

## **Inspiring schools consultation feedback**

### **Transforming secondary education IN Salford**

During September/October 2006 Salford City Council ran a consultation on the proposals for the transformation of secondary school education in Salford. This booklet has been produced to provide you with feedback from that consultation and information on what happens next.

These proposals are relevant to everyone living in Salford - even if you are not a parent, a pupil or working for a school - as you will be affected by our proposals, which extend the role of schools in your community.

### **The vision**

Our vision is to improve educational standards and help all pupils to achieve their potential. We want to create schools that are a source of pride and also provide practical resources for local people of all ages and backgrounds in the community.

We want to create buildings for the 21st century and provide choice and a greater range of services at each secondary school. The opportunity to make this vision real has been provided the government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the potential of £110 million investment it offers.

We need to make the most of this investment and take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to transform our secondary schools, rather than just improve the,.

We aim to:

- Transform secondary education in our schools and promote higher standards and achievement for all;
- Transform learning and teaching through the use of technology such as wireless networks and computer software;
- Ensure an inclusive approach in all of our schools;
- Promote diversity in the provision of schools through new ways of working;
- Promote development of new services, including health, learning and community provision including recreation and sport; and
- Create 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments that are designed to meet the needs of teachers and pupils.

We have now submitted our first business case to the government to provide information on our vision and the case for investment in the city. The school

proposals that were submitted in this business case were those in the consultation document sent out in September.

## **The public consultation**

The public consultation has involved:

- a number of roadshows to enable residents to ask questions;
- the distribution of 25,000 consultation booklets and questionnaires explaining the proposals - this included a mailing to 19,000 parents of pupils at secondary and primary schools and governors;
- an online version of the questionnaire on our website ([www.salford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.salford.gov.uk/bsf)).

Ipsos MORI North was asked to advise on the questionnaire content and to analyse the results:

- 3,296 people took part in the public consultation and completed a questionnaire;
- 83% of the respondents were female;
- 86% of respondents were parent/carers of a child of 16 years or under;
- 96% of these respondents had a child/children who attended schools in Salford.

The number of responses was highest from parents and pupils connected to St George's RC (21%) and Walkden High School (15%). Elsewhere, the distribution of responses was more in line with the proportion of pupils attending each affected school.

### **Your priorities:**

Based on information from Ipsos MORI North, the main priorities that respondents thought were important for a 21st century school, were *focus on academic results* and *focus on pupil behaviour*.

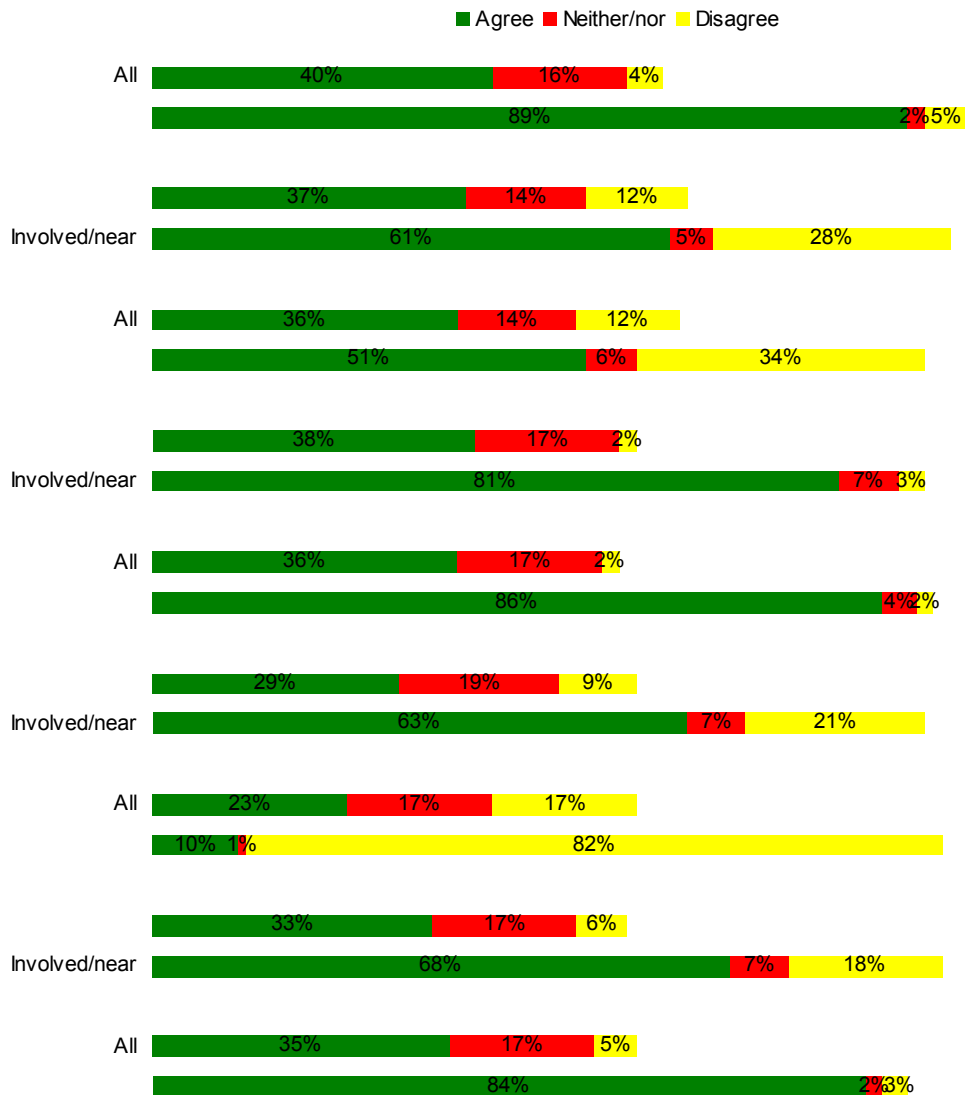
The top priorities for local services were those services aimed at young people: *school holiday activities, youth services, breakfast and after school clubs* and *young people's health services*. At an individual school level there were differences reflecting local circumstances, e.g. *venues for clubs and meetings* appears to be more in demand in the Wentworth High School area.

