

Wigan schools for the future



Our vision for education in Wigan

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it”.

Marian Wright Edelman

Wigan Schools for the Future	Page 2
Foreword by Councillor Susan Loudon	4
Introduction - How this document is organised	5
Building schools for the future	6
Our vision	7
Current secondary education in Wigan	8
Making the vision a reality	10
Our vision for education in Wigan - Questionnaire	17
Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton & Golborne High Schools	21
Consultation response form	29
Proposal for future education provision in Lowton & Golborne: Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools	31
Consultation response form	37
Proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School following the rebuild of the school	39
Consultation response form	43
Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and extend Westleigh High School	45
Consultation response form	51
Competition process	53
Circulation list	54

Consultation on our vision for education in Wigan and school reorganisation proposals in Atherton, Golborne, Lowton, Westleigh and Hindley



Wigan Schools for the Future

Wigan Council is embarking on the first stage of consultation on its ambitious schools for the future project that will see £257m invested in transforming secondary schools across the borough.

This consultation document aims to seek your views on the project proposals as they currently stand.

In the main the programme is about investing funds in new buildings and resources but backed up with defined objectives to transform learning.

This booklet:

- outlines what the council is trying to achieve as a result of this once in a lifetime transformation;
- outlines proposals planned for phase one of the project; and
- gives you the opportunity to have your say with a questionnaire you are being asked to return.

What is Building Schools for the Future?

Building Schools for the Future - or BSF - is a government funded initiative that aims to transform every secondary school in the country.

A number of boroughs have already seen their schools transformed in this way and the very first “schools for the future” are already opened - some in the North West.

Here in Wigan the objective of our schools for the future programme is to raise standards and transform learning by:

- expanding the use of school premises to provide better facilities for all the community - not just young people - by locating other community facilities in the same premises;
- providing modern and better designed premises that are able to provide learners with a wide range of academic and work-focused courses, not just GCSEs;
- providing extra facilities on site for younger children's education, young people and families; and
- ensuring that the latest technology - for example interactive white boards and computers - is available for all learners.

School admission arrangements

Wigan Schools for the Future will place schools at the heart of local communities and give parents and pupils greater reassurance over the admissions policies by seeking to define catchment areas for each school.

So what does this mean in practice?

The project will be delivered in a number of phases due to the sheer volume of work needed to transform the 20 secondary schools in our borough.

Phase one

As part of phase one, the proposals - which will be subject to more detailed consultation over the coming year - are:

Westleigh, Hindley and Hesketh Fletcher

- Develop Westleigh and Hindley High Schools so that they can raise their admission numbers to 250 and 225 respectively.
- Discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE which has had falling pupil numbers over the years.
- If the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE goes ahead then the site may be used to develop one of two 14 - 19 centres for the borough.
- School places will be provided for Atherton residents at Westleigh, Fred Longworth and Bedford High schools.
- The changes are planned, subject to the outcome of consultation, from 2012.

Lowton and Golborne

- Provide a brand new learning campus to serve both communities.
- The learning campus would have a new secondary school that would replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools and a new primary school that would replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools.
- The changes are planned, subject to the outcome of consultation, from 2011, with the learning campus being ready from September 2012.

This executive summary aims to give you a flavour of the proposals we are consulting on at this stage of the Schools for the Future project. Further details are included in this booklet.

Your opportunity to comment

There are questionnaires in the document for you to send your comments to us.

Further more detailed consultations and roadshows for parents, carers, learners and local communities will be held as the project continues.

The Council's website www.wigan.gov.uk will be updated regularly with more details and contact information.

Foreword

When we first have children we make plans. Well before they are born we start to plan which playgroup; which nursery; which school; or even which university. We start with a vision and make plans on how we are going to get there.

We all want the best for our children and Wigan Council is committed to providing all children and young people who live in this Borough with the best start in life, the best education and the very best opportunities for the future. We want them to be able to shape their own future. We want them to be part of a prosperous and inclusive society where they will flourish.

This document is the Council's plan for our children and our children's children; it describes where we want to be and how we are going to get there. The Building Schools for the Future Programme will turn our plans into a reality.

Our vision is to transform learning and to give current and future generations opportunities beyond their dreams. We want all the people who live, learn and work within your area to have improved life chances. We also want every child and young person to be offered high quality education in learning centres that are both safe, inspiring and offer a wide range of learning pathways towards their chosen careers. We also think it is important to ensure that the community benefits from this plan by offering a wide range of facilities and learning experiences.

The Council has worked closely with the schools and its partners to develop the plan. It is bold and challenging but achievable. It will, when implemented, raise standards of achievement, aspirations and attainment for all. We envisage our learning centres will be fully inclusive and will contribute towards community regeneration and cohesion.

In order to achieve this vision and the long term benefits, radical changes will need to be made and sometimes change can cause unrest and uncertainty. However we have a great deal of experience in managing change and we will invest time and effort to ensure that there is a smooth transition for those most affected.

This document contains a lot of important information and I hope you can find time to read it. This is your opportunity to tell us what your aspirations are for your children, and it is an opportunity for you to comment on our idea.



Councillor Susan Loudon
Cabinet Champion for Children and Young People

How this document is organised

This document has two main parts:

1 The first part has plain white pages and provides an overview of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme; the vision for future education in Wigan; where we are now and the steps that need to be taken to turn the vision into a reality. Throughout part 1 there are questions for you to consider. At the end of part 1 there is a questionnaire for you to use to send in your comments and further details of how you can tell us what you think.

2 The second part has colour coded pages that relate to consultation on particular school reorganisation proposals. It contains specific stage 1 consultation on those school reorganisation proposals in the first phase of Wigan's BSF programme. These are listed below and will be of particular interest to learners, parents, staff and governors of the schools concerned:

- proposals to provide a new secondary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools at the end of the 2010/11 academic year
- proposals to provide a new primary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and discontinue Lowton J + I and Gilded Hollins Primary at the end of the 2010/11 academic year
- a proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School from the start of the 2012/13 academic year following a rebuild of the school
- proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School at the end of the 2011/12 academic year and extend Westleigh High School, so that it has increased capacity, from the start of the 2012/13 academic year

At the end of each colour coded section there is a questionnaire for you to use to send in your comments and further details of how to make your views known.



Building schools for the future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest and most ambitious capital investment programme in secondary education that there has ever been. The aim of the programme is to ensure that every secondary school across the country has facilities appropriate for 21st century learning and teaching thus delivering a transformational impact on educational standards. This is costing between 3 and 4 billion pounds a year over fifteen years. The national programme was launched in 2004 and the performance of learners at the new schools is already improving.

