
Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

A new pattern of provision 11-19

Wards affected: All wards

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This report seeks approval to bid to be included in the Government's BSF Programme and to consult on a new pattern of organisational provision for pupils aged 11-19.

1. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 1.1 Support a bid to the Department for Education and Skills for prioritisation in Wave 4 of the BSF programme, with the submission of a formal bid by 13th October 2006.
- 1.2 Approve informal consultations with stakeholders during the Autumn Term 2006 on a new pattern of provision as highlighted in para 11 below and the attached consultation document.
- 1.3 Note the ongoing discussions with regard to post 16 provision and their impact on the BSF programme (see Para 11).
- 1.4 Recognise the requirement to meet the likely procurement costs to deliver this major programme (see Para 6.2).
- 1.5 Request a further report in January 2007 on the outcome of Rochdale's bid for inclusion in the BSF Programme.

2 Reasons for the recommendations:

- 2.1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a major Government Investment Programme to transform secondary education standards by providing 21st Century learning environments. We can expect to receive around £150million to transform secondary teaching and learning.
- 2.2 At the same time we wish to secure a similar transformation in our Post 16 provision, an area of concern in terms of performance and loss of young people to post 16 provision in neighbouring authorities.

3 Alternatives considered:

- 3.1 There are a range of different options which have been considered e.g. the overall number of schools required by 2012, the future of post 16 provision and whether that is school based, or a different form of provision. The proposals tabled are those over which there is some general agreement. There is recognition that in

2013/14 there will be around 2000 fewer pupils aged 11-16 than in 2003/4. Status quo is not an option.

4 Consultation:

- 4.1 Proposals are put forward after consultation with key stakeholders, secondary headteachers, LSC, RC and C of E Dioceses, party leaders and spokespersons.
- 4.2 Wider consultations on the reorganisation proposals need to commence immediately, if the Authority is to secure Wave 4 BSF funding. Para 13.2 highlights the list of consultees.
- 4.3 The outcome of the consultations will be the subject of a further report in January 2007 when we should have been advised of our BSF wave allocation. Inclusion in Wave 4 will mean that work on the strategic business case will start from January 2007.

5 Background:

- 5.1 Rochdale has now received an invitation from the Department for Education and Skills to make a submission for inclusion in the BSF programme. The Government will prioritise the bids it receives in three Waves, Wave 4, Wave 5 and Wave 6. Wave 4 will deliver resources from 2009/10, Wave 5 the following year and Wave 6 one year later. We have to notify DfES by 15th September which wave we wish to be considered for. Our plan is to go for Wave 4, bringing investment as soon as possible (subject to ratification by Cabinet on 18th September). A formal submission then follows (to be made by 13th October 2006). There are approximately 50 authorities entitled to bid for resources in Waves 4-6 and bids will be prioritised on each Authority's 'readiness to deliver'. A Government announcement about prioritisation is expected in December 2006.
- 5.2 Securing a place in the BSF programme should secure resources to the value of around £150million over a period of 5-6 years. These resources will not be sufficient to replace all secondary schools. The mix promoted by DfES is 50% new build, 35% refurbishment/remodelling, 15% minor works. The programme will contain a combination of these and will need to provide a balance across different types of school. The Government expects that Councils will address any issues of surplus places/changing demand. In Rochdale the overall number of secondary places required continues to fall.
- 5.3 BSF is a 5 to 10 year programme. Individual schemes have to be prioritised in terms of deliverability and each phase has to have a mix of new build, refurbishment/remodelling and refresh works. The work will need to be packaged so that there is the capacity to deliver the project within planned timescales. The earliest any development could commence would be June 2009 with any new build scheme not being completed until September 2010 (Phase 1). Phase 2 would be at least 12-24 months behind (2011/12) and Phase 3 12 months later (earliest opening 2012/14).
- 5.4 Members need to be aware that any new schools provided through the BSF programme will be funded through the Private Finance Initiative whilst funds for remodelled schools will be delivered through conventional capital grant.
- 5.5 There is also the possibility of LSC Capital Funding to support investment in the Further Education estate as part of the overall package and this will be discussed further in Para 11.
- 5.6 We have taken advice from Knowsley, a first wave BSF Authority. Their view is that this is the biggest single project in their 30+-year history (corporately, not just education). All Members need to be committed to the BSF programme. It will affect

all wards. The plans being developed will secure at least one new secondary school in each Township and significant investment in other school facilities. BSF should also facilitate the more extended use of schools. It is not only about children's education – there is the opportunity to transform adult skills and attitudes to learning. Party Leaders agreed an all-party approach was necessary at their meeting on 17th July. The Portfolio Holder and opposition party spokespersons endorsed this when they met on 21st July.

6 Procurement

- 6.1 BSF requires a new procurement approach based on the setting up of a Local Education Partnership, a joint venture company with the public sector and private sector working together sharing certain risks and rewards. (LEPs are similar to the Health Service LIFT procurement vehicle). The LEP will comprise the Private Sector Partner, the Authority and Partnerships for Schools (the national organisation set up to deal with this).
- 6.2 The Authority needs the capacity to deliver the BSF programme in terms of staffing and resources. It must be prepared to fund the appointment of external advisers to secure the necessary expert support. This will be the Council's largest ever procurement and will need to be properly staffed and resourced. Each Authority in waves 1-3 have spent in the region of £2million to date on procurement and only one contract (Bristol) has been signed so far. The figure is reasonable bearing in mind the Council spent £600,000 on advisers to secure the Schools PFI Contract which was less than half the size of the likely BSF Project. The Council will also need to invest 10% of the working capital of the LEP which will cost between £100,000 and £200,000. We are fortunate to have in-house specialist expertise in the team that is successfully delivering the Grouped Schools PFI (worth £57m) but the team will need to expand, as will the input from other services across the Council.
- 6.3 Our strategic partner is keen to support the BSF programme and Mouchel Parkman are already heavily involved in the Liverpool BSF project, and working with our neighbours in Oldham, who we understand also to be aiming for Wave 4. We are in the process of exploring whether any advantages can be derived from linking bids with Oldham MBC and having a more formal partnering arrangement with Mouchel Parkman.
- 6.4 A major feature of BSF relates to the upgrading of ICT in schools. This is an area where we will need to use the expertise afforded through the Impact Partnership and beyond.

7 Personnel Issues

- 7.1 Like all reorganisations, major changes in provision do have personnel implications. We plan to maintain an ongoing dialogue with Trade Unions and Teacher Associations in relation to BSF. The Council has a good track record in dealing with human resources issues particularly in relation to TUPE issues, salary protection and staff reorganisations. There will be full consultation with members and unions as we proceed. We will involve both Members of Council and Trade Unions in overseeing the BSF Programme.

8 Which Wave? – Why now?

- 8.1 BSF is the Government's flagship educational investment programme. Thirty-eight Authorities have already been allocated resources. The Authority have made good progress in reorganising Special Schools and Primary provision; now we need to

turn our attention to secondary and further education. Paras 8.2 to 8.6 outline 5 reasons why we should bid for consideration as a Wave 4 Authority.

- 8.2 The Government has earmarked resources for Waves 4-6. The planned 2007 Government Spending Review could put pressure on future Waves of BSF.
- 8.3 GCSE performance remains below the national average and BSF affords the opportunity to transform teaching and learning.
- 8.4 'A' level performance is very poor. Many students are voting with their feet and going out of the Borough to do 'A' Levels.
- 8.5 The earlier the allocation of resources the earlier the investment can be made to benefit local youngsters and secure improvements in performance.
- 8.6 The Authority's readiness to deliver is evidenced in terms of the expertise in the Schools Service to lead this major investment initiative.

9 Education Vision

- 9.1 The purpose of BSF is to transform teaching and learning, securing significant improvement in pupil performance. It is not intended simply to replace existing provision in better accommodation. A starting point will be view the new establishments not as schools but something much more e.g. "learning centres".
- 9.2 The vision will -
 - Secure a pattern of education which better meets pupil needs
 - Provide a breadth of provision, with different types of provision and specialisms across the Borough
 - Secure excellent teaching and learning in every school based on the knowledge of individual pupils helping all achieve their potential
 - Offer more flexible provision within communities with facilities to enable all schools to become extended schools
 - Encourage new forms of leadership/management and provision which maximise the use and flexibility of accommodation
 - Offer a more coordinated approach to 14-19 education
 - Tackle pupil underperformance
 - Bring about a step change in behaviour and attendance giving better chances to students, but also reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Offer the co-location of pupils with special educational needs
 - Encourage more pupils to remain with the authority rather than seek their secondary/post 16 education elsewhere.
 - Enhance provision for pupils with behavioural difficulties with some resourced provision in mainstream learning centres
 - Maximise the use of ICT to promote confident e-learning and teaching

10 Proposals

- 10.1 Rochdale's specific proposals for change which will be used as the basis for consultation have been developed to address the demographic need for places across the town reducing the overall number of 11-16 places by between 1415 and 1565 places overall (compared with published admission numbers). It is not planned to remove all 2000 surplus places as it is anticipated that pupil numbers will grow slightly from 2013. Comments are offered in respect of the individual townships.
- 10.2 Details of existing and proposed secondary provision are shown in Appendix A.

10.3 A Draft consultation paper is attached at Appendix B

Pennines

- 10.4 Wardle High School numbers have fallen in Sept 2006 as a result of the poor Ofsted report received by the School. It is proposed to increase the admission number from 215 to 240 to more closely match demand over the Pennines. This could clearly be achieved if the sixth form were to close.
- 10.5 Hollingworth has benefited from the temporary unpopularity of Wardle and takes pupils who live closer to other schools in Oldham and Rochdale. The school has ambitious plans to become more flexible in the use of its building/school day.

Rochdale Township

- 10.6 The most popular Community schools are Oulder Hill, Falinge and Matthew Moss. The closure of Oulder Hill sixth form would allow additional pupils aged 11-16 to attend this school. Amalgamation of Springhill and Balderstone would see a redistribution of pupils across the Township as a whole (and would allow the net removal of around 490 places).
- 10.7 RC Primary School numbers are falling which will allow a small reduction in the planned admission number at St Cuthbert's RC High School (removing 150 places)

Middleton Township

- 10.8 There are significant reductions in primary pupil numbers in Middleton. Cabinet is being asked to approve plans for an Academy on the Queen Elizabeth site. This school is the one attracting least pupils and as part of the feasibility study(now approved by DFES) a decision will need to be taken as to the proposed site and the planned admission number (removing either 150 or 300 places). The other Middleton schools are popular.
- 10.9 Should the Academy not proceed then alternative proposals would need to be considered as part of the BSF Programme.

Heywood Township

- 10.10 There are marked reductions in primary pupil numbers in Heywood and primary schools have just been reorganised. It is proposed that Heywood Community School should close with a minor increase in the admission number for the St Josephs RC/C of E Secondary School. (possible reduction of 750 places).

11 Post-16 Options

Background

- 11.1 As part of our BSF proposal the Authority need to be as clear about options for post-16 provision. Are we building/refurbishing school sixth forms, or are we looking to reorganise?
- 11.2 Currently four high schools have sixth forms:

Oulder Hill
Cardinal Langley
St Cuthbert's
Wardle

- 11.3 Additionally, if the Queen Elizabeth School is to become an Academy the expectation is that it will be 11-18 rather than 11-16. Also, Middleton Technology College, as an advanced specialist school, has a “notice of presumption” from the DfES that it too will start to make provision for post 16 students.
- 11.4 Post-16 provision is funded by the Learning and Skills Council. They undertook a Strategic Area Review last year. This produced three options which, simply put, were:
- status quo
 - collaboration between existing providers on current sites
 - new centre in Rochdale
- 11.5 There was a limited public interest in these consultation events and few responses were received. At its meeting on 21st November the Cabinet backed option 3: a “Rochdale Sixth Form College” with a recognition that option 2 could apply in Middleton.
- 11.6 Performance in our ‘A’ level provision is very poor. In the last four years, on an average point score per entry at GCE A/AS, out of 150 LAs, Rochdale has finished 143rd, 141st, 140th and 144th (*Source DfES*).
- 11.7 Recent discussion has indicated that HHC sees the need for change, and wants to play an active part in designing future provision.

The Pattern of Future Provision

- 11.8 It is possible to imagine a future pattern of provision as follows:

Middleton	3 schools (QE, MTC + C Langley RC) with HHC collaborating to offer the full entitlement for students. Operating as a single entity across four sites
Rochdale	A new centrally located sixth form centre, for pupils across the Borough replacing school-based provision and halting the exporting of students

- 11.9 Heywood Township is much the smallest (half the population of Middleton, a third of that of Rochdale). It could not provide separately the full curriculum entitlement post 16: that would not be viable. Therefore we have to look at attracting students either to Middleton or Rochdale, accepting some will continue to go to Bury. Whilst studying in Rochdale or Middleton it should be possible to incorporate a modest, general post 16 study area in any newly built BSF secondary school in Heywood with, for instance, ICT and private study facilities, and video conference links to other centres so that students can learn locally.
- 11.10 LSC and DfES will need convincing about numbers and the viability of a new sixth form centre, which will be lessened if sixth forms in schools remain.

Rochdale Sixth Form Centre – How, When, Where?

- 11.11 One route to access significant LSC 16-19 capital funding is by means of a 16-19 competition. This is a new process, in line with DfES policy with Sefton being the first completed although there are 6 others currently being run. The LSC, in

consultation with other stakeholders and drawing on the Strategic Area Review (StAR) data, defines the need and invites proposals to meet this. Proposers could be the LA; local or neighbouring providers, acting independently or in consortia; or new players forming for this purpose. Here, the Local Authority and Hopwood Hall College can collaborate. A competition prospectus for Rochdale could be issued as early as September/October by the LSC.

- 11.12 Basic desk-top feasibility studies have shown that town centre sites, are preferable. Development of the HHC (Rochdale) site would imply development on their Middleton campus to re-house some vocational provision (motor-vehicle and construction) currently in their 'C' block whilst retaining the soft vocational provision (Catering, Hair and Beauty etc). A new sixth-form centre sited there would have to be very plainly independent and not HHC, but in the long-term there are potential advantages in this co-location in terms of delivering specialized diplomas when they are introduced.
- 11.13 It is not a realistic option to establish a new College and to retain existing school-based sixth forms. Retaining any school-based places for post-16 in Rochdale would undermine the viability of a College and so reduce the chances of funding being made available to build it. Smallish school sixth forms with (at best) modest results could not withstand competition from a college if any were retained. Whilst they withered, the students in them would be the losers.

If Rochdale were to have its own sixth-form college, the LA would want to ensure that:

- It offered the full range and combination of subjects
- It provided specialist teaching of the highest standard
- It had excellent links with higher education, to promote the progress of its students.

11.14 A relevant report has been published this month by Greater Manchester 'Aim Higher'. This is the organisation that persuades more young people to consider going to university and helps them get there. It has concluded that

- UCAS applications from Rochdale students are going down, against the trend in Greater Manchester.
- UCAS applications from Rochdale institutions are less successful than those from Rochdale students who leave the borough to attend colleges in other boroughs.
- 'A' level and equivalent results for Rochdale students are well below the area, regional and national averages and show little sign of improvement.

11.15 The second bullet point shows that local school-based sixth forms are less well equipped to enable students to secure places at University. Over the period 2000-2005 there was an increase in the proportion of 18-20 year-olds entering full time higher education of 9.6% in the north west. For Greater Manchester the figure was 13%. For Rochdale it was 0.5%.

12 Other Provision

12.1 BSF funding will allow the Authority to invest further in our provision for pupils with special educational needs. Brownhill School which was not part of the wider Special Schools Reorganisation, and not part of the Schools PFI contract will

receive BSF funding. Resources have also been earmarked to secure significant investment in the Pupil Referral Units based in Rochdale and Heywood.

13 Consultation Programme

- 13.1 Informal consultations on the proposals in this report have been ongoing since July 2006. The publication of this report will bring the options/proposals into the public domain. Further informal consultations are planned over the Autumn Term (between September-December 2006).
- 13.2 These can be summarised as follows:-
Symposium of Key stakeholder – Heads/Chairs, Head Boy/Girl from each secondary schools, M.Ps, Lead Members, Township Chairs - 22nd September 2006
Chairs of Governors – Secondary Schools – 13th Sept 2006
Rochdale Association of Secondary Headteachers – ongoing
School Governors – Autumn Term
Teacher Associations/Trade Unions – September/October
Parents/Prospective Parents – Sept/December
Township Committees – November 2006
Hopwood Hall College/LSC – Ongoing

14 Financial Implications

- 14.2 The allocation of Rochdale within BSF will attract approximately £150million over a period of 5/6 years. Academies are separately funded and assuming the Academy proceeds we can expect another £20million. A sixth-form college funded under the FE regulations also attracts separate grant.
- 14.3 The cost of drafting the initial BSF bid in 2006/7 and engaging in a consultation programme can be resourced from existing School Service Budgets. The Executive Director (Resources) has agreed the establishment of a new post in the School Development and Building Team to support the development work on BSF, which again will be resourced from within existing budgets.
- 14.4 Paragraph 6.2 above highlights the procurement costs of the BSF programme at £2million. Once Rochdale have been allocated to a BSF Wave, a further report will need to be brought to Cabinet to identify the likely procurement costs/timescales of such, so that the necessary budget provision can be allocated.
- 14.5 All authorities within the BSF programme will find that their BSF allocation falls short of the cost of the works proposed. This is called the affordability gap. The Council will be required to bridge any such gap through land disposals (surplus school or other sites), prudential borrowing, reallocation of resources or increasing the Council's contribution to the service. Clearly the scope of the Council commitment will be determined by the overall scope of works and negotiations with the Private Sector partner. DfES will however expect Authorities to contribute to the programme any proceeds from the disposal of surplus secondary school sites.

15 Summary

- 15.1 BSF offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform secondary education in Rochdale. We are in a unique position where we can also reorganize post 16 provision at the same time. It is imperative that we take this opportunity to secure the resources to transform provision to invest in education which will underpin all the Council's other key objectives.

For further information and background papers relating to this report please contact John Bollington, Senior Schools Development Officer, Schools Service, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1YD. Telephone (01706) 925049.

Appendix A

Township	School	Age Range (PAN)	Proposal	Age range	Proposed Published Admin numbers	Phase
Pennines	Hollingworth High	11-16 (210)	New Build on existing site	11-16	210	One
Pennines	Wardle	11-18 (215)	Refurbish	11-16	240	Three
Middleton	Queen Elizabeth School	11-16 (210)	New Academy	11-18(includes collaborative post 16 provision)	150 or 180	Located within wider Academy programme
Middleton	Middleton Technology	11-16 (210)	Major refurbishment/remodel	11-18 (includes collaborative post 16 provision)	210	One
Middleton	Cardinal Langley RC	11-18 (180)	Refurbish	11-18 (includes collaborative post 16 provision)	180	One
Heywood	Heywood Community	11-16 (180)	Close, with changes in catchment/flows across Heywood and north Middleton		0	Three
Heywood	Siddal Moor	11-16 (210)	Refurbish	11-16	210	Two
Heywood	St Josephs RC / C of E	11-16 (120)	Explore new build on different site	11-16	150	Three
Rochdale	Oulder Hill	11-18 (240)	Restricted BSF Investment	Under review	300	N/A
Rochdale	Matthew Moss	11-16 (180)	Refurbishment	11-16	180	One
Rochdale	Falinge Park	11-16 (240)	New Build on existing site	11-16	240	Two
Rochdale	Springhill	11-16 (180)	Amalgamate with Balderstone (Major remodeling on one site)	11-16	240(across Springhill/B'stone)	Three
Rochdale	Balderstone	11-16 (240)	Amalgamate with Springhill (major remodeling on one site)	11-16	240 (across Balderstone/Sp'hill)	Three
Rochdale	St Cuthbert's	11-18 (270)	Refurbishment/Remodelling	11-16	240	Three
Rochdale	Brownhill	11-16	Remodel with support units in all new build schools to accommodate some existing pupils	11-16	Not applicable	Two
Rochdale / Heywood	Pupil Referral Units Saxon Hall / Darnhill	11-16	Refurbish/Remodelling as required	11-16	Not applicable	Two

Public consultation document

Second draft

“Building Schools for the Future” (BSF)**What is it?**

BSF is a national programme of investment aimed at transforming educational standards by providing 21st century learning environments. We will inspire the process of teaching and learning within the Authority through the investment opportunities offered.

What it means to Rochdale Borough overall

We could receive as much as £150m to transform our secondary schools. But we have to bid, and convince the government, who hand out the money, that our plans are good. We have to plan for the long-term, and take account of a wide range of views. What is built must meet the needs of generations to come.

What it could look like in your Township

We hope to be able to build a totally new secondary school in each Township. We have looked at which buildings most need replacing. This has led us to think that the following should be replaced by all-new school buildings:

Heywood	:	St Joseph’s RC and CofE
Middleton	:	Queen Elizabeth
Pennines	:	Hollingworth
Rochdale	:	Falinge Park

Other schools would get a major refurbishment; some need smaller improvements.

How many schools?

In ten years time there will be 2,000 fewer pupils aged 11-16. This is a certainty. So we will need fewer schools – 12 instead of the current 14. In the long-term we think we will not need Heywood Community, on the extreme west edge of the borough. We also think that Balderstone and Springhill, our closest-together secondary schools, should amalgamate. There could be adjustments in the size of other schools, to ensure that supply matches demand.

Provision for older students

Although some individual students do very well in their ‘A’ level studies in local schools, gaining straight As and being offered universities of their choice, overall our ‘A’ level results are not good. In the last four years, out of 150 areas, Rochdale has finished 143rd, 141st, 140th and 144th in the ‘A’ level league table. Understandably, more than 800 Rochdale residents are going out of the borough to do ‘A’ levels. They want a bigger choice of subjects and better results.

A big change is needed here. We will be proposing a new Rochdale Sixth Form Centre to replace school-based sixth forms at Wardle, Oulder Hill and St Cuthbert’s and serve Rochdale Borough.

In Middleton the proposed new Academy will be 11—18 and Middleton Technology School, as a highly successful school, has been invited by government also to become 11-18. Add in Cardinal Langley RC and Hopwood Hall College and these four, working as one, could give students what they want. There will be a high quality vocational programme across the Middleton partnership, aimed at 14-19.

Post 16 provision will be more flexible with opportunities for young people to access provision across the Borough, whether they live in the Pennines, Heywood, Rochdale or Middleton.

Other Provision

BSF funding will allow the Authority to invest further in our provision for pupils with special educational needs. Brownhill School was not included in the previous reorganisation programme. Resources have been earmarked to secure significant investment in this school as well as the Pupil Referral Units based in Rochdale and Heywood.

Schools for the future

We want our new schools to be fit for the future. They will need the latest technology. They need to be open longer hours, so their facilities can be used by adults as well as children. Our plan therefore is to call them ‘learning centres’. They might have other services – like health services – to be more convenient to local people.

When could any of this happen?

The big decisions, about what goes where, need to be made soon. No building work could start until 2009. It could be 2013 before work was finished. *(This means that most pupils in secondary schools or making choices about secondary schooling from September 2007 will not be affected. Secondary schools are not about to close).*

Next steps

We are competing with many other Authorities who also want to get started on transforming their schools. Our bid will be stronger if we can agree what should happen.

Have your say,

- at a public meeting. Details.....
- by email, to
- at a Township office, where there will be displays and comment cards
- by post, writing to