fully understood. The risks must be managed very well.

Q: Are other BSF projects coming in on budget?

A: As far as we are aware. Some matters recently such as the situation at Abraham Darby have been beyond our control, but an issue such as that are covered by Insurance rather than scheme contingencies.

Q: With regard to the BRJ proposed move to Priorslee, what will happen with transport arrangements?

A: There are no plans to change the current denominational transport arrangements. Also, the transport implications for families in Wellington with pupils currently attending the school is being considered.

Q: There is a risk that buses transporting pupils from St Patrick's to BRJ will clash with the buses arriving to drop off rural pupils at the new Charlton site.

A: This was noted. The situation would need to be carefully handled and incorporated into the transport plan.

Q: Would the Council consider funding a Project manager for the scheme, as it was felt that the Principal was already overcommitted?

A: It may be possible to consider release time or support – it would need to be considered by the BSF Team.

Q: What about the additional traffic generated to the BRJ site?

A: The new site would be subject to a full planning application and the associated consultation. Part of this would be a travel/transport plan and associated studies.

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

## **Charlton School**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Parents/Open Meeting – 7pm 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was attended by approximately 65 parents and members of the community, staff and governors, plus the Principal, Nick Renshaw and Headteacher Lee Tristham.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Rachael Jones, Community Engagement Manager (Chair)
- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

The Chair opened the meeting and explained the intended format.

Jim Collins then began by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: As the timescale for the proposed plans extends to 2016, is the funding safe?

A: As far as we can be certain, it is. We cannot of course guarantee it as we have been in a similar position and funding has been reduced, but it is not expected to be again.

Q: Will there be 6<sup>th</sup> form provision?

A: The Wellington area already has TCAT and New College. When consulted in 2008, the figure for staying on in Post 16/Training was 67%. As at September 2011 it was 91%, so there is no need to increase capacity significantly for the remaining 9%.

Q: How definite are the opening dates listed?

A: The timescales shown are our best estimate at this point in time, but there may be some movement depending on the outcome of consultation and the appointment of a framework contractor who advises otherwise.

Q: As Charlton is a full school, could the new build happen quicker – possibly being built alongside the current BRJ?

A: The BSF team are revisiting the timetable currently. It is important that our plans disturb as few learners as possible. A framework contractor, once appointed, may have their own views on how quick the timetable can proceed.

Q: What will happen to the old Charlton land? It would generate additional children if it became a housing development.

A: It would be expected to be sold for redevelopment, however we couldn't say for sure what it would become. The projections carried out by the council take stock of records from the NHS on children aged 0-4, and future housing development. The numbers of secondary pupils looks like it will continue to fall up to 2018. The new school designs however will need to take account of the potential need for future growth, where possible.

Q: Would the future of the Charlton land be part of this consultation?

A: No it would form part of any planning consultation process at a later stage. This consultation only covers the School Organisation proposals and BSF programme.

Q: Will there be revised attendance areas for local schools?

A: We have looked at this, and are consulting with the schools about it. We have looked at the possibility of Wrekin View area becoming all within one secondary school area rather than being split, but are waiting to hear back initially from the schools. This will progress further depending on their views.

Q: Why has Dothill not been encompassed in the plan for the new school?

A: The BRJ site is suitable for up to 1200 pupils and this space is needed for Charlton pupils. Also, the Primary Capital Programme which would have been the only source of funding was withdrawn by central government. The Council is very conscious of the excellent work between the two schools however, and we wouldn't want to rule out a range of possible alternatives in the future. For now the schools would be expected to maintain their strong links.

Q: Is the £200M overall for BSF for buildings only, or for fitting out?

A: It encompasses all, so will incorporate fixed furniture and equipment. It wouldn't be expected to fund all new loose equipment however.

Q: What if the project overall has an overspend?

A: Wherever possible, each project in the programme has a contingency, but it is understandable that when a project is last in the timetable it is a cause for increased anxiety.

Comment: Very supportive of the overall plan it would be a great opportunity for children.

Q: The timetable seems very long, with a child in year 8 they won't see the benefit of the new school. Why is BRJ in 2014, but Charlton in 2016?

A: It is actually quite a tight programme – it would be agreeable all round if the programme were able to be brought forward, but many of the plans are connected, for instance BRJ must move before Charlton can be rebuilt on the site.

Comment: There has been a lot of changes to BSF over the last 5 years, there could be many more changes in the next 5 years also.

Q: What would be the wider community involvement on the new site?

A: The Council believes it is integral to the plans that whole community use of the new sites is promoted. We are very much in support of this and sure the Governors feel the same way.

Comment: BRJ occupies less than 25% of it's current site – it could be consider for Charlton to be rebuilt alongside the current BRJ prior to it's relocation.

Q: Why would there only be one contractor for the programme?

A: The framework contract we have to work with would appoint one over arching contractor, however they would likely sub contract out work for individual areas of work. It may be that they consider that the timetable can be brought forward, but wouldn't know this until the appointment process.

Q: What will be on the Charlton new site? Will it be similar provision to that offered by HLC?

A: It is not likely to be similar to the facilities at HLC, as this cost over £70M and incorporates 3 schools. For instance, there would be no plans to provide a swimming pool, or community library. The aspiration is that there will be Sports facilities and pitches available for community use however.

Comment: This is a good idea for the locality and may actually ease congestion around the current school site.

Q: wholeheartedly in support, but disappointed in the lack of a post 16 provision for Charlton.

A: It boils down to sustainability for Post 16, if it were to be provided it would dilute the offer that could be made overall, as there wouldn't be enough pupils to make a firm Post 16 offer work.

Q: What size are Abraham Darby and the Phoenix proposed to be?

A: Abraham Darby will have 1050 pupils (150 of these post 16) and Phoenix will be 900 pupils. The framework contract would be based upon modular building, which is a repeatable design solution. This would allow schools to be extended if necessary in blocks of 150 capacity.

Q: Will plans be set in stone after May 2012?

A: They will be as firm as we are able to make them at that point, yes.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.15pm, and it was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## Lord Silkin School

### Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision Staff Meeting – 3.30pm 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The meeting was well attended by approximately 30 staff, including the Headteacher, Trevor Goddard.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Maria Haywood, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Will all Lord Silkin staff transfer, or will they have to apply for their own jobs?

A: Not sure what the Legal process will be yet, are awaiting Legal Services advice. It is hoped that TUPE will apply.

Q: What has changed now, as previously staff were assured their jobs were safe previously?

A: The Council wanted to be able to TUPE staff across if necessary, and would support this, but it was yet to be confirmed if this would apply.

Q: It would be better for Lakeside to happen earlier as Madeley Academy and Abraham Darby will have a major impact on numbers in the meantime.

A: This was understood. The timetabling of new schools coming on stream was currently set due to a number of factors.

Q: When the guidelines on staff transfer are known, will they be available to staff?

A: Certainly.

Q: When would staff know for sure how this will impact them?

A: As this was still the first consultation stage, it wasn't possible to confirm this as yet. To know for certain the date of final decision making would be May 2012.

Q: As this is still only the consultation stage, would the date of potential completion of the new school change?

- A: The dates currently are the best estimate from the BSF team as it would be impractical to consider opening all the new schools at the same time. At this point it was important that we should be developing plans of what Lakeside Campus will be offering to students in the future.
- Q: Will the structure of the Governing Body change?
- A: This would be decided by the Trustees., but there is an expectation that the new school would be an Academy and the Governing Body would need to reflect this.
- Q: On the basis that plans have changed before, is there a point at which this becomes a certainty?
- A: It is impossible to give a guarantee, given what has gone before, but we don't expect the funding to now be withdrawn. The plans have gone back to Lord Hill who approved us moving to the consultation stage.
- Q: If the school actually closes, aren't staff then made redundant?
- A: If it closes it would be the case, but this isn't necessarily the case for Lord Silkin. It will be argued that it is a predecessor school and that TUPE is likely to apply. Still awaiting legal advice on this.
- Q: Will the Lord Silkin School, Grange Park Primary and Post 16 provision all be separate entities on the adjoined site?
- A: This is part of the consultation exercise, initially it is expected that the entities will operate separately however sharing certain facilities. There has been no move to consider Academy Status by the Trust yet, and it will depend on the sequence of events, certainly.
- Q: Will the school need to become an Academy to get the new building?
- A: This is something we are seeking clarification on. There is a presumption from central government that new schools will be academies.
- Q: The NUT feels that it is not possible to consider the proposals fully until the position for staff is known – whether it would mean closure or transfer.
- A: Understood. It will be known before February what the situation will be. It's not the intention to cause problems for staff, but we were still awaiting a definitive position.
- Q: Why is Lord Silkin later in the process than Ercall Wood?
- A: Ercall Wood project is related to a land transfer that supports the whole process as it raises capital receipts.
- Q: Isn't there a large anti-feeling towards the Ercall Wood project in that local area?
- A: Yes, but hopefully there wouldn't be delays to the process. The Council will do its utmost to stay to the timetable.
- Q: The opening of Abraham Darby and Madeley Academy before Lord Silkin means the threat of redundancy for staff because of falling rolls.

A: We are in a position where falling rolls are already being experienced. The current year 6 is the smallest for many years, and there is no easy way around it. The proposals here overall take out almost 500 places across the Borough. We also need to be aware of future growth too however. It will be important to articulate early on what the differing provisions at secondary sites will be offering pupils.

Q: Parents won't vote to send pupils to Lord Silkin if Madeley Academy and Abraham Darby are already open down the road, particularly as parents will have seen plans change before.

A: In order to help promote Lord Silkin's position it is vitally important to get the staff involved in promoting the new facility as soon as possible.

Q: (NUT) This is the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting attended, and there was real opposition to the plans at the other meetings. What will happen if there is too much negativity?

A: It will be Cabinet's decision to weigh up all the responses received, good and bad.

Q: Not opposing the plans – just want to ensure security for staff.

A: This was understood.

Q: It was important to try and protect the position of staff in the interim to 2015.

A: We will do what we can however parental preference can't be controlled, but we will give what assurances we can when possible.

Q: When would the contract actually be signed?

A: It wasn't know for sure, but we would ask the BSF Team if they could indicate.

Q: Will you share information further with staff when you know the position regarding them is known?

A: Yes absolutely, as soon as possible.

Q: Why would the governing body change?

A: If school becomes an Academy, it would have to change. Because of the governments changes in the recent Education Bill the guidance is changing across the board. The presumption from them is new schools will be Academies. The reason our Cabinet supports co-operative Academy approach is that it can work in partnership.

Q: Who would the Academy Trust be?

A: It was the intention to work with the Schools Co-operative Society.

Q: What we want is a new building to move into, as a shared campus.

A: That is what is planned under these proposals.

Q: Can't understand why this is not a straightforward transfer of staff?

A: That is what we support, and we are seeking that confirmation.

Q: Is the funding only linked to the school becoming an Academy because that's what the Government want?

A: We think the answer to this is no, but certainly what will be a factor is the timely signing up of a Framework contractor.

Q: Is the plan to bring in private business into the co-operative model of the Council?

A: The Co-operative move is to try to engage more of the local community, including local businesses, in the workings of the Council. Cabinet will remain as the decision maker overall. Cllr Shaun Davies has overall responsibility.

Q: What role does the Local Authority have if the school were to become an Academy?

A: The intention would be that we would work with the sponsors as a partner.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

## **Lord Silkin School**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Governors Meeting – 5.30pm 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was attended by 2 governors, plus the Headteacher, Trevor Goddard.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Do you know yet how the transfer of staff may work?

A: Not yet, but awaiting legal advice on the matter.

Q: It would have been better had the school be timetabled for a 2014 opening.

A: We would feed this back to the BSF Team for them to consider in the context of the whole project. It is likely that it will be dependent on the framework contract.

Q: Can students feed into the process?

A: Yes, we would actively encourage that. It would be great to get the school council involved.

Q: Will all new schools be Academies?

A: Possibly, however still awaiting further DfE input into the potential outcome.

Q: Why go to consultation before being able to answer many of the specific questions?

A: The timetable is very tight to fit into the period up to May 2012. It was also important to let people know our proposals as soon as possible, at the earliest stage.

Q: What would be the make-up of the Governing Body?

A: It would have to be a new Governing Body, but many of the current members may remain, possibly in a new capacity.

Comment: Lord Silkin needs a new school. It would be the best thing for the community, and it should offer round the clock learning.

Q: The reputation of the school is important. The opinion of Lord Silkin in south Telford is low currently.

A: We will make enquiries to see what the possibilities of bringing forward the timetable are, but it wasn't possible to give any assurances about this yet. There are many factors we were not party to that the BSF Team may highlight as barriers to this.

Comment: Parents are starting to get excited about the proposals, including Grange Park on the same site is seen as a very positive thing.

Comment: Lord Silkin is so centrally located to its communities there should be no barriers to feeder schools coming together to the new site.

Comment: There are two separate issues – what is right for the community, which is a new school building and that is supported; the other issue is supporting the staff going forward.

Comment: Discussions have been had recently with Phoenix with regard to the Post 16 provision and that continues to go well.

With no further questions or comments received, the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

## Lord Silkin School

### Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision

#### Parents/Open Meeting – 6.30pm 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 parents and members of the community, staff and governors, plus the Headteacher, Trevor Goddard.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Andy Challenor, Community Engagement Manager (Chair)
- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

The Chair opened the meeting and explained the intended format.

Jim Collins then began by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

- Q: A similar plan was presented 2 years ago. The plan now was 4 years away – will it all be delayed again?
- A: We know this is a change of plans, but pleased to be able to say this is a better plan than was proposed before- incorporating a new secondary school and a solution for Grange Park Primary.
- Q: I am aware that some of the schemes in these proposals rely on other elements, i.e. BRJ moving to Priorslee. Will Lakeside be separate to these others?
- A: The financing of the plans is linked to other parts of the proposal, so it does relate to some degree.
- Q: Why are other schools planned ahead of Lord Silkin?
- A: Other areas have not been prioritised ahead of Stirchley on purpose, there are other factors that have had to be considered. We are checking with the BSF team to see what flexibility there is in the programme, but we cannot say it is possible to bring forward at this point. What is important is that people register that they are in support of the proposals if that is the case.
- Q: Will funds remain available for Lakeside after other schemes have been completed?

A: We will keep people informed of developments as things progress, but it is not expected that schemes in the interim will delay or impact on the Lakeside development.

Comment: Parents lobbying has got us to where we are now, and this is a much better position than 18 months ago. It is felt that in partnership it is possible to make this happen.

Q: Is £200M funding secure for these specific proposals?

A: The majority of it is BSF funding which we are as certain as we can be is secure. However, there is no BSF funding for primary schools. We were intending to use Primary Capital Programme to fund Grange Park, however this was withdrawn by central government. This is why the meetings took place last summer with local people to explain the position. The funding to provide for Grange Park will now come from capital receipt as part of the new revised plans and the knock on availability of land to dispose of.

Q: We need to understand why Lord Silkin isn't first school timetabled in the list of new schools.

A: We are actively seeking to find out if it is possible to accelerate the project, but it will be based on a number of factors we aren't party to. Have been in contact with the Team this afternoon to see if there is any possibility.

Q: Where would the new buildings be located on the site?

A: Still to be part of a masterplanning process. The vision has yet to be finalised but will obviously include the schools in the process.

Q: What about other entities on the site such as the day centre and library?

A: The Council will want to retain current provision wherever possible certainly. Don't want to be removing any services from the site.

Q: What is the vision for combining the schools on one site? Is it as separate entities or an all-through school?

A: Initially it is proposed that the schools operate separately with shared facilities to achieve economies of scale, however the model may change in the future.

Comment: It should be a round the clock facility for learning, used at full capacity. Currently the site closes after school and facilities are unused. It is about working together incorporating primary, secondary and Post 16 provision.

Comment: Jan Ellis, TCAT – The local community has everything to be proud of, it is understood there was a lot of disappointment when plans were changed previously. It would be great to have synergy between TCATs plans which are scheduled for 2013. It was up to the community to lobby for an earlier completion if it were possible.

Q: Part of the problem is that Sturchley leaks children in Year 6 to other schools, a later date in the timetable of proposals will not help.

A: We are looking at whether the proposal can be accelerated but can make no promises.

Comment: Paul Watling - It should also be put into context the pressures that the Council faces currently. There is a need to make 20% budget cuts and this needs to be borne in mind. It will become much harder over the next 3 years as these begin to impact on services.

Comment: Please encourage children to make their views known via the website and email address, as we want the views of as many young people as possible.

The meeting was brought to a close at 7.30pm, and it was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## **Sutherland Business and Enterprise College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **School Council Meeting – 2pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was well attended, with approximately 30 pupil representatives of the school.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background reasons for the consultation process, and presented a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: There are tensions between the two schools since the previous amalgamation of Manor and John Hunt. It is likely that the communities will feel they don't want the schools to become one.

A: It was asked if pupils felt they didn't get on with pupils from Wrockwardine Wood – or was it an impression they had that was more historical. It was most important that the Council involved students in the proposals to ensure that the outcome works. This would need to involve pupils from both schools – possibly beginning with the student councils of both.

Q: Is there enough space in a new school to accommodate both? What is it proves very popular?

A: The LA is also proposing the new school at Priorslee, and likely some families will opt to send children there. Each school design will allow for expansion on site if necessary in future. Currently the area is experiencing lower numbers coming up from primary schools.

Q: The new site is further away for some pupils.

A: A school site will always be further away for someone, but possibly nearer for others. The location of the new school is virtually equidistant from the current schools.

Q: What will happen to the current Sutherland buildings?

A: Redevelopment of the land would be planned – this could be housing, commercial, retail etc., but it would be developed.

Q: Will the Leisure Centre land be big enough for the new school?

A: Yes the site is big enough to accommodate the proposed 1050 place school.

- Q: Will the proposals affect the grades pupils will be attaining?  
A: No it shouldn't, it would be well managed. Teachers will still be teaching to high standards, and schools will continue to recruit the best possible staff. In fact by having a new school, in many cases the previous planned refurbishments may have had more of a negative impact on daily school life.
- Q: Will the facilities be better at the new site?  
A: Yes definitely.
- Q: Will the staff be paid better?  
A: It's not expected that there will be major changes to staff terms and conditions.
- Q: Will there be a 6<sup>th</sup> form?  
A: There are no plans currently for the Oakengates site, but there will be provision at Priorslee.
- Q: Why can't BRJ and Charlton be brought together instead?  
A: The Charlton land would be too small, and the BRJ land would be limited to 1200. There are already too many pupils for such a proposal.
- Q: Sutherland is currently a small school, will a larger school mean less individuality and tailored learning?  
A: In a larger school a very important factor is the organisation. A larger establishment is more likely to be able to offer a more enriched curriculum.
- Q: Behaviour and grades have been going up at Sutherland, what about Wrockwardine Wood?  
A: Interestingly this year Wrockwardine Wood is expected to be the highest performing non-selective school in the Borough for A\* - C including English and Maths. As this was Sutherland's position last year, both schools will be in a strong position as a combined school.
- Q: Will there be community facilities?  
A: Yes there will, the intention is that each Co-operative Learning Community will operate beyond the normal school day and offer facilities for the wider neighbourhood. The site would be used to its fullest potential.
- Comment: The two schools already work together on the Business Diploma – Wrockwardine Wood pupils attend Sutherland for this currently.
- Q: What would the new schools stance be on bullying?  
A: There would be a clear anti bullying strategy for the new school. Bullying would never knowingly be ignored.
- Q: What if families have chosen to send their children to Sutherland because they don't like Wrockwardine Wood?  
A: In the preceding years prior to 2014 it will be important for the schools to work together to combine their strengths to create the best possible new school, and then building on the strengths of both. Everybody would want to see the

best elements of each school to be maintained and improved in the new proposed school.

Q: At Sutherland education is taken very seriously. It isn't taken as seriously at Wrockwardine Wood.

A: It is true to say that Wrockwardine Wood have achieved improvements as have Sutherland in recent times. In fact it is expected that Wrockwardine Wood will have the top results when they are published.

Q: There is a risk of more truancy if pupils don't like the new shared school.

A: It is hoped the schools will work together long before any move to a new site takes place. The schools have a good basis for this as they already share co-operative values.

Q: Will there be suitable equipment in the new facilities?

A: Yes, the best equipment from each establishment would move over. Of course much of the fixed equipment would be new.

Q: Are Wrockwardine Wood being asked what they think?

A: Yes there are similar meetings for Wrockwardine Wood later this week. All response will be going in a report to cabinet.

Q: Will there be new teachers?

A: Teaching staff at a school already change naturally over a three year period, but the school would seek to retain the very best staff possible.

Q: Will Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood pupils be mixed together in classes?

A: It is expected this would happen yes. The management of this process and how it would work would need to be in place as soon as possible.

Q: Would the sporting facilities be enhanced at the Leisure Centre?

A: Although we would like to see this happen, there was no funding available as part of the BSF programme to refurbish the Leisure Centre. However, the facilities as they are were still great.

Comment: it was a good idea to have the schools collaborating – it meant the two specialisms could be offered by one school – Business and Enterprise and Performing Arts.

Q: How many pupils per class would there be?

A: Not sure of numbers per class, but some classes may be larger because it was naturally a larger school, but certainly not all.

Q: What about the new uniform?

A: It was possible that the new school may want a uniform different from both schools, or it may be preferred to have some legacy from the previous schools. It would be a matter for staff and governors to decide in consultation with pupils and parents.

Q: Wrockwardine Wood were having a new 6<sup>th</sup> form?

A: This isn't now proposed. This had been a trial period but it was not now going to happen.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 3pm.

## **Sutherland Business and Enterprise College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Staff Meeting – 3.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by approximately 35 staff, including the Headteacher, Steve Wall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Sue Ross, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Would there be a new Governing Body from May 2012?

A: Yes it is likely. It was a possibility the schools could federate – and have a joint management team and governing body. They could also stay separate, but in either case there would be a temporary or shadow governing body for the co-operative academy, probably made up of governors from both current schools.

Q: Is it a new school or a merger?

A: The decision was still to be made, so it wasn't certain whether TUPE would apply or not. The LA would be taking legal advice.

Q: Earlier in the BSF programme, staff were given assurances that no staff would lose their jobs.

A: The proposals have changed, forced partly by new financial settlement due to change of Government. If a new school opens, there is a central government assumption that the new school will be an Academy. The Council would be in support of TUPE applying, however advice was still being sought.

Q: Are all new schools on the proposals now Academies?

A: No – Phoenix, Charlton are not. There is a possibility BRJ may not be depending on DfE advice and the position of the Diocese. Lord Silkin isn't certain as the school have just become a co-operative trust.

Q: Would Terms and Conditions for staff change as an Academy?

A: The Academy sponsors would be responsible for Terms and Conditions. They don't have to subscribe to the Teachers Pay and conditions document, however so far all bar one of the Borough's Academies had adopted the national agreement. We were aware that the Co-operative Society were committed to the national agreements.

Q: It was stated that Trade Unions were opposed to Academies. What would the LA's role be?

A: It was still the LA's role to oversee standards in schools. The council would want to be involved as a sponsor and to maintain involvement in the schools.

Q: Some Academies work extended days and some weekends. What was the council's stance on this?

A: We would prefer that they worked to standard national agreements.

Q: No Post 16 provision is proposed. Why is this?

A: Post 16 provision across the Borough is also being revisited. It was identified recently that the level of expansion previously thought needed was not any longer. There would be provision at Priorslee.

Q: What about support staff would there be any protection for them?

A: It was important to state that this was not a cost cutting exercise to intentionally get rid of staff. Any protection would apply to non-teaching staff as it did to teaching staff.

Q: What about catering and cleaning staff if it is a new Academy?

A: It would depend on the sponsors. There was a strong likelihood that the co-operative sponsors would want to take on Telford & Wrekin staff but it would be their decision.

Q: Will consultation take place on offering post 16 provision from the new Oakengates site?

A: There is no current proposal for this, although the provision at BRJ is proposed to relocate to Priorslee and be extended.

Q: Sutherland currently has a large site, concerned that a new school would be going from 750 to 1050. Is it big enough?

A: It was likely that the new site wouldn't perhaps give the same space per pupil, but it is big enough for 1050.

Q: In the plans for the new school originally it was felt the rooms were too small. Would staff be consulted during the design process?

A: Yes they would. The design process would start again, Linda Morley would be leading on the visioning process.

Q: When will the HR process truly start?

A: We need clarity on the form of the proposal from DfE first. The current Cabinet would want to work proactively with the Trade Unions.

- Q: What about staff at the Leisure Centre how will they be affected?  
A: The impact on staff will need careful consideration. The Abraham Darby model has the school and leisure centre operating separately. However for Oakengates this needed thinking about further.
- Q: What about the new school name?  
A: This would be up to the governing body/sponsors to consider. It could be brand new or may want to retain the identity of both schools.
- Q: Would the pupils be able to get involved in coming up with names?  
A: Definitely.
- Q: Would a joint staff meeting for both schools be a good idea?  
A: Yes certainly. Probably best to be held in January after this current round of consultation, which ended on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 4.40pm.

## **Sutherland Business and Enterprise College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Governors Meeting – 5.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by 6 governors, plus the Headteacher, Steve Wall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Is there enough money to build all the proposed new schools?

A: Yes, there is money from potential capital receipts, as well as the BSF funding.

Q: Concerns around change management – particularly key facts around the new governing body, leadership would need to be decided upon early, in order that work with the community could begin, ideally as soon as possible in January. There was a real need to support the schools in the intervening 3 year period. It was possible that appointment and retention of staff in that period would be very difficult. Ideally it would need a project manager.

A: We wouldn't disagree – clearly the Council needs to be a partner in this, working closely with all the trust partners in both schools.

Q: When would the sponsor be brought into this, and the governing body established?

A: The Trust partners from both schools would need to meet at a very early stage. It was possible that the Trust partners may decide to federate at a very early stage and the LA would be able to support this.

Q: What would happen if one of the schools showed reluctance to enter into proper liaison over the proposals?

A: Some compromise would need to be made between the trust partners – this was essential to build upon the successes of both schools. The Council would be happy to continue to broker these discussions, and identify why there was a reluctance in moving forward.

Q: Has a meeting been held with Wrockwardine Wood's governing body?

A: Not yet – due to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Q: The Wrockwardine Wood change to Trust status had a very low profile. When Sutherland acquired Trust status it was a major event. How long has Wrockwardine Wood had a Trust?

A: It was at least 18 months maybe even 2 years. It would be important for the future that the co-operative standard had a high profile. The governing bodies would need to begin talking to each other as soon as possible, to make sure co-operative standards are at the forefront of the new Academy ethos.

Comment: There was a concern that the profile of the consultation would not be particularly high in areas like Donnington, but would perhaps be of a higher profile in areas such as Priorslee.

Q: With regard to pupil projections, what if the expected numbers proved incorrect. There was expected to be a rise because of construction i.e. at Ketley, which may initially fill HLC places. Also changes to admissions could cause problems in future i.e. Academies will be able to increase their Published Admission Numbers – what impact will there be?

A: There will be opportunity to put in additional places on some sites because of the planned modular aspect of the buildings. It was also the case that Shropshire continued to suffer from declining school roles. It was difficult to ascertain the impact of Academies and their admission arrangements at this point.

Q: there were concerns about the potential for a 3 storey building. It was believed that a two storey building plus additions would be a better way forward.

A: It was our understanding that 2 storey building was the way forward.

Q: Is there enough recreational space at the new site?

A: We are told that there is enough space for 1050 pupils and the appropriate recreational space. We would be happy to organise a walk of the new site with representatives of the governors of both schools.

Q: It was felt that the management of the Leisure Centre should potentially fall under the jurisdiction of the school – Leadership for the whole site would be key.

A: It was difficult to comment on this as the model had not been considered yet. Certainly the operation of the Abraham Darby site was separately managed.

Comment: Entrances and exits to the site would be key, the issue of parking outside of schools is a Borough wide problem. Also conflict between Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood is of concern if the schools are to work together.

Q: Sutherland would like to have a Post 16 offer. Perhaps an alternative to straight A Levels. They were investigating level 3 qualifications not offered by TCAT e.g. fabrication and high level engineering, which could lead to apprenticeships, plus proposition for students to stay on and take subjects like maths and English.

A: Jim Collins would be happy to discuss the issues further.

With no further questions or comments, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

## **Sutherland Business and Enterprise College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Parents/Open Meeting – 6.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

The meeting was attended by approximately 70 parents and members of the community, governors, plus the Headteacher, Steve Wall.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Rachael Jones, Community Engagement Manager (Chair)
- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

The Chair opened the meeting and invited the panel to introduce themselves.

Jim Collins then began by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

- Q: Which area of land at the Leisure Centre site was to be used for the school, and how would it be accessed?
- A: The proposal was that the school be built on land adjoining the Leisure Centre. A meeting was due to be arranged with representative governors from both schools to look at issues around access and traffic. The new site would necessitate a sustainable travel plan.
- Q: If parents wished to move their children to Priorslee, how would the admissions criteria operate?
- A: The Governors would be responsible for setting the admissions criteria for the new faith Academy. It was proposed that priority would be given to pupils from the area it served, but up to 50% of pupils would be considered on faith grounds.
- Q: How would the schools be integrated together and how would it impact on teachers?
- A: Schools of course would want to retain their staff. In the intervening period they would continue to work to do this, however there was likely to be some natural turnover as there always would be over a 3 year period.
- Q: What about the leadership of the school, will it change?

A: This will form part of the process and would follow the appointment of a new governing body.

Q: What about Post 16 provision on site?

A: There were no plans for Post 16 provision from the new site. The options would remain as TCAT or New College, however Priorslee would have new provision.

Q: Will staff be made redundant and then need to re-apply for jobs in the new Academy?

A: It was still unclear from DfE how the process would need to operate. It was hoped that there would be a TUPE process but this was yet to be clarified. It would be the responsibility of the new Governing Body to decide upon the new staffing structure.

Q: A school is not just the building pupils are in, it is the pupils the staff and everyone involved. How would the schools integrate and create their new identity?

A: The council is already engaging with both schools to work out how best to retain the best qualities of both schools and help ensure they work together.

Q: It is important that children retain their individuality, this was much harder in a larger school. Also won't a larger school result in a much busier site at the beginning and end of the school day?

A: It was agreed that it was important to maintain the individuality of pupils, and good internal organisation and leadership was paramount to this. With regard to the start and end of the school day, it would need to be very carefully planned and traffic solutions would need to be considered very early on in the process. Where there is good practice at other school sites we could learn from this.

Q: Aren't there too many pupils between the schools for one site?

A: It is proposed that the new Priorslee Academy serve some of the current Wrockwardine Wood area, plus medium term the numbers coming through from primary schools are lower.

Q: Isn't the proposal reducing parental choice in the area?

A: It will remain the case that parents can express a preference for any school within the Borough and beyond.

Q: What about school uniform changes? Some families may struggle having to afford new uniforms.

A: It would be a governors decisions on what the new uniform may look like. Possibly the Academy sponsors would have a view on affordability – an example was when Abraham Darby offered subsidies for new uniform when they converted to Academy status.

Q: How will tutor groups be organised?

A: Senior staff and governors will have to set up the new model. This would be resolved within the intervening period prior to opening.

Q: Would classes be a lot different than now i.e. larger?

A: Currently Sutherland as a small school can have smaller classes. Possibly in a new larger school this wouldn't be so likely due to it's size.

Q: Would we be able to revert to the original proposal?

A: If there was overwhelming opposition to proposals, cabinet would have to take account of it in their decision making. In theory, strong opposition would mean they would need to revisit proposals.

Q: If it didn't go ahead, is it the case that the other proposals would also not continue?

A: The proposals for the whole Borough are to some extent interrelated. The programme was on a Borough wide basis, and attempted to improve the outcomes for all children.

Q: How was it possible to build 7 new schools with less money?

A: The different design model was a more efficient process, and delivered better value for money. Also the capital receipts from land sales would be realised.

Q: What would happen to the current Sutherland site?

A: Redevelopment of the land would be planned – this could be housing, commercial, retail etc., but it would be developed.

Q: What is the framework in place to ensure a good education will result for pupils from the merging of the schools, and how will transition be managed?

A: We weren't in a position to provide detail until further into the process. Many decisions will be made by the Staff and Governors. If this proposal wasn't being pursued, the likely outcome would be that one or both schools would at some future point become unsustainable, making it much harder to maintain the current levels of attainment.

Comment: Both schools have very established communities, there are concerns that the timeframe should not be rushed. It will need lots of work to implement the bringing together of communities. It would need change management ideally starting now.

Q: Integration should start as early as September 2012. When would the details of transition be known?

A: Details would be provided through further consultation/website etc. It was the School Councils' view that transition arrangements should start now.

Comment: A pupil had returned home today very positive about the proposals. Both the current schools were decades old. It had to be a positive thing and would be a great development.

Q: Would a change in Government change any of these plans?

A: Once contract has been signed it should be guaranteed, however it was never possible to give 100% certainty.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8pm, and it was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## **Wrockwardine Wood Arts College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **School Council Meeting – 2pm 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was well attended, with approximately 30 pupil representatives of the school, and the headteacher, John Jones.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background reasons for the consultation process, and presented a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

- Q: Why WWAC and Sutherland? The school communities don't get on.  
A: Is it still the case schools don't get on or is this a legacy or historical opinion? If this is the case, why don't they work well together? There has been no evidence presented that this still is the case other than in the memories of some people.

Comment: Certain groups of people don't get along between the schools, not the whole of the school.

- Q: Sutherland doesn't have as good a reputation, although it has been better recently.  
A: Pupil behaviour at Sutherland is on a par with other schools, including WWAC. WWAC results are very good, in fact they will be the best results for non-selective schools within the Borough when results are announced soon. Last year, Sutherland had the best non-selective GCSE results for A-C including English and Maths.
- Q: WWAC was originally meant to have a 6<sup>th</sup> form when it was proposed to move to Priorslee. What happened with this?  
A: it is still proposed that there will be Post 16 provision at the Priorslee site, but not at the new Oakengates site. There was a trial of 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at WWAC but it was not continued. The reason it is still remaining as part of the Priorslee proposal is that BRJ currently offers 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision.
- Q: What about the fact the school leaving age is moving to 18?  
A: This won't mean all 16+ will be in a school based environment, some may be in training or work based training. In 2008 67% of year 11 pupils stayed on, by Sept 2011 the percentage staying on was 91%. Therefore it is only needed

to provide for an additional 9% now. So there is no need to build much additional capacity for Post 16 on this basis.

Q: WWAC pupils have never had the opportunity to sit down and discuss issues and talk together, so it could actually be a good thing, it's just never been done.

A: Excellent point. Sutherland pupils have said very much the same. It was suggested at their meeting that perhaps School Councils could get together initially.

Q: What about each schools current Specialisms?

A: Both the schools Specialisms have been highly successful – the new proposals would build on both. The decision on what the school would specialise in would be made by Governors and Trustees of the new Academy.

Q: Subjects between the schools are completely different, which may be one of the causes for their mutual dislike.

A: Both schools do the same subjects, however not to the degree that each one specialises in.

Q: How many teachers will lose their jobs?

A: Hopefully none – looking at the school serving 1050 pupils. Some may wish to go to the new Priorslee rather than Oakengates however.

Q: Will there be enough places for all pupils? What about people moving into area?

A: Yes, pupil place planning has been taking place for a long time looking at proposals. Some way down the line it may need revisiting as the area grows, but currently both schools have falling rolls, amongst others in the Borough.

Q: WWAC is getting less out of the proposals than Sutherland. There will be less space at Oakengates so what about families in St George's?

A: St George's area pupils will likely have a choice between Oakengates and Priorslee. It's not yet been agreed that St George's will be in area for Priorslee, it's still being discussed.

Q: What about the originally proposed auditorium (theatre) at Priorslee?

A: This isn't part of the proposal any longer for either site unfortunately.

Q: The new site would be small, so less opportunities.

A: There is enough room for the school and it's facilities at the new site.

Q: What about transport for pupils who live further away?

A: Transport is only available to pupils who live more than 3 miles away from their designated school.

Q: What would the new school name be?

A: This would be a decision to be made by governors.

Q: Is it true that Sutherland have a 3d theatre?

A: Not quite – they certainly have a 3d projector located in one of the Learning resource areas.

Q: As standards are good at both schools, why can't they remain as they are?

A: It is expected that the proposals will continue to make the education of both schools stronger. If they were to begin to plan to work together now, building on good practice, a lot can be achieved before 2014.

Q: Aren't there mineshafts at the Oakengates site?

A: Yes, but considerable geotechnical work has been ongoing since 2008 identifying the issues. The land will be 100% safe. It would be desirable to have the Leisure Centre facilities upgraded at the same time, however this was unlikely as it wouldn't be financed through BSF.

Q: What if Yr 11 want to go to 6<sup>th</sup> form, what is on offer?

A: There will be additional provision at Priorslee which can be applied for, and the options that are available currently. There will be 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at TCAT, New College, Priorslee, Newport, Abraham Darby, Madeley Academy, Lord Silkin. It would never have been affordable to offer 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at every school unfortunately.

Q: Won't the move to a new building affect pupils' education?

A: It would likely have had an impact if either school were refurbished on their current site, however as it is a new site it was unlikely as pupils would just move in when it was ready.

Q: Concerned that St George's children won't want to come to WWAC any longer.

A: It may be that they will want to go to Priorslee, but they could still express preference for the new Oakengates.

Q: How will the new Priorslee site cope with both the BRJ pupils and it's new attendance area?

A: Only 50% of places will be offered to faith pupils it is expected. The other 50% are expected to be from the local area.

It was reiterated that those wanting to make further comments and ask further questions could do so via the website and email address. The meeting concluded at 3.15pm.

## **Wrockwardine Wood Arts College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision Staff Meeting – 3.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was well attended by approximately 40 staff, including the Headteacher, John Jones.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Newell, Senior Human Resources Officer
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Can you guarantee that no one would lose their jobs?

A: No this can't be guaranteed. There are however 2 schools both of 1050 capacity which would be opening in 2014. What the staffing structures would be like cannot be known at this point. It was to help address the problem of surplus places, not to get rid of staff.

Q: Government has recently announced 700,000 public service jobs are to go. Would it not be fairer as part of this process to carry out an appointment process which incorporated all staff across the Borough, rather than just Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood? It is expected from own calculations that 30 jobs (teaching and non-teaching) would go.

A: Redeployment across the LA would be very difficult as schools move more and more away from authority control. There will still be needed the staff to teach the pupils, but removal of excessive surplus places is a necessity.

Q: How much sway will the Local Authority have if considering the new school to be an Academy? How 'co-operative' can it be?

A: Discussions are ongoing with the Schools Co-operative Society, who are committed to an Academy model that adopts shared values. We have a situation where recently DfE have said they expect all new schools to be Academies.

Q: There may need to be redundancies between now and 2014 as the communities feelings about the schools are deep rooted.

A: This is why it is very important that the transition period was managed well to ease potential difficulties as far as possible.

Q: Have the primary feeder schools been consulted? Many won't want to consider it because of Sutherland School.

A: The pupils won't be going on to Sutherland, it will be a brand new entity incorporating the best elements of both schools. It must have the vision early on that the proposal will succeed, and take the strengths of both co-operative schools forward.

Comment: having lived in the community, would not send own children to a combined or merged school.

Q: WWAC attainment has been growing steadily. The Sutherland has had a good year however it is not as stable.

A: The good practice of both schools would be able to be called upon under these proposals. It is not the intention of the proposals to dismantle this success.

Comment: The reward for achieving better standards seems to be that the school is closed and the staff broken up.

Q: Staff cannot sell this new model knowing that their jobs are under threat. Need to know the staffing model to be able to get this right.

A: There are inevitably staff changes in the intervening period up to 2014, this was a natural change, but it is difficult to give any clearer answers at this point, being still at the proposal stage. None of the plans have been designed to get rid of staff.

Q: Before the change in Council administration this year, Staff were selling the move to Priorslee to parents. BRJ 6<sup>th</sup> form is failing – how will this be sold to Priorslee parents? How will the perception be changed?

A: Priorslee will be a completely new school, it needs to be sold in that way. The ethos may take time to embed but working from now up to 2014 that can be achieved. Don't agree that BRJ 6<sup>th</sup> form is failing, however it is unsustainable in the longer term in its current form.

Q: What will happen to the results in a new school? Don't believe this is about children's futures, but about finance.

A: As Head of School Improvement, it is my role to raise standards across the Borough – wouldn't be promoting this if didn't genuinely feel it was the best way forward.

Q: Wrockwardine Wood is the most likely to be affected job wise. Are there only 2 models being considered under these revised plans? If so it can't really be sold to staff as it entails job losses.

A: Because of the impact of surplus places, if nothing were to be done, in a few years it may be that secondary school budgets could become unsustainably low, and we'd have to be looking at school closures rather than these current proposals.

Q: What about BRJ merging with Sutherland? Is there a third option?

A: The proposals we have now were formed from the views of the Council's Cabinet, and the decision will depend on the outcome of the whole consultation. As part of the previous BSF plans, it was the case that some families were dismayed that they may have to travel to Priorslee for instance. If people wish to propose another way, please feedback and Cabinet will consider all responses in January.

Q: Is the decision already made? Will no new models be considered?

A: All comments will be considered at the end of the consultation, and the decision made will depend on the whole of the feedback. It could be that there may be more support for the plans than opposition once the consultation is completed. Cabinet would not make a decision that was detrimental to children.

Q: Staff are passionate about their work with the children at Wrockwardine Wood, and parents know this. It's likely parents wouldn't send their children to a school which is expected to merge with another.

A: Transition is very difficult in any circumstances, but not if it is managed well. There would still be transition and upheaval for pupils, albeit in a different way, if the plan was that Wrockwardine Wood still relocated to Priorslee.

Comment: The rationale behind the proposals is probably quite good, but in the meantime there would be a lot of heartache. This is why Cabinet should look at staffing across the Borough as a whole.

Comment: I have worked at Sutherland previously and would not consider sending my own child there.

Q: Academy status would take HR out of the remit of the Local Authority. How will Teacher's Pay and Conditions be considered?

A: That would be the responsibility of the Governing Bodies of new Academies, but the LA would support their adoption of Terms and Conditions in line with national agreements. This would certainly be helped by their being Co-operative Academies.

Q: My daughter will become of secondary age in September 2013, are you suggesting she won't experience any upheaval?

A: It doesn't have to follow that due to the merger, standards will fall. With enough planning and support it can be a successful process.

Q: The LA had asked staff to help sell the vision for the former proposals to parents, but now the vision had changed. Will it change again if there were a change in Central Government?

A: Can't give any guarantees, as circumstances do change. We need to be honest with people that the rules have changed, which has prompted the revisions.

Q: Are there any examples of previous mergers that have worked to raise attainment?

A: HLC can be considered as a successful project.

Comment: There may be more positive comments across the Borough as a whole, but Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood will be negative. It is Wrockwardine Wood which is taking the hit on the removal of places. The coverage in North East Telford for Post 16 provision will remain poor.

Q: It is the case that the school want to be the best, with the best staff, but it is more likely that the good staff will leave before the new school opens.

A: This is why we need to get staff 'on board' with the proposals to ensure it can be successful.

Comment: Previous mergers have not gone smoothly. As a new Academy it cannot be guaranteed that current terms and conditions will be adopted.

Q: Senior Management is one of the drivers for successful schools. If two sets of teachers come from separate schools, they need strong management to continue.

A: Agree 100%. It is important to start working now, to build on the combined success of both schools.

Q: It is likely pupils will have a change in their subject teachers, and this would particularly affect year 11. There is the potential for that bond to be lost and impact on grades.

A: There are certainly benefits in continuity. The September 2014 Year 11 would definitely be those that would need the most support. The new proposal would need a robust change management plan.

Comment: If there are to be job losses, it will be harder for the non-teaching staff to secure other jobs.

Q: Some parents in Donnington send their children to Wrockwardine Wood because of conflict within the local community. If Wrockwardine Wood were to move to Priorslee it would alleviate this. Why not move BRJ to Sutherland instead?

A: As BRJ is currently a faith based provision, the new proposed school must keep this status to maintain diversity of provision in the area, but Cabinet would be able to consider these comments.

Q: Over the last few years, Wrockwardine Wood has had to make a number of redundancies. If there are less children in the period up to 2014, that will continue.

A: Yes it would unfortunately. Therefore the approach the proposals needs to be in a positive way.

Q: What if the school applied for Academy status now?

A: It would not be for the LA to decide, but the risk may be that BSF funds were redirected to support other proposals if the school were to remain but as an Academy.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm.

## **Wrockwardine Wood Arts College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Governors Meeting – 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was attended by 9 governors, plus the Headteacher, John Jones.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

Jim opened the meeting by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: How can we make an informed decision, without all the information, before 3<sup>rd</sup> May?

A: The Local Authority cannot determine some matters, which would remain up to the governors of the new proposed school.

Q: The school currently has very strong English and Maths departments. It would be important to harness these strengths and retain the expertise during the potential period of uncertainty.

A: It wasn't necessary to wait until after 3<sup>rd</sup> May to begin working together, but it is understandable that some see it as a barrier at this point.

Q: This would amount to the school being split up. For instance, no longer serving the St George's area, which is around one third of the intake. The school cannot go forward as it is under these proposals.

A: The outcome for the St George's area has not been determined yet. It should be borne in mind that at the root of the decision making is the need to rationalise surplus places.

Q: Staff uncertain about their future have already been raising concerns, so it is already unsettling.

A: It was important to keep the goal in mind, but it was not possible to give staff guarantees at this point. We must reiterate that we want to take forward the best of both schools.

Q: This proposal was coming across as a 'done deal' rather than a consultation. However it appeared that the majority didn't want this to happen.

A: It was considered that this proposal was a better opportunity for children and young people. It is a genuine consultation process- ideas and concerns will be taken on board, and Cabinet will have to make decisions based on the whole proposals.

Comment: There seems little point in planning for this when the last set of plans was pulled.

Q: If proposals are Borough wide, how can it be fair if only Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood are the schools which are merging?

A: The process has to look at the whole plan, rather than at schools in isolation. The proposals have been made as they are believed to result, if agreed, in better outcomes for children and young people. However the LA is fully aware that it is disappointing to many as it differs to the original proposals, and involves different partners.

Comment: It seems the local communities are being considered as less important than other areas in the Borough, as they do not warrant consideration for a 6<sup>th</sup> form. Under these revised proposals the school would lose the intended new auditorium. Also, Sutherland have their own Business and Enterprise specialism. The outcome of a merger will be to dilute or water down the specialisms.

Q: Very conscious that intervening 3 years will see children leave and staff find new jobs. For instance, what will happen to the attainment of pupils in Year 10?

A: How we move forward is really important – the issues need to be dealt with as early as possible. It can be made to work, and learn from the mistakes of the past. We would not countenance a plan that saw improvement fail.

Comment: The previous merger of John Hunt and the Manor was handled poorly. They were pushed together, and it wasn't managed well between the communities.

Comment: The whole Wrockwardine Wood structure has changed, built around the readiness to move to Priorslee. The structure would have to change again to build up to a Co-operative Academy. The performing arts status of the school has attracted pupils. Wouldn't want to lose this.

Q: There is a likelihood that children will leave and disenfranchise those pupils in the interim.

A: This is why it is important to move ahead positively.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

## **Wrockwardine Wood Arts College**

### **Building Schools for the Future Consultation on Secondary School Provision**

#### **Parents/Open Meeting – 6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

The meeting was attended by approximately 100 parents and members of the community, staff and governors, plus the Headteacher, John Jones.

In attendance representing Telford & Wrekin Council were:

- Andy Challenor, Community Engagement Manager (Chair)
- Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement
- Paul Watling, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager, Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning
- Steve Swain, School Organisation Admissions & Planning

The Head opened the meeting and the Chair explained the format of the meeting.

Jim Collins then began by setting out the background to BSF and Telford & Wrekin's inclusion in the programme. He presented the reasons for the consultation process, and showed a series of slides detailing the proposals now being consulted on.

The following questions and comments were raised during the meeting:

Q: Now that the leaving age is going up to 18, why is the new school planned only for 11-16?

A: It actually means that children must be in education or training up to the age of 18. In 2008, 67% of year 11 pupils were staying on beyond 16. By September 2011, that figure is already 91%. Therefore it is only necessary to provide for an additional 9% of the cohort. Therefore there is no identified need at every school in the Borough.

Q: Why has the proposed plan changed? And will it change again?

A: When Labour took power locally in May, they asked officers to revisit proposals. It wasn't possible to make an announcement until after the Secretary of State had given permission to pursue revised proposals.

Q: The area will be losing 2 schools and the intended 6<sup>th</sup> form. Isn't this unfair?

A: There is still to be a 6<sup>th</sup> form for the original proposed site at Priorslee. One of the drivers for revising plans was the need for removal of surplus places.

Q: Why is BRJ moving to Priorslee rather than Wrockwardine Wood? Why can't Sutherland merge with BRJ?

A: There is a need to make schools sustainable financially. It wasn't believed that closing any school was the best way forward. By moving BRJ to Priorslee, it releases land that can be sold to support the proposals.

Q: It is a bad idea to have pupils having to change schools at year 11 to access 6<sup>th</sup> form elsewhere. Won't BRJ pupils get priority for their 6<sup>th</sup> form places?

A: The admission arrangements for the 6<sup>th</sup> form cannot yet be determined. It will be for the governors to decide, but must operate within the terms of the Admissions Code of Practice.

Q: Mergers run the risk of losing good people. Wrockwardine Wood can't afford to lose good teachers if threatened with merger.

A: Don't want to lose any teachers, the proposed plan would need to be managed to ensure it capitalises on success.

Q: Will there be selection at the new school?

A: There will be no selective criteria in the new Co-operative approach. The Council wants to see principles and values across Telford & Wrekin to apply to all schools.

Q: Isn't it the case that a new 1050 place school will not be able to accommodate all the pupils?

A: It is projected that the school will be large enough for all those wishing to attend.

Q: Parents chose the school due to the excellent standard. How can it be ensured that these standards will remain?

A: Wrockwardine Wood has achieved very good results, and will again this year. However last year Sutherland also had the best results in the Borough for non-selective schools.

Q: What about pupils who will no longer be in the attendance area?

A: Pupils who are already in the schools will not have to change schools. It is expected that the sibling criteria for younger pupils transferring would remain in the admission criteria.

Comment: 70 to 80 pupils go to Idsall currently, this is why Telford & Wrekin Schools are undersubscribed. These would come back into the Authority if Wrockwardine Wood were going to Priorslee.

Q: The status of the new Priorslee school as a Christian Faith Academy does not meet some families needs as they don't want a faith school.

A: It is believed that it would be a popular choice for local people and those wanting a faith school. This has been successful elsewhere in the Country, Hope Academy in Liverpool being a prime example.

Q: It is not the building which educates pupils, it is the staff. Staff will be lost in the short term. Grades will be affected.

A: It is important to learn from mistakes that have been made in the past with merger. As soon as there is a decision made on these proposals, and if they are agreed, there will be a need to make staff feel secure and supported immediately so that plans can move forward.

Q: The proposals don't look after the needs of people in the North East of Telford. How come Charlton for instance isn't impacted by proposals?  
A: Sutherland and Wrockwardine Wood both have surplus places, as do a number of other schools. It is important that schools are sustainable. Charlton is currently oversubscribed.

Q: What if neither school wants to merge? Is it already decide that they will?  
A: No – Cabinet must make a decision in January taking into account views from across the Borough.

Q: As this is due to take place if agreed from September 2014, what if parents want a place at BRJ? Where do they apply?  
A: About 1 year before it would be clear whether the planned school was to open on time. Transportation would need to be considered if it were to face any delays. It would be much clearer nearer the time.

Q: The pupils shouldn't be made to feel miserable, which they did currently.  
A: We met with the Student Council earlier today, and Sutherland's on Monday. There were some positive points from both meetings. Cabinet will have to consider all the points made from across the Borough.

Q: New school won't be fit for purpose, it isn't big enough, there is no 6<sup>th</sup> form. The new Priorslee school will not be part of this local community.  
A: This isn't planned to be letting the community down – the 6<sup>th</sup> form for instance was always planned to be located at Priorslee.

Q: Students are going to feel uncomfortable moving into a school with hundreds of strangers.  
A: If the proposals get the go ahead, it will be important to ensure they are not strangers by the time the changes would go ahead. The schools would begin to work together long before any physical changes in 2014.

Q: Who would actually be in charge at a new Academy?  
A: There would be a new shadow Governing Body set up for the Academy who would run the school on behalf of the Academy Trust.

Q: When the schools came together this would likely prove to be disruptive, and would make things unstable.  
A: The example of the Hope Academy in Liverpool proved it could be otherwise – the two previous schools planned together to ensure it was a success.

Q: The risk was that parental perception would be lowering during the intervening years. The number of pupils would need to be kept up to ensure the budget was there to retain the best teachers.  
A: Agreed. This would need to happen. Surplus places is the main reason for lack of funding. It was important that plans are thought of positively.

Comment: Parents could contact their Local Councillors or MPs with their views also.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8pm, and it was reiterated that views could be made via the website at [www.telford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.telford.gov.uk/bsf) and by email or in writing before 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

**BSF Capital Programme summary comparison with new build Charlton**

	Projected Expenditure 2011/12	Projected Expenditure 2012/13	Projected Expenditure 2013/14	Projected Expenditure 2014/15	Projected Expenditure 2015/16	Projected Expenditure 2016/17	Projected Expenditure 2017/18	Projected Expenditure 2018/19	Total
<b><u>Latest Capital Programme to include Charlton new build</u></b>									
Prudential Borrowing	7,133	(513)	(3,113)	166	3,557	3,261	(345)	(5,350)	4,797
Gov Grant	25,288	31,248	46,598	19,090	7,327	3,865	640	1,659	135,715
External	768	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	768
Revenue	(333)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(333)
Capital Receipt	0	6,000	4,780	4,970	7,900	1,250	0	4,750	29,650
Borrowing Approval	1,268	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,268
<b>Sub-total BSF</b>	<b>34,124</b>	<b>36,736</b>	<b>48,266</b>	<b>24,226</b>	<b>18,784</b>	<b>8,376</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>171,865</b>
<b><u>Base model following consultation</u></b>									
Prudential Borrowing	6,138	3,955	(131)	1,399	(6,502)	6,307	(6,058)	(44)	5,064
Gov Grant	25,288	18,718	40,256	32,130	13,417	1,788	340	1,359	133,297
External	768	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	768
Revenue	(333)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(333)
Capital Receipt	0	2,300	7,750	5,470	7,900	1,250	6,000	0	30,670
Borrowing Approval	1,268	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,268
<b>Sub-total BSF</b>	<b>33,128</b>	<b>24,973</b>	<b>47,874</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>14,816</b>	<b>9,345</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>170,734</b>
<b><u>Variance</u></b>									
Prudential Borrowing	(995)	4,468	2,981	1,233	(10,059)	3,046	(5,713)	5,306	267
Gov Grant	0	(12,530)	(6,342)	13,041	6,090	(2,076)	(300)	(300)	(2,418)
External	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Receipt	0	(3,700)	2,970	500	0	0	6,000	(4,750)	1,020
Borrowing Approval	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total BSF</b>	<b>(995)</b>	<b>(11,762)</b>	<b>(391)</b>	<b>14,774</b>	<b>(3,969)</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>(1,131)</b>

Note - it can be expected that for every £100k borrowed to fund BSF capital expenditure, there will be a £7k per annum charge to the revenue budget for associated borrowing costs i.e. Interest and repayment

## Cost of borrowing calculation

	Projected Expenditure 2011/12	Projected Expenditure 2012/13	Projected Expenditure 2013/14	Projected Expenditure 2014/15	Projected Expenditure 2015/16	Projected Expenditure 2016/17	Projected Expenditure 2017/18	Projected Expenditure 2018/19	Total
<b>Current Programme</b>									
Interest @ revised rates	178.3	103.1	88.6	107.7	245.4	398.8	464.4	336.2	1,922.6
mrp/principal - over 60 yrs*	0.0	118.9	110.3	58.5	61.2	120.5	174.9	169.1	813.4
<b>Total cost of short term borrowing</b>	<b>178.3</b>	<b>222.0</b>	<b>199.0</b>	<b>166.2</b>	<b>306.6</b>	<b>519.3</b>	<b>639.3</b>	<b>505.4</b>	<b>2,736.0</b>
<b>Updated programme</b>									
Interest @ revised rates	153.4	121.7	175.5	319.8	364.9	360.6	366.2	228.9	2,091.0
mrp/principal - over 60 yrs*	0.0	102.3	168.2	166.0	189.3	81.0	186.1	85.1	978.1
<b>Total cost of short term borrowing</b>	<b>153.4</b>	<b>224.0</b>	<b>343.7</b>	<b>485.9</b>	<b>554.3</b>	<b>441.5</b>	<b>552.3</b>	<b>314.0</b>	<b>3,069.1</b>
<b>Variance</b>									
interest	(24.9)	18.6	86.9	212.1	119.6	(38.2)	(98.2)	(107.4)	168.5
mrp/principal	0.0	(16.6)	57.9	107.6	128.1	(39.5)	11.2	(84.0)	164.7
<b>Total cost of short term borrowing</b>	<b>(24.9)</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>144.7</b>	<b>319.7</b>	<b>247.7</b>	<b>(77.7)</b>	<b>(87.0)</b>	<b>(191.4)</b>	<b>333.2</b>

**Appendix C**

## CALL-IN MEETING GUIDANCE

- It is acceptable for members\* to ask questions of anyone sitting at the table in the call-in meeting.
- Scrutiny Services will liaise with the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board to determine whether a site visit should be organised prior to the call-in meeting taking place.
- Both sides of the call-in are requested to produce basic information that can be given to members at the call-in meeting to help come to an informed decision.

This should include:

- one side of an A4 sheet of paper, setting out the main points of their argument which will be distributed to each member of the Scrutiny Management Board to use during the meeting;
  - any background information that supports these arguments should be produced; this could include budgetary information, statistical information, maps, consultation results or a summary of changes in legislation.
- The Legal officer will brief all those present at the meeting on the call-in process in public at the beginning of the meeting.
  - Any Scrutiny Management Board members arriving at the meeting after the first presentation by the member representing the call in may take part in the debate but will not be allowed to take part in the voting process. This should be made clear on the agenda for the meeting.
  - The Cabinet Member, call-in members and supporters should move from the table once their summing up have been completed and all questions have been asked by the Scrutiny Management Board members. Members will then sum up their views based on the evidence they have heard. Only points of clarification will be asked during this part of the meeting.
  - Regardless of whether the call-in is supported or not, the scrutiny members hearing the call-in will be able to pass comments to the Cabinet on the call-in issue. The Chairman will sum up and clarify any points which members wish to pass to Cabinet. These will be reported to the Cabinet by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board

\* Members of the Scrutiny Committee considering the call-in.

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Time limit</b>
Apologies	Chairman	
Declarations of interest and party whip	Chairman	
Welcome : including explanation of procedure to be followed	Chairman / Officer	
Explanation of reasons for the call-in and justification for proposal set out on the call-in form  A4 sheet summarising argument will be distributed together with supporting documentation	Lead call-in member and any other persons that they wish to involve	30 minutes
Explanation of decision taken and views on alternative proposal.  A4 sheet summarising argument will be distributed	Relevant Cabinet member and officer (if a cabinet decision) or relevant officer (if decision was delegated to an officer) and any other persons that they wish to involve.	30 minutes
Questioning of call-in representatives and decision taker and supporters and consideration of any photographs, plans etc that illustrate the issue under discussion.	Scrutiny Management Board Members	Unlimited
Summing-up	Lead call-in member	5 Minutes
Summing-up	Decision taker	5 Minutes
Discussion and voting on the proposal on the call-in form	Scrutiny Management Board Members	Unlimited
Sum up and clarify any points which members wish to pass to the Cabinet. These will be reported to the Cabinet by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board.	Chairman	Unlimited