However, the programme is about far more than bricks and mortar. BSF will only be transformational if it is linked to other initiatives. It provides an opportunity to:

- place schools at the heart of their communities, providing easy access for all learners and offering activities and facilities appropriate to all of the community's needs;
- reshape the delivery of the curriculum for 14 to 19 year olds, providing access to a wide range of academic and work based learning courses and preparing learners for the world of work or higher education;
- ensure secondary schools have appropriate community facilities and other educational provision, delivering seamless provision for children, young people and their

families; and

- transform the way that teachers teach and learners learn, by using the full range of information communication technology to deliver learning appropriate to the needs, interests and aptitudes of every learner.

Question 1: Should we use Building Schools for the Future to transform schools and communities in the way described?



Our vision has been developed through a series of consultations with children and young people; headteachers; school governors; Church authorities; further education colleges; local politicians and wider community groups.

Our vision is to provide a world class education for all the children and young people of the borough. In doing so, our aim is that all children and young people of the borough will be:

- Happy, safe and healthy;
- Respected by, and respecting of, others;
- Committed to learning;
- Encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability;
- Actively taking part in, and enjoying, education, training or employment; and
- Making a positive contribution to their communities.

To achieve our vision, we must ensure that we have the best possible leaders, managers and workforce in our schools to deliver a curriculum that engages and challenges learners. We need to invest in technology and buildings so that they stimulate learning and provide exciting and innovative opportunities for all learners, including those with additional needs. We must raise every learner's aspirations and prepare

them to take an active and fulfilling part in the labour market of the future. We need to increase the range of, and access to, learning opportunities for young people aged 16 and over and create life long learning opportunities for all.

To do this, our schools, further education colleges and training providers will work together to transform learning and teaching by providing a top class education for all children and young people.

We want our secondary schools to be strong and thriving and at the heart of communities, located together with services that are appropriate to the needs of each community and providing a range of facilities to benefit everyone.

Through our schools, we aim to break down social and economic barriers, by making them inclusive of all abilities, needs and backgrounds.

Question 2: Does our vision fully describe what we need to achieve?

Question 3: Should schools work together in order to turn our vision into a reality?

Current secondary education in Wigan

Educational standards

The percentage of 16 year olds gaining 5 A* - C grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics in Wigan schools is slightly below the national average. In 2007/08, the figure was 45.6%, compared to 47.2% nationally, though there is a significant variation in individual school performance across the borough with some schools performing well above the Wigan and national averages and others where results are below average.

Numbers, types and locations of schools and pupil numbers

Wigan currently maintains 20 secondary schools; 4 are Catholic; 2 are Church of England and the remainder are non-denominational. There are a range of governance arrangements in place, though the majority of non-denominational schools are community schools. This means that the Local Authority owns their land and buildings, is the employer of staff and is the admission authority. In addition, there are four secondary special schools that cater for young people with a range of needs.

The geographical location of secondary provision is not ideal and does not always reflect current communities. For instance, there are parts of the borough that have a high

concentration of secondary schools and others that have none. Where there is no provision, children and young people can be disadvantaged by the current admissions system.

There are just over 19,000 11 - 16 learners in Wigan schools, with a further 500 plus in school sixth forms. School sizes vary enormously from around 440 to 1,700 learners. It is recognised that secondary schools with less than 600 pupils on roll experience difficulties in attracting and retaining the quantity and quality of staff to provide learners with a high quality and wide ranging curriculum.

Future student numbers

It is predicted that the number of 11 - 16 year old students will fall from 19,010 in 2008/09 to 17,349 in 2014/15, and then rise to 18,163 by 2018/19, the latest year available. However, the fall in student numbers is predicted to affect some schools far more seriously than other schools, leaving them with surplus places and the danger of not being viable in the future.

Further education provision

There are three further education colleges in Wigan and two school sixth forms. Special secondary schools have their own post 16 facilities. The geographical spread of the further

education provision is uneven and a large portion of the academic provision is located at the western edge of the borough. This causes long and difficult journeys for large numbers of learners who travel either across or out of the borough to access education. 7% of young people living in the borough aged 16 - 19 are not in education, employment or training.

Issues that need to be addressed

We need to:

- raise standards of attainment and target those schools and parts of the borough where attainment is below average;
- increase the choice of different types of schools available to learners by encouraging new governance arrangements and encouraging schools to further develop a distinctive character based on ethos, specialism and/or faith;
- reorganise provision so that schools are economically and educationally viable;
- locate schools so that they are associated with defined communities, providing a degree of certainty for parents over admissions; and

- reshape 14 - 19 provision by providing a wide curriculum offer that includes all 17 14 - 19 diploma lines; provides easier access to courses for learners; and increase learner engagement post 16.

Question 4: Have we considered all issues that you feel need to be addressed as part of the reorganisation? If not, please explain what you think we have missed out.



Making the vision a reality

Re-shaping provision

We will need to alter the number, location and size of schools if we are to place schools at the heart of communities. The capital investment coming into the borough, through the Building Schools for the Future programme, will enable us to do this as well as rebuilding or remodelling all schools.

Within each community, we aim to provide the right number of school places for those living in the community. In some areas, where there are too many school places, we will be proposing a range of options to remove them as follows:

- Opening one new school on a new site to replace two schools that serve the same or adjacent communities;
- Enlarging some schools to take pupils from neighbouring schools that might need to be reorganised.

By taking this action, we aim to increase community cohesion by giving communities an associated secondary school that can provide local services that are needed and wanted. We also aim to minimise travel for learners and provide an element of assurance to parents around admission arrangements.

The map on the following page shows the proposals for future school places across the borough.

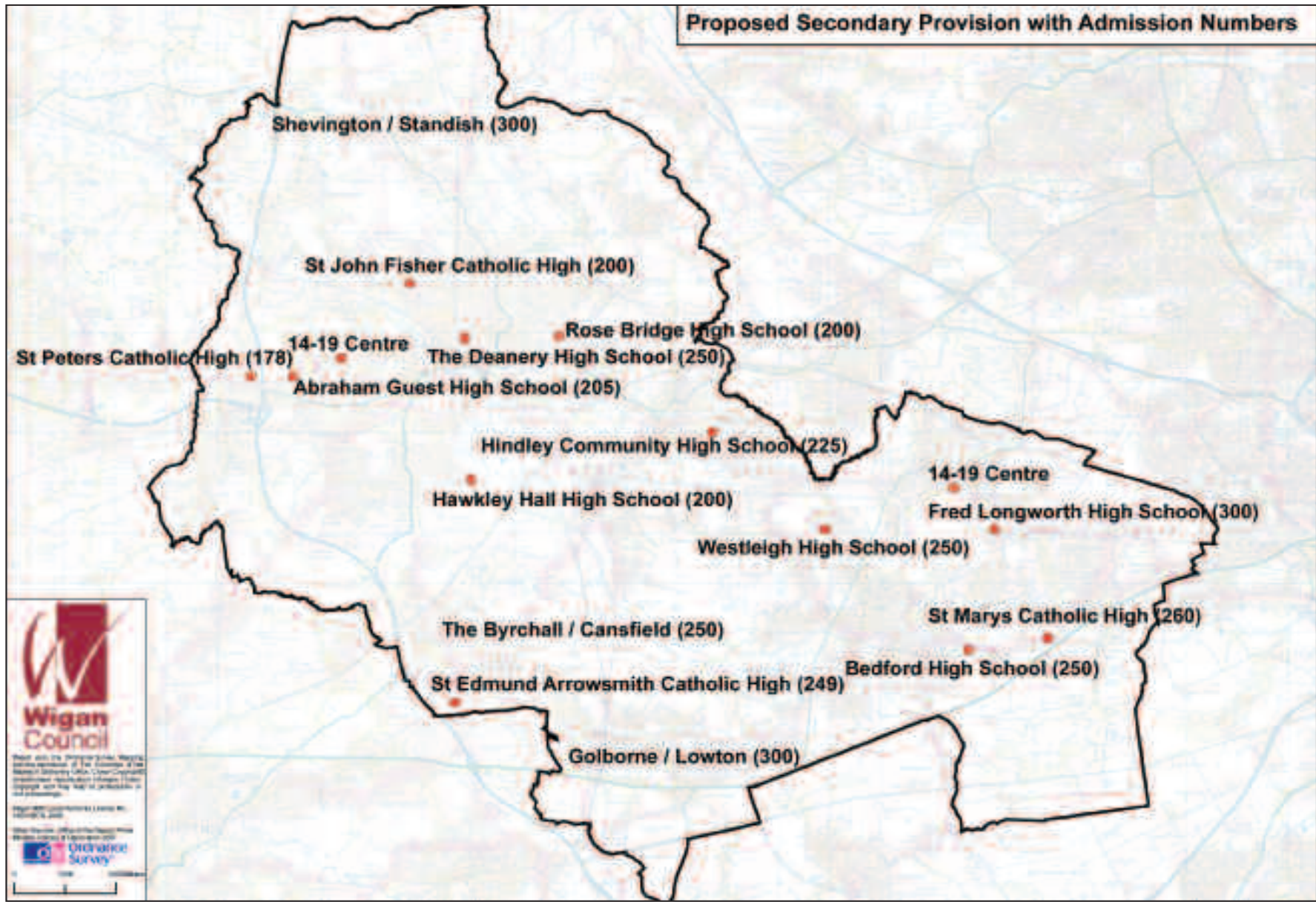
In summary the proposals are:

- Build one new school to replace Golborne and Lowton High Schools
- Replace Hesketh Fletcher CE High School in Atherton with a 14 - 19 Centre
- Create a 14 - 19 Centre on the PEMBEC site
- Build one new school to replace Shevington and Standish High Schools
- Build one new school to replace Cansfield and The Byrchall High Schools

All secondary schools that are not involved in Phase 1 will be rebuilt or modernised on the current sites and some will alter in size. **We will consult separately on those proposals not included in phase 1 of the programme at a later date.**

It is not intended to alter the provision of most faith schools in the borough as their admission arrangements are based mainly on faith grounds and reflect demand for places in the communities they serve. However, faith schools will be part of the Building Schools for the Future programme and will receive investment alongside other schools.

Question 5: What are your views on our proposals to change the schools in the way shown on the map?



Admission arrangements

As the Building Schools for the Future programme moves forward, and individual projects are consulted on, agreed and implemented, it is envisaged that the non-denominational schools will alter their admission arrangements in order to reflect the communities they serve. Areas of the borough will be associated with individual schools so that people living in these areas are prioritised for admission. Of course, parents will still be able to express a preference for any school, as they can now. It just means that they will have a better chance of getting a place at the school associated with their catchment area, if it is requested, than other people who live outside of the catchment area, unless they already have a brother or sister attending the school.

If schools do not have catchment areas, it can mean that people in parts of the borough where there are fewer secondary schools are disadvantaged. As the number of admission places would be closely matched to the local population, with few spare places, it would be especially important for geographical areas to be associated with non-denominational secondary schools.

Admission criteria for Catholic and Church of England schools are a matter for the individual governing bodies. They traditionally serve much wider areas than their immediate

communities because of the faith based nature of their admissions.

Question 6: Do you agree that local children should have priority for a place at a local school?

Question 7: Do you think admission arrangements would be easier to understand if each non-denominational school had a defined catchment area?

14-19 Centres

In order to ensure that young people in Wigan have access to the broadest possible opportunities we are proposing to establish two 14 - 19 Centres.

Diplomas

From 2008, the Government has introduced Diplomas into the curriculum for learners aged 14 and over. The Diplomas have the same status and recognition as GCSEs but offer applied learning qualifications that are attractive to learners wanting to enter a particular career.

The Diplomas require specialised spaces, equipment and

teaching resources. For this reason, no individual secondary school is able to offer and maintain all 17 Diplomas. The Diploma requires Partnership Delivery with schools, colleges and training providers working together to ensure full coverage across the borough.

Learners in Year 10 and 11 who choose to take a Diploma will do so normally for the equivalent of two days per week, with the rest of the week spent on core national curriculum subjects such as English and maths GCSEs. In Y12 and above, Diploma courses tend to be full time.

For more information on Diplomas, visit <http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/>.

Post 16 provision

We need to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, have access to high quality post 16 education without having to travel long distances. We also need to ensure that all young people continue with learning once they have left school, be it academic in the form of 'A' levels, applied or work based learning, such as diplomas, NVQs or apprenticeships.

Proposal

It is intended to establish two 14 - 19 Centres:

- one in the West of the Borough on the site of PEMBEC; and
- one in the East of the Borough on the site of Hesketh Fletcher CE.

The Local Authority will work with the centres, schools, colleges and training providers to establish flexible staffing arrangements to deliver the courses by using appropriately qualified and experienced staff.

It is expected that a range of travel options will be available for learners to the centres, including transport from school to the centres for those aged 14 - 16 and independent travel on public transport.

Full consultation on this proposal will be undertaken at a later date, which will include what it means for your child.

Question 8: What are your views on our proposal to establish two 14-19 Centres to deliver Diplomas and post-16 courses?

School governance arrangements

We are aiming for schools to:

- further develop their own distinctive characters to increase choice and diversity for parents;
- take shared responsibility for all Wigan’s secondary learners;
- play an integral part in the delivery of courses from the 14 - 19 Centres and be part of the system for ensuring that provision is of a high quality and appropriate to the needs of the learners;
- work with health professionals, the police, further and higher education colleges, training providers and other agencies on a regular basis to provide a whole package of services for their learners.

To achieve the aims of establishing two 14-19 centres, it is proposed that area based Trusts will be created, one in the East and one in the West. The Trusts will be owned by all the schools in the area to ensure young people have access to high quality 14-19 provision.

To be members of the Trusts, current community schools would need to re-designate to become foundation schools.

Foundation schools are still maintained by the Local Authority but employ their own staff and set their own admission arrangements. They must act within admissions law and the

Local Authority ensures that admission arrangements do not disadvantage any section or area of the community.

It is a matter for the governing body of each individual community secondary school (including secondary special schools) to decide whether it wishes to re-designate as a foundation school, and thus take advantage of the opportunities outlined above. They will need to consult separately with parents of children currently attending their school, as well as other parties. Some schools have already begun this process and it is envisaged that others will do so shortly.

Voluntary Aided Catholic and Church of England schools cannot re-designate in the same way as community schools because of the way they are set up, although they can still be partners of the area based Trust arrangements to deliver benefits to learners and derive the same benefits for the schools as outlined above.

Question 9: What do you think about the idea of the two area based trusts?

Question 10: What are your views on community schools becoming foundation schools?

Phasing of projects and consultation arrangements

Building Schools for the Future is a huge transformational programme that can only be delivered in phases. In Wigan, we will need to progress the changes in three phases according to urgency of need around learner numbers and the amount of capital funding available related to the cost of each project.

The proposals and projects in the first phase are listed below. Some require full consultation and the details of these proposals are contained in the colour coded pages that follow this section. The law does not require consultation on other projects but we would still like to hear your views on them.

School reorganisation proposals that need statutory consultation:

Proposals to provide a new secondary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools at the end of the 2010/11 academic year;

Proposals to provide a new primary school in Lowton at the start of the 2011/12 academic year and to discontinue Lowton J + I and Gilded Hollins Primary at the end of the 2010/11 academic year;

A proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School from 187 to 225 at the start of the 2012/13 academic year, following a rebuild of the school;

Proposals to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School at the end of the 2011/12 academic year and extend Westleigh High School from the start of the 2012/13 academic year; and

Proposals to establish the two 14 - 19 Centres - to be consulted on after the formation of the area based Trusts.

Other phase 1 project:

A partial rebuild and remodelling of Bedford High School and slight increase in its admission number from 242 to 250.

All those with an interest in the schools concerned will continue to be consulted, as the projects move forward and there will be opportunities to become involved in the design and build and consultation around co-located services at a later date.

Note: There are more questions on the individual proposals in the colour coded sections of this document.

Question 11: Overall, do you think that our proposals will help to develop secondary education to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century?





Questionnaire

Please tell us your views by ticking one box for each question below. You can explain your views or give us additional comments by using the space provided below each question.

Remember, your views are important and the Council will not make a decision until it has carefully considered them.

Question 1: Should we use Building Schools for the Future to transform schools and communities in the way described?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Our vision for education in Wigan

Question 2: Does our vision fully describe what we need to achieve?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 3: Should schools work together in order to turn our vision into a reality?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 4: Have we considered all issues that you feel need to be addressed as part of the reorganisation? If not, please explain what you think we have missed out.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 5: What are your views on our proposals to change the schools in the way shown on the map?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 6: Do you agree that local children should have priority for a place at a local school?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 7: Do you think that admission arrangements would be easier to understand if each non-denominational school had a defined catchment area?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____



Question 8: What are your views on our proposal to establish two 14-19 Centres to deliver Diplomas and post-16 courses?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 9: What do you think about the idea of the two area based trusts?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 10: What are your views on community schools becoming foundation schools?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Question 11: Overall, do you think that our proposals will help to develop secondary education to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments _____

Please return your completed form no later than
Friday 26 June 2009 to:

Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH



Proposal for future
education provision in
Lowton and Golborne:
Lowton and Golborne
High Schools



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.

Through the Building Schools for the Future programme we have an exciting opportunity to transform education provision for the Lowton and Golborne communities.

Our proposal is to build a brand new, state of the art, learning campus for those aged between 0 - 16. The learning campus will ease transition from early years, to primary and through to secondary school and will be a focal point for the community with extended services and additional facilities. It will consist of:

- a new secondary school that will cater for students aged 11 - 16;
- a new primary school for children aged 4 - 11;
- a Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0 - 4; and
- community and leisure.

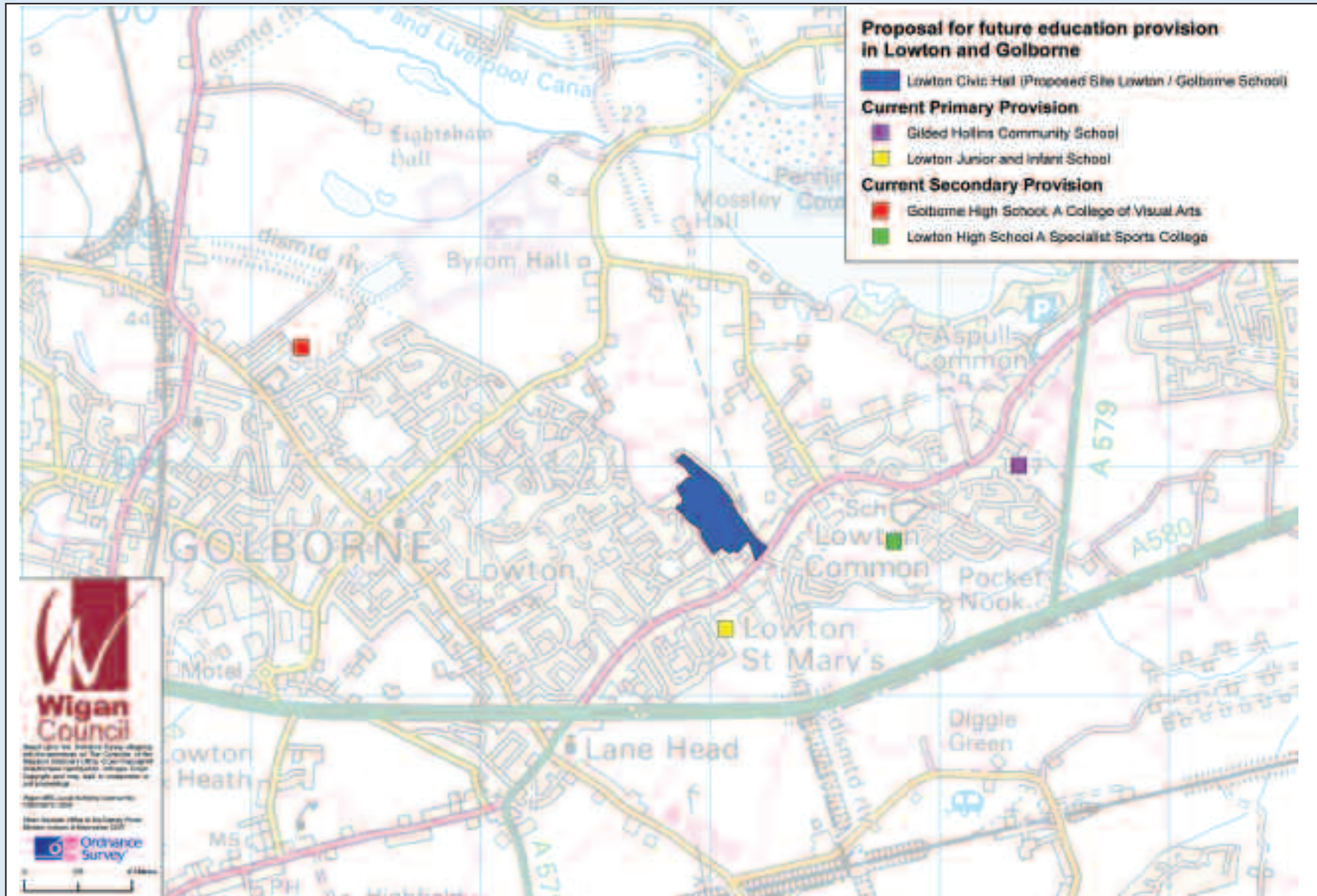
To do this we will need to:

- discontinue both Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school; and

- discontinue both Lowton J + I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools and replace them with a new primary school on the site of the new secondary school.

Whilst the proposals form part of a package for the communities of Lowton and Golborne, we need to consult separately on the proposals for the new secondary school and new primary school. This is because, in law, they are two separate proposals and one is not dependent on the other. However, if the proposals for the new secondary school do not go ahead, it is unlikely that we will proceed with the new primary school.

The new learning campus will be at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. The map on page 23 shows the location of the site and the four existing schools.



Proposal to discontinue Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school to serve both areas

At the end of the 2010/11 academic year, it is proposed that the current Lowton and Golborne High schools will be discontinued and one school, with one budget, staffing structure and governing body will be established from September 2011.

It is proposed that the new secondary school will cater for up to 1,500 students aged 11 - 16 and will admit up to 300 students per year. The new school will use the current sites of Lowton and Golborne High Schools for one year only. The newly built school at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. (see map on page 23) will be available from September 2012. This phased approach will enable a smoother transition toward the new arrangements for students and the schools.

The new school is subject to competition requirements which means that the Local Authority has to hold a competition to decide who will run the school. This is explained in more detail on page 53.

Reasons for the proposal

The creation of one school for both communities will aid community cohesion and will bring all the additional benefits of a 0 - 16 learning campus with additional facilities as outlined on page 22.

In developing this plan, the following issues have been taken into account:

- An assessment of the premises of both Lowton and Golborne High Schools has concluded that it is not viable to remodel or improve them. They would need to be rebuilt in order to deliver the modern curriculum in a high quality environment.
- There are only enough children living in the Lowton, Golborne and Abram areas to support one secondary school with a long term future. If two smaller schools are maintained they may not have sufficient student numbers in the longer term to have a robust and flexible budget, creating difficulties in the delivery of a wide ranging curriculum. The Government will only give councils money to build schools that have a long term future.
- Educational standards are not an issue at either school, though a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both. If the school is co-located with a primary school it would help children in their move to the new secondary school and the usual drop in standards at Year 7 would be minimised.

As part of the proposals, we aim to work with representatives from the Golborne community to see if we can keep some community facilities on the Golborne High site.

What this means for you/your child

If your child currently attends either Lowton or Golborne High schools, and the proposals are approved, the following will happen:

Early in 2011, students currently in Y7 and Y8 will be offered a place at the new school to start in September 2011. All of the students will be guaranteed a place at the new school but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places cannot be guaranteed at alternative schools, nor can they be held open until September 2011, but places will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

Depending on how the new school decides to organise its classes, students currently in Y8 may be able to remain in the current school premises as the new school will not be built until September 2012.

Students currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be unaffected by the proposal and will be able to remain on roll at their current school until they leave at the end of Y11.

Future admissions

The admission criteria for the new school, which will apply to children entering Y7 from 2011 onwards, will prioritise those living in the Lowton, Golborne and Abram areas, after children in public care and brothers and sisters of those already attending the school.

How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 4 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Golborne High School Address: Lowton Road, Golborne WA3 3EL</p> <p>Date: 21 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Lowton High School Address: Newton Road, Lowton WA3 1DU</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of students and students attending, or about to attend, Golborne High School and Lowton High School.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 14 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm Venue: Golborne High School</p> <p>Date 13 May 2009: Time: 4.00pm Venue: Lowton High School</p>	<p>All staff of Golborne High.</p> <p>All staff of Lowton High.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 14 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Golborne High School</p> <p>Date: 13 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Lowton High School</p>	<p>All governors of Golborne High.</p> <p>All governors of Lowton High.</p>

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of the section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p>Consultation - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken) • Writing to or emailing the Council or • Completing the response form at the end of this section. <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide	July 2009

continued...

whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	
<p>Representation period - Statutory notices are published to discontinue the current schools and open the new one. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known again during this period.</p>	Six weeks during January and February 2010.
The local authority or School Adjudicator makes the final decision on the proposals*	March 2010

* The School Adjudicator will make the final decision if the Local Authority decides to enter the competition for the new school.

The competition to run the new school runs in parallel with the consultation process.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Lowton and Golborne High Schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.





Consultation response form on the provision of a new secondary school for Lowton and Golborne

Response form

Please **read the booklet carefully** before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools with a new secondary school?

Yes No Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes No

3 Do you think that a new secondary school in Lowton should be opened to replace the current Lowton and Golborne High Schools?

Yes No

4 If you think that a new secondary school should **NOT** be opened to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools, please state below why you think this.

5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes No

Interpreter Yes No

If you answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Lowton High
Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at Golborne High
Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at another school
Please state which school _____

A member of staff at Lowton High

A member of staff at Golborne High

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school _____

A governor at Lowton High

A governor at Golborne High

A governor at another school

Please state which school _____

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**
to:

Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH

Proposal for future
education provision in
Lowton and Golborne:
Lowton J & I and Leigh
Gilded Hollins Primary
Schools



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.

Through the Building Schools for the Future programme we have an exciting opportunity to transform education provision for the Lowton and Golborne communities.

Our proposal is to build a brand new, state of the art, learning campus for those aged between 0 - 16. The learning campus will ease transition from early years, to primary and through to secondary school and will be a focal point for the community with extended services and additional facilities. It will consist of:

- a new secondary school that will cater for students aged 11 - 16;
- a new primary school for children aged 4 - 11;
- a Children's Centre for babies and children aged 0 - 4; and
- community and leisure facilities.

To do this we will need to:

- discontinue both Lowton and Golborne High Schools and replace them with a new secondary school; and

- discontinue both Lowton J + I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools and replace them with a new primary school on the site of the new secondary school.

Whilst the proposals form part of a package for the communities of Lowton and Golborne, we need to consult separately on the proposals for the new secondary school and new primary school. This is because, in law, they are two separate proposals and one is not dependent on the other. However, if the proposals for the new secondary school do not go ahead, it is unlikely that we will proceed with the new primary school.

The new learning campus will be at Lowton Civic Hall.

Address: Hesketh Meadow Lane Lowton Wigan WA3 2AJ.

The map on page 23 shows the location of the site and the four existing schools.

Proposal to discontinue Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools and replace them with a new primary school

At the end of the 2010/11 academic year, it is proposed that the current Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools will be discontinued and one school, with one budget, staffing structure and governing body will be established from September 2011.

It is proposed that the new primary school will cater for up to 315 pupils aged 4 - 11 and will admit up to 45 pupils per year. The new school will use the current sites of Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools for one year only. The newly built primary school to be built alongside the new secondary school to replace Lowton and Golborne High Schools will be built at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, Wigan, WA3 2AJ. (see map on page 23) and will be available from September 2012. This phased approach will enable a smoother transition toward the new arrangements for pupils and the schools.

The new school is subject to competition requirements which means that the Local Authority has to hold a competition to decide who will run the school. This is explained in more detail on page 53.

Reasons for the proposal

The creation of one school for both communities will aid community cohesion and will bring all the additional benefits

of a 0 - 16 learning campus with additional facilities as outlined above.

In developing this plan, the following issues have been taken into account:

- Lowton J & I is a very small school with 118 pupils on roll at January 2009. The policy of the Local Authority is to have primary schools with at least 210 pupils on roll (30 children in 7 year groups) wherever this is possible. This is because schools of this size have more flexibility and economies of scale within their budgets.
- The building occupied by Leigh Gilded Hollins hinders the delivery of the modern curriculum and its internal layout makes remodelling costly, ineffective and disruptive to pupils' education.
- Educational standards are not an issue at either school, though a new school brought about by combining the expertise of staff from two schools could take strengths and good practices from both.

What this means for you/your child

If your child currently attends either Lowton J & I or Leigh Gilded Hollins primary schools, and the proposals are approved, the following will happen:

Early in 2011, children currently in Reception, Y1, Y2, and Y3 will be offered a place at the new school to start in September 2011. All of the children will be guaranteed a place but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places are not guaranteed at alternative schools but places will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

In Reception, Y1 and Y2, classes must, by law, have no more than 30 children in them. The school will be designed so that the older year groups can also be organised into similar sized classes.

Children currently in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be unaffected by the proposal and will be able to remain on roll at their current school until they leave at the end of Year 6.



How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 2 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School Address: St Helens Road, Leigh WN7 3PQ</p> <p>Date: 3 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Lowton J & I Address: Newton Road, Lowton WA3 1EW</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils and pupils attending, or about to attend, Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School and Lowton J & I.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 19 May 2009 Time: 4.00pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School</p> <p>Date 18 May 2009: Time: 4.00pm Venue: Lowton J & I</p>	<p>All staff of Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School.</p> <p>All staff of Lowton J & I.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 19 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School</p> <p>Date: 18 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Lowton J & I</p>	<p>All governors of Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary School.</p> <p>All governors of Lowton J & I.</p>

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p>Consultation - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken) • Writing to or emailing the Council or • Completing the response form at the end of this section. <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide	July 2009

continued...

whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	
<p>Representation period - Statutory notices are published to discontinue the current schools and open the new one. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known again during this period.</p>	Six weeks during January and February 2010.
The local authority or School Adjudicator makes the final decision on the proposals*	March 2010

* The School Adjudicator will make the final decision if the Local Authority decides to enter the competition for the new school. The competition to run the new school runs in parallel with the consultation process.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Schools will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.



Consultation response form on the provision of a new primary school for Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools

Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools with a new primary school?

Yes No Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes No

3 Do you think that a new primary school in Lowton should be opened to replace the current Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools?

Yes No

4 If you think that a new primary school should **NOT** be opened to replace Lowton J & I and Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary Schools, please state below why you think this:

5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes No

Interpreter Yes No

If your answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Lowton J & I

Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school _____

A member of staff at Lowton J & I

A member of staff at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school _____

A governor at Lowton J & I

A governor at Leigh Gilded Hollins Primary

A governor at another school

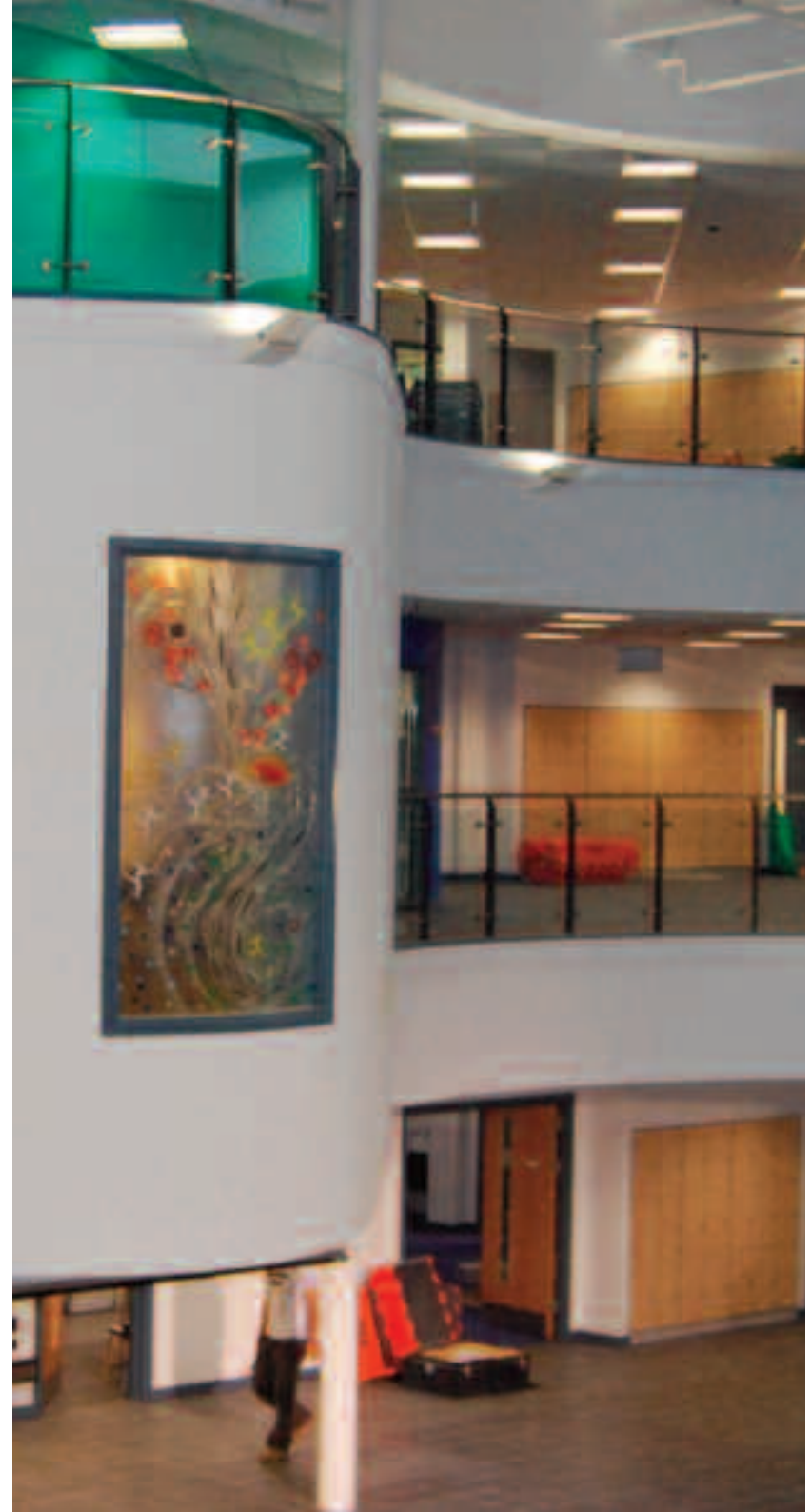
Please state which school _____

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**
to:

Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH

Proposal to increase the admission number of Hindley High School following a rebuild of the school



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through Building Schools for the Future.

OFSTED (the organisation that assesses and reports on school performance) says that Hindley High is a good and effective school with outstanding leadership, where students make good progress during their time at school.

However, most of the buildings used by Hindley High School are in poor condition and their internal layout hinders the delivery of the modern curriculum. It is considered that the best option for learners, teachers and everyone else that uses the school is to demolish the buildings and build a brand new school on the same site. This will be done with little disruption to learners' education.

In rebuilding the school, we are proposing to make it larger than it currently is in order to cater for young people that live in the Hindley, Hindley Green and Bickershaw areas. The school currently has an admission number of 187 (935 students) and this needs to be increased to 225 (1,125 students) in order to provide enough places for those living in the proposed catchment area that may need a place in the future.

It is, therefore, proposed that the school will be rebuilt and a new admission number of 225 will apply from September 2012. The new admission number will apply across all year groups at the school.



How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	Date: 9 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Hindley High School	This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils and pupils attending, or about to attend, Hindley High School. If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact the school and you will be allocated a time to attend.
Meeting for staff	Date: 16 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm Venue: Hindley High School	All staff of Hindley High School.
Meeting for governors	Date: 16 June 2009 Time: 5.15pm Venue: Hindley High School	All governors of Hindley High School.

You can also make views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and discontinue schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
<p>Consultation - during this time you can make your views known by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken) • Writing to or emailing the Council or • Completing the response form at the end of this section. <p>The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.</p>	5 May - 26 June 2009
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	July 2009

continued...

<p>Representation period - Statutory notices are published to increase the admission number of the school. This is a public notice that appears in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the school and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p> <p>If you have made your views known during the consultation period (5 May to 26 June) you will need to make your views known again during this period.</p>	Four weeks during September and October 2009.
The local authority makes the final decision on the proposal*	November 2009

* The following can appeal against the Local Authority's decision:

- The Liverpool Church of England Diocese.
- The Bishop of the Liverpool Roman Catholic Diocese.
- The governors of Hindley High School.

Please note that the timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff at Hindley High School will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know of any new dates we are working towards.



Consultation response form on the expansion of Hindley High School

Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that this document clearly explains why we are proposing to expand Hindley High School?

Yes No Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes No

3 Do you think that Hindley High School should be expanded?

Yes No

4 If you think that Hindley High School should **NOT** be expanded, please state below why you think this:

5 Please write any other comments you may have about the proposal below:

6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes No

Interpreter Yes No

If your answer is **YES**, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Hindley High

Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school _____

A member of staff at Hindley High

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school _____

A governor at Hindley High

A governor at another school

Please state which school _____

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**
to:

Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH

Proposal to discontinue
Hesketh Fletcher CE
High School and extend
Westleigh High School



Before reading this part of the document, please read part 1 as this explains everything that we are aiming to achieve through **Building Schools for the Future**.

Hesketh Fletcher CE High

Hesketh Fletcher CE provides education for those living in Atherton and surrounding areas. It has an admission number of 200 and can provide places for a total of 1,000 students overall. However, the school currently has only 636 students on roll as follows:

Hesketh Fletcher	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
	98	77	143	160	158	636

For admission in 2009, the school received just 64 first preference applications and it is expected that student numbers will fall below 600 by the start of the 2009 academic year. Projections suggest that numbers will fall to between 300 and 400 by 2015.

Where schools are in a situation of falling student numbers, it becomes increasingly difficult to attract and retain quality staff as the school budget shrinks. This has a negative impact on standards and restricts curriculum choice.

The school currently has 36% surplus places and the Government expects Councils to take action to remove excess capacity of over 25%. This is because a disproportionate amount of the school budget is spent on premises costs and less is available for staffing.

In 2008, just 26% of students gained 5 A* - C GCSE grades including English and maths and the Government demands that Councils must have an action plan to improve schools with less than 30% of students in this group.

There will be enough places in the East of the Borough at schools that have higher standards of education to enable access for pupils from the Atherton area in the future.

It is, therefore, proposed that Hesketh Fletcher CE be discontinued at the end of the 2011/12 academic year.

What this means for you/your child

If your child currently attends, or is about to attend, Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and the proposal to discontinue is approved, the following will happen:

The school will have a phased closure, where students are able to complete either key stage 3 or 4 as follows:

Current Y11	Leave in 2009 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y10	Leave in 2010 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y9	Leave in 2011 at the end of Y11 as usual
Current Y8	Leave in 2012 at the end of Y11 as usual
* Current Y7	Transfer to an alternative school in 2011 at the end of Y9 so that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied. So that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied.
* Y7 intake 2009	Transfer to an alternative school in 2012 at the end of Y9 so that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied. So that option subjects at Y10 and Y11 can be chosen and studied.

If the proposal is approved, there will be no intake to Y7 from 2010 onwards.

Early in 2011 and 2012, parents of students in Y9 will be able to apply for places at alternative schools. All of the students will be guaranteed a place at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools but parents can express a preference for another school if they wish. Places cannot be guaranteed

at other schools, nor can they be held open until the start of Y10, but they will be offered if they are available at the time of transfer.

The places at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools will be allocated in good time to ensure that students are able to choose their option subjects in Y10 at the same time as all existing students at the schools. * Whilst Hesketh Fletcher students will go on roll at an alternative school, we will look to deliver as many courses as possible at Hesketh Fletcher until 2014 so that students in current Y7 and the Y7 intake in 2009 can continue on site there.

We will make certain that Hesketh Fletcher is able to continue to provide an education for those students on roll during the transition period. It will do so by ensuring that the school remains financially viable in the short term, encouraging support from other schools and providing targeted support from the Local Authority.

Future admissions

From 2010 onwards, it is intended that children and young people living in the Atherton area will be able to access places at Westleigh, Fred Longworth or Bedford High Schools.

From 2012 onwards, when Westleigh is scheduled for expansion, it is expected that children living in the Atherton area will be able to access places at Westleigh or Fred Longworth.

Future education provision in Atherton

It is intended that, if a decision is taken to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE High School, the site will be used to establish a 14 - 19 Centre. The Centre will deliver high quality education in the form of Diplomas for those aged 14 and above and a range of academic and work based courses for those aged 16 - 19. The buildings will be remodelled and refurbished to provide a good quality and appropriate environment. Consultation on this proposal will happen at a later date.

Page 12 has further information on the 14 - 19 Centre and Diplomas.

Westleigh High

The proposed expansion of Westleigh High involves building works which would enlarge the school's premises and increase its capacity from 775 to 1,250 students. The admission number for each year group, including the new Year 7 intake would rise from 155 to 250. The building works

would be complete by the end of the 2011/12 academic year. It is therefore proposed that the school be expanded from September 2012 and that the new admission number be applied to all year groups from this date.

This proposal is dependent on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher, as the places will not be needed if the Hesketh Fletcher proposal does not go ahead. Westleigh is one of the schools that will receive students from Hesketh Fletcher, and cater for Atherton residents in the future.

Westleigh High is significantly oversubscribed and each year many parents are disappointed by not being able to secure a place for their child. The school is very active in the local community and OFSTED (the organisation that assesses and reports on school performance) rated the school as a good school with outstanding leadership and management that has brought marked improvements in academic standards and students' personal development.

Fred Longworth High

In a later phase of BSF, Fred Longworth High school will be remodelled and extended to take additional students. The places are not required on the discontinuation of Hesketh Fletcher, but will be required in later years when student numbers are predicted to rise.

How you can make your views known:

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in sessions	<p>Date: 20 May 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School Address: Hamilton Street, Atherton M46 0AY</p> <p>Date: 1 June 2009 Time: 3.30pm - 8.30pm Venue: Westleigh High School Address: Westleigh Lane, Leigh WN7 5NL</p>	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of students and students attending, or about to attend, Hesketh Fletcher CE High School and Westleigh High School.</p> <p>If you want to attend one of these sessions, please contact one of the schools and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Meeting for staff	<p>Date: 11 May 2009 Time: 4.00pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School</p> <p>Date: 12 May 2009 Time: 3.15pm Venue: Westleigh High School</p>	<p>All staff of Hesketh Fletcher CE High.</p> <p>All staff of Westleigh High School.</p>
Meeting for governors	<p>Date: 11 May 2009 Time: 5.00pm Venue: Hesketh Fletcher CE High School</p> <p>Date: 12 May 2009 Time: 4.15pm Venue: Westleigh High School</p>	<p>All governors of Hesketh Fletcher CE High.</p> <p>All governors of Westleigh High School.</p>

As well as officers from the Council, a representative of the Manchester CE Diocese will be available at the Hesketh Fletcher CE meetings to answer any concerns you may have.

You can also make your views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the questionnaire at the end of this section. You should send your views to the address on page 57 no later than **Friday 26 June 2009**.

Next steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to close and significantly enlarge schools. A timetable of events is shown below which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
Consultation - during this time you can make your views known by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the drop-in sessions (notes will be taken) • Writing to or emailing the Council or • Completing the response form at the end of this section. 	5 May - 26 June 2009

continued...

The address to write or email to is provided on page 57.	
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the Council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposals.	July 2009
Representation period - Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools and in another public place in the area, such as community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the local authority at the address on page 57. The address and date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.	Six weeks during September and October 2009
The local authority makes the final decision on the proposals*	November 2009

* The following can appeal against the local authority's decision:

- The Manchester Church of England Diocese
- The Bishop of the Liverpool Roman Catholic Diocese
- The governing bodies of Hesketh Fletcher CE and Westleigh High Schools.

Please note that the timetable may alter. We will tell you if this happens.



Proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School

Response form

Please read the booklet carefully before making your response below. Please place an x in the box that most closely describes your views.

1 Do you think that this document clearly explains why we are proposing to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher CE and enlarge Westleigh High School?

Yes No Don't know

2 Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes No

3 Do you support the proposal to discontinue Hesketh Fletcher and offer alternative school places at Bedford, Westleigh and Fred Longworth High Schools?

Yes No Don't know

4 If you do not support the proposal please tell us what your concerns are:

5 Have you any other concerns?

6 If you are planning to attend a drop-in session, do you need special assistance with:

Access Yes No

Interpreter Yes No

If your answer is YES, please write your name, address and telephone number below so we can contact you about these requirements.

7 Are you:

A parent or guardian of a child at Hesketh Fletcher CE

Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at Westleigh High School

Please state which year group your child is currently in _____

A parent or guardian of a child at another school

Please state which school _____

A member of staff at Hesketh Fletcher CE

A member of staff at Westleigh High School

A member of staff at another school

Please state which school _____

A governor at Hesketh Fletcher CE

A governor at Westleigh High School

A governor at another school

Please state which school _____

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 26 June 2009**
to:

Wigan Council
Children and Young People's Services
School Place Commissioning Team
Progress House
Westwood Park Drive
Wigan
WN3 4HH

Competition process

New schools and the 2006 Education and Inspections Act

The Education and Inspections Act means that, in most cases, the Local Authority must hold a competition to determine who will run a new school. This includes new schools formed as a result of discontinuing existing schools.

The competition process requires the Local Authority to:

- consult on the need for a new school which, in this case, is linked to the proposed discontinuation of the two existing schools;
- provide details of the new school - where it is to be located, how many pupils it will provide for, the ages of the pupils, and related information;
- invite proposals from organisations to run the new school.

The Local Authority cannot state what type of schools it wants. For example, it cannot say that it wants a Church of England, Catholic or Community school.

The Local Authority will take the decision on who will run the new school provided that it does not put its own proposal forward for the school to be a Community school. The School Adjudicator will take the decision if the Local Authority puts its own proposal forward.



Circulation list

We have already held extensive discussions with representatives from schools; colleges; diocesan authorities; and local elected members on our vision for future education in Wigan and proposals in relation to individual schools.

As part of this consultation exercise, we are consulting the following:

- Parents of all school and nursery age children in the borough
- Governors and staff of all schools
- Diocesan Authorities
- St John Rigby 6th Form College
- Winstanley 6th Form College
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Trade Union representatives and professional associations
- Local Elected Members (Councillors)
- Local Members of Parliament
- Neighbouring Authorities

The document is also available in hard copy at libraries, town halls and early years establishments and is available on the Wigan Council Web site at:

www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Schools/SchoolsFuture/





CONTACT

For further information and advice please contact:

Wigan Schools for the Future Team

Wigan Council

School Place Commissioning Team

Progress House

Westwood Park Drive

Wigan

WN3 4HH

Phone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029

We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request. Contact details as above.

Designed by Media & Communications Team - Graphics