### **Proposals:**

Some 40% of respondents to the survey have no opinion on specific school options; amongst those who did express an opinion, there were more people in favour than against each one. For the respondents identifying an interest in a specific school, there was a majority in favour of each school proposal with the exception of St George's RC where there was substantial opposition to the proposal. There was strong localised support for the proposals for Walkden,

Irlam and Cadishead; support for St Ambrose Barlow RC, All Hallows and Moorside and weaker support for Swinton High proposals.

The table below shows the breakdown of views on the proposals from a citywide perspective (based on **all** people who took part) and the breakdown of views of respondents who are **involved in**, or **live near** the specific named school.



### Pupils' views

Council officers visited a number of schools to listen to the views of pupils on the proposals for the transformation of secondary schools in Salford.

Eight of the nine schools in the BSF investment programme participated in the consultation together with the three Pupil Referral Units. Many pupils expressed interest in the possibility of involvement in the design of future schools.

**Rating existing schools:**

When asked to rank how they felt their current school performed on a number of criteria the *quality of buildings* and *pupil behaviour* were ranked lowest.

**Priorities for future schools:**

In relation to identifying one main priority, 38% of the students identified *high quality buildings*. When asked to identify a further 2 priorities, the top results were *use of ICT and facilities for all*. Good sports facilities also featured strongly as both a main and second priority.

When asked to prioritise the services to include at schools in the future, responses were split between most of the services suggested - though discussions were varied. For instance, some students were positive about health services on the school site but others had concerns about confidentiality - so more debate is required about extended services.

**What happens next?**

We are preparing the second detailed business case and this will be submitted to the government in March 2007. The results of the public consultation are now being carefully considered and the council will make a final decision on the proposals in February 2007.

We are continuing to talk with the Roman Catholic Diocese about the proposals for the catholic schools and the closure of St George's RC, and how we can achieve the desired transformation of the Roman Catholic schools in the city.

We are now applying for outline planning permission for the first schools: Irlam and Cadishead Community High School (a refurbishment and extension) and Walkden High School (new build). In the consultation there was clear support for these proposals from the public and the schools concerned. We will also be carrying out a statutory consultation on our plans to replace Hope High School with an academy on Salford Quays in January 2007.

Planning and statutory school consultations follow very strict guidelines laid down by the law. We will follow these closely and ensure that all residents, parents and stakeholders are able to make their views known in the process.

The planning applications and statutory school consultations for the remaining schools will take place after April 2007. These consultations will be completed

before any works start or closures take place and more information will be available shortly - please see this website for developments in all aspects of the programme.

### When are the proposed changes scheduled to take place?

School	Project	Start on Site	Completion	School Occupied
Walkden High	New build	Nov 2008	May 2010	Sep 2010
Hope High Academy	New build	Nov 2008	May 2010	Sep 2010
Irlam and Cadishead Community High	Refurbishment	Nov 2008	Nov 2009	Jan 2010
Moorside High /The Swinton High	New build	Jan 2010	August 2011	Sep 2011
All Hallows R.C. High	New build	Jan 2010	August 2011	Sep 2011
St Ambrose R.C High	Refurbishment	June 2010	July 2011	Sep 2011
Wentworth High	Refurbishment	June 2010	July 2011	Sep 2011
St Patrick's R.C. High	Refurbishment	June 2010	July 2011	Sep 2011
St George's RC High School	Closure			

### Involving you

Bringing together staff from schools, the council, the community, parents, pupils, governors and anyone with an interest in education is crucial to achieving our vision. There are a number of ways you can get involved in local plans.

We will involve a range of people in the design and planning of school buildings and, in particular, the services that will be provided. Community Committees will play a vital role in ensuring that the needs of the community are reflected.

### Running and maintaining the schools

We have not yet confirmed how the building, ongoing maintenance and delivery of services at the schools will be carried out. The government's recommended approach uses public and private sector skills to develop long term arrangements.

### More information

More information including consultation reports can be found on [www.salford.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.salford.gov.uk/bsf)

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**Note: which schools are involved?**

Major investment has already taken place in eight of our secondary schools, which are being or have already been redeveloped: Salford City Academy, The Albion, Oakwood, Chatsworth, New Park, Buile Hill, Harrop Fold and Beis Yaakov High Schools.

A further nine schools were considered under the BSF programme. These are St Ambrose Barlow RC, St George's RC, Walkden High, Moorside High, The Swinton High, St Patrick's RC, All Hallows RC, Wentworth High and Irlam and Cadishead Community High School.

Additionally, it is proposed that Hope High will be rebuilt and become an academy and that these changes will be funded separately.