

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 2nd SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

OUTCOME OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CLOSURE OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting of 27th May 2010, Cabinet decided that following consultation with governing bodies, staff, parents and other stakeholders, statutory notices should be published regarding the closure of Park High School and Rock Ferry High Schools in order to establish an Academy. Notices were published on 9th June 2010. This report describes the outcome of the subsequent representation period and recommends that the proposals be approved, subject to the Academy's Funding Agreement being signed by the Secretary of State.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Secondary Places Review Phase 1, comprising schools in Birkenhead and Bebington (Wirral South) began on the instruction of Cabinet following their meeting of 29th November 2007.
- 1.2 On 6th November 2008, Cabinet approved a consultation option for change comprising the closure of Park High and Rock Ferry High Schools in order to establish an Academy. Following various developments including Birkenhead High School for Girls becoming an Academy, on 16th March 2009 Cabinet decided to consult on a wider option involving the closure of three secondary schools in order to establish two Academies, the Expressions of Interest being approved by Cabinet on 1st October 2009.
- 1.3 This decision was called in for scrutiny, and referred back to Cabinet for a decision. At its meeting of 26th November 2009, Cabinet decided that the option should revert to that approved on 6th November 2008, involving the closure of Rock Ferry High and Park High Schools, in order to establish a mixed Academy for their pupils, on either the Park High site or a new site, e.g. Borough Road/Shafesbury Playing fields. The Director was requested to consult with residents associations and Shafesbury Youth Club on the possibility of the Borough Road/Shafesbury playing fields site being utilised, with a report to Cabinet on 9th December 2009, two weeks later.
- 1.4 On 9th December 2009, Cabinet approved the Park High site as the preferred site for the Mixed Academy, and asked that further discussions should take place to reach agreement on the composition of the sponsor team for the Academy. Negotiations took place with sponsors during the following week. Agreement was secured and a new EOI was prepared. This was sent to the then DCSF by the end of December 2009. The governing bodies of the two predecessor schools approved the new EOI in early January 2010, albeit with caveats.
- 1.5 On 14th January 2010, Cabinet approved the Expression of Interest for an 11 to 16 Mixed Academy on the Park High site with a sponsor team lead by the University of Chester, with the University of Liverpool, Wirral Metropolitan College, Birkenhead Sixth Form College and Wirral Council as co-sponsors, intended to open on 1st September

2011. Cabinet also approved the commencement of formal consultations on the closure of the predecessor schools as set out by guidance.

- 1.6 The outcome of the closure consultation, which ran from 24th February to 7th April 2010 and included consultation meetings at the two schools, as well as consultation booklets to staff, governors and parents of every pupil at both schools and letters to parents in years 4, 5 and 6 at 58 Wirral primary schools, was described in the 27th May 2010 report to Cabinet, in sections 3 and 4.
- 1.7 Cabinet determined that proposals should be published in respect of the closure of the two schools. The date of implementation was to be determined by the implementation date for the Academy. At the Academy project steering group meeting of 28th May 2010, this was agreed as 1st January 2010. The implementation date for the closure proposals was therefore published as 31st December 2010.
- 1.8 The six week representation period concluded on 21st July 2010. The outcome of this period is reported to Cabinet for a decision on whether to proceed with the proposals.

2.0 Proposal publication

- 2.1 On 9th June 2010, proposal notices for the closure of the two schools were widely published, including the local press (Wirral Globe), the entrances to the two schools, and locally at G and B Stores on Bebington Road, Rock Ferry and at the newsagents on the corner of Bentinck Street and South Claughton Road, Birkenhead. The notices were also published on-line at the Council's consultation website, [www.wirral-
mbc.gov.uk/PrimaryPlaces/BirkenheadandBebington.asp](http://www.wirral-mbc.gov.uk/PrimaryPlaces/BirkenheadandBebington.asp)
- 2.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, in addition to the statutory proposal notice, a more detailed "complete proposal" must be produced. Copies of the notice and complete proposal were provided to the schools, the Secretary of State, the Anglican and Catholic Diocesan bodies and all relevant persons and groups named in the guidance. The documentation was also made available on the Council's Primary Places Review website. A CD-ROM has been provided separately to members containing the notice, complete proposal and accompanying documentation.
- 2.3 Following the publication of notices, there is a statutory six week representation period during which objections or comments on any proposal can be sent to the Director of Children's Services. This was clearly stated on the notices. Any person can request a copy of the full proposal, and one such request was received.

3.0 Outcome of the representation period

- 3.1 The statutory representation period ended on 21st July 2010. During this time, the Director of Children's Services received written comments from two individuals, a member of staff at Rock Ferry High School, and a member of staff at Park High School.
- 3.2 On that basis, under paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the decision on the proposal for the closure of Park High School and Rock Ferry High School rests with the Council's decision making body, which is Council's Cabinet.

4.0 Comments on the proposals

A summary of the points raised by the respondents are as follows:

Review Process

- Publication of notices on school gates was improper
- No reference in notice to alternative sites for the Academy

- Whole process has been shoddy, cold and brutally managed
- Community has made it's view known through petitions
- People's views and concerns are regarded as worthless
- Credit to officers to have arrived at this point despite twists and turns beyond their control

Building and site

- A new site must be found which addresses everybody's concerns, not just a favoured minority
- Park High is the best placed, central and prime site for the majority of present and future students
- Park has recently been invested in and is fully functional and available
- Can more land be purchased and brought within Park's boundaries?
- Vacant property next to Park High could be bought for use as the multiagency hub or as a teacher training centre; lower floors rented out as a small business which could offer work placements to students
- Various suggestions for improvements to Park High buildings including new fitness suite, ICT upgrades throughout, eco enhancements and relocating recording studio equipment from Rock Ferry site
- No justification for capital costs of a new site
- Improvements to Park building would be a net saving on the cost of building a whole new school

Falling Rolls

- Understand reasons for 150 intake
- Academy would attract more pupils so 180 intake would improve sustainability and meet ideal school size

Pupils

- Pupils at Rock Ferry site should be allowed to stay until they finish their GCSEs

Other

- Generations of my family have gone to both predecessor schools
- Sad either school has to close but this is an exciting prospect for the future

Commentary on the points raised

4.1 Review Process

i) While it may be understandable that some may find their presence upsetting, the legal notices have been published properly in accordance with statutory requirements. This specifically includes the front gate and main entrances to both Park High and Rock Ferry

High Schools. This is in order that persons visiting or passing the schools concerned can be advised of the statutory process.

This respondent also claimed that the notices were published without any warning. The Academy and closure proposal process has been long and fully consulted upon, formally beginning with documents and letters to parents of pupils at both schools and Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils at 58 Wirral primary schools, staff and governors at both schools as well as advertisements in the local press and via the consultation website in February 2010. It is unlikely that any individual directly connected to either school would not be aware of the Academy and closure proposals at that stage. The timescale for the closure/Academy process was published in the Cabinet report of 15th April 2010, again at the 27th May 2010 Cabinet, and there have been regular discussions with the headteachers of the two secondary schools throughout the process. Officers had also contacted both schools two days prior to the publication date to inform them that the publication visit was about to take place.

ii) This respondent says that the notice made no mention of alternative sites for the Academy. Council's approved recommendations from 27th May 2010 were as follows:

4) the Director of Children's Services continue to develop plans, in conjunction with the sponsors and partnerships for Schools, to locate the proposed new Academy at the current Park High site, as agreed by the Cabinet on 26 November 2009; and

(5) as work continues towards the Academy Funding Agreement, Cabinet instructs the Director of Children's Services to explore further whether a suitable site and funding might be available to accommodate the Academy as a new build.

The Expression of Interest and the two parallel consultations on closure of existing schools and establishment of an Academy were held on the basis of the Academy being based on the Park High site, following a period of transition where both sites remain in use. The statutory notice is published on that basis. It does not, however, preclude the use of a different site after the Academy has been established, if such a site is found, available for use, and sufficient capital funding is found to purchase and construct a 750 place Academy. The Funding Agreement has not been signed, and as such, no capital can be assigned to the project, regardless of site.

iii) The petitions to which the respondent refers were proforma letters sent to the Authority after the closure consultation deadline had passed. The letter asked for consideration to be given to a new building on a new site.

For completeness, analysis of the 1,704 proforma letters that had arrived by 10th May 2010 was reported to Cabinet on 27th May 2010 in Appendix E1. Subsequently a further 56 proforma letters were received. The final analysis of all the proformas is as follows:

Of the 1,760 proforma letters, 766 were duplicates, illegible, incomplete or non-existent addresses, out of borough, or persons not on the electoral roll.

Of the remaining 994 entries, 300 persons (193 households) had Rock Ferry High pupils resident at the address provided, representing 222 pupils (41% of total pupils). 27 of the 300 persons, and 20 of the 193 households, had previously responded to the consultation.

The proforma letters are a response from a segment of the community under consultation, not from the whole community.

iv) The utmost respect and sensitivity to the views of parents/carers and all those affected by school reorganisation is intrinsic to the Primary Places Review process. All respondents are dealt with professionally, politely and sensitively, endeavouring to answer enquiries as best as possible. Understandably, school re-organisation is a difficult and upsetting time for all concerned and sometimes people receive answers that are not what they want to hear.

The review has been carried out properly. These objections do not constitute grounds to reject the proposals.

4.2 Buildings and site

As in 4.1 above, the decision to proceed with proposals to close the predecessor schools in order to establish an Academy does not preclude an alternative site being available after the Academy comes into existence.

As noted by the second respondent and as previously reported to Cabinet in 4.3 of the 27th May report, the Park High site is central to the area the Academy is intended to serve, recently refurbished, with more than enough capacity to accommodate the intended Academy, and with good public transport links.

The question of purchasing additional garden and other land east of the Park High site and outside the carriage drive has been previously raised. This would depend upon the willingness of the current owners to part with this land, and the availability of capital, if the increase in site size is deemed worth the expenditure.

The Park respondent also refers to purchasing an additional property for non-school purposes due to lack of space within the school. At 150 pupils per year group, if full, the Academy would hold 750 pupils. This would mean 500 surplus places, which equates roughly to 850 m² of surplus floor space within the school. The intention is (subject to the extent and availability of capital) to use some of this surplus space to accommodate the relocated SEN resource base, the additional specialism of Performing Arts and the new multiagency hub.

In both cases, this capital expenditure would not be covered by Building Schools for the Future, and would need to be centrally funded by the Council.

The points regarding the final location of the Academy at Park have been thoroughly covered in previous reports to Cabinet. These points do not constitute grounds to reject the proposal.

Central Government's recent announcement on Building Schools for the Future includes the University Academy of Birkenhead project funding as "for discussion". More detail on the rationale for the project has been requested by the Department for Education accordingly. Partnerships for Schools (PfS) visited the Park site earlier this year. Their report on the extent of refurbishment and alteration required to locate the Academy at the Park site has not yet been released, and the extent of capital funding will not be known until later this year.

The Academy can be implemented in the existing buildings and does not rely on a new building being constructed. These comments do not constitute grounds to reject the proposals.

4.3 Falling rolls

The admission number of 150 for the Academy on implementation has been carefully set in line with future projections of available pupils. The Authority has a duty to provide sufficient places for all Wirral pupils, and to manage an effective and efficient school provision, which means reducing surplus and empty places. Expanding the Academy to 180 places on implementation would have one of two effects:

- Places would not be filled, and the school would be operating with significant surplus places which represents a waste of resources
- Places would fill, but at the expense of neighbouring schools who would therefore be disadvantaged financially

150 pupils per year group is also well above the 100 pupil per year group point below which Wirral's policy says that secondary schools are unlikely to be viable.

As an Academy, the governing body could in future decide to set a different admission number, within the Net Capacity of the building at that time, and following statutory consultation with local admission authorities under the Admissions Code.

The admission number has been set within the Council's long term strategic plan for secondary school places in Wirral. These points do not constitute grounds to reject the proposals.

4.4 Pupils

Transition arrangements from the two existing sites to a single form part of the Feasibility stage discussions between the sponsors. Whilst it cannot be guaranteed that every pupil currently at Rock Ferry site will finish their education on that site, the transition plan drawn up by the sponsor team and Principal Designate is expected to minimize disruption to pupils education – Current Years 10 and 11 are likely to remain in situ until their secondary education is completed, however lower year groups may be required to move sites at some stage.

Transition planning forms part of the Feasibility stage of the Academy proposal and does not constitute grounds to reject the proposals.

4.5 Other points

Decisions on the closure or amalgamation of any school are never taken lightly. Both schools are well respected and supported by the community, and this should transfer to the Academy.

This does not constitute grounds to reject the proposals.

5.0 **Other factors to be considered**

Academy proposal

- 5.1 Paragraphs 4.25 to 4.27 of the guidance to decision makers indicates that where schools are closing in order to establish an Academy, there should be a general presumption in favour of approval, but this approval should be conditional on the Secretary of State making an agreement for an Academy under section 482(1) of the 1996 Education Act.

Surplus Places

- 5.2 The DfE guidance for Decision Makers at paragraph 4.35 says that they *“should normally approve proposals to close schools in order to remove surplus places where the school proposed for closure has a quarter or more places unfilled, and at least 30 surplus places, and where standards are low compared to standards across the LA”*.
- 5.3 Park High School had 718 pupils on roll in January 2010 with 43% surplus places. Rock Ferry High School had 540 pupils on roll, with 56% surplus places. The last peak at the two schools was 1,163 pupils at Park in 2004, and 1,222 at Rock Ferry in 2002. There has been a long decline in numbers. This is largely the result of the falling population. Projections indicate that numbers on roll will continue to fall, and surplus places will remain high at both schools over the next five years.

Both schools are part of the Government's National Challenge scheme for schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A* to C GCSE's including English and Maths. Although both schools remained below the target in 2009, the GCSE results show a year on year improvement. In the last three years CVA scores show that pupils

in both schools made at least the expected rate of progress, with pupils at Park High (2007, 2008) and Rock Ferry High (2008, 2009) making significantly more progress than similar pupils in other schools.

5.4 Although both schools are in National Challenge, CVA indicates that standards are not low in Wirral terms. The Decision Makers guidance suggests that in this situation, the following factors should be considered:

- standards at alternative schools (5.5)
- geographical issues such as travel distance to alternative schools (5.6)
- impact on community use of the buildings (5.7).

The presence of the Sanderling Unit, located at Rock Ferry High School, means that the SEN improvement test (paragraph 4.58 of the guidance) also applies.

5.5 Standards

With regard to standards, GCSE Contextual Value Added (CVA0 scores in 2009 at maintained schools within a 3 mile radius of one or both of the schools concerned indicate that all pupils made the expected rate of progress (unshaded) or above (shaded green). No data is available for Birkenhead High School Academy, which until September 2009 was an independent school.

School	CVA 2009	3 Year Average
Bebington High School	1005.5	996.5
Birkenhead High School Academy (Girls)	n/a	n/a
Mosslands School (Boys)	996.9	992.9
Oldershaw School	1039.4	1029.5
Park High	1002.2	1012.7
Prenton High School (Girls)	1006.3	1013.4
Ridgeway High School	1018.9	1026.0
Rock Ferry High	1021.3	1012.4
St Anselm's College	1006.1	1013.8
St John Plessington Catholic High School	1042.4	1037.1
St Mary's College	1006	1012.7
Upton Hall School (Girls)	1013.6	1016.3
Wallasey School	1003.6	997.1
Weatherhead High School (Girls)	1012.9	1012.5
Wirral Grammar (Boys)	1004.3	1000.6
Wirral Grammar (Girls)	998.8	1004.2
Woodchurch High School	998.3	1007.5

The Academy, at which former pupils of both predecessor schools are guaranteed a place, is expected to improve standards through closer links with higher and further education through the lead and co-sponsors.

Accordingly, closure of the schools would not be expected to reduce standards, and this is not a ground to reject the proposal.

5.6 Travel

Section 4.3 of the 27th May 2010 report covers travel to the Academy, which is covered in more detail in part 15 of the full proposal document. The impact on current Park High pupils of travel to the Park site involves no change to their current travel arrangements, whatever they might currently be.

Change in travel distance

For 46% of Rock Ferry High pupils, the Park site is either closer, or less than 1 mile further, than their current travel distance to school.

The DfE says that pupils aged over 8 can travel up to 3 miles to the nearest appropriate school before being entitled to free transport (with exceptions). Just 49 pupils (9%) would travel more than 3 miles to the Park site. Of these, 35 would be entitled to free transport. Of the remaining 14, 12 are in years 10 and 11 and would be expected to finish their education on the Rock Ferry site.

Impact on pupils from low income families

Of the 430 pupils expected to be on roll at Rock Ferry High School in September 2010, 175 (41%) would be entitled to free transport to the Park site, which includes all pupils attending the Sanderling Unit, and 60% of pupils claiming Free School Meals. This compares to 50 pupils currently entitled to free transport to the Rock Ferry site (12%), which equates to just 14% of those pupils claiming Free School Meals.

Of the 110 pupils on Free School Meals who would not be eligible for free transport because they live less than 2 miles from the Park site, 46 live closer to Park site than to Rock Ferry, and 57 live less than 1 mile further away.

Alternative school provision

There are other alternatives for pupils who do not wish to attend the Park site. One of these is Bebington High School, which is the most closely located non-selective mixed sex school in the area, and which many pupils living in the area served by Rock Ferry High School already attend. Of the 239 pupils for whom the travel distance to the Park site would be 1 mile or more further than their current distance to Rock Ferry, 205 live closer to Bebington High School.

The impact of closure of the schools on travel and transport is expected to be minimal. This is not a ground to reject the proposal.

5.7 Impact on community use

Park High School operates a Breakfast club, as well as various after school sports and other activities for pupils and the wider community including pre-school gymnastics, gifted and talented master classes, outreach and teacher training, boxercise, climbing, adult learning with accredited courses, links with sporting clubs, particular those in Birkenhead Park, and parenting clubs including ADHD workshops, Parenting Puzzle and Family Works.

Rock Ferry High School also offers out of school activities, including football, cricket, rugby and basketball, languages, performing arts and music technology, cookery and trampolining.

The Sponsors of the Academy have indicated their intention to continue and build on extended and out of school services for pupils, and the wider community. The Park site is also expected to house additional social and health care services as part of a multi-agency area hub. This is not a ground to reject the proposal.

5.8 The SEN improvement test

Decision Makers should be content that the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs

5.9 The Sanderling Unit occupies a Victorian House separate from, but within the grounds of, Rock Ferry High School. As such the facilities offered to the pupils are well below that to be desired for a 21st century school. In particular the unit is not fully accessible to the full range of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities as required by the authority's accessibility strategy.

- 5.10 The unit provides for 40 secondary aged pupils who are all of broadly mainstream ability but who experience specific learning difficulties. All of the pupils, however, also experience additional special educational needs, which make it difficult for them to thrive in a mainstream setting. These additional needs include; social and communication difficulties; autistic spectrum disorder; attention deficit disorder; social and emotional difficulties and require staff to work collaboratively with a wide range of external agencies and services. The stand-alone nature of the unit provides a degree of security for the students and inclusion and integration are facilitated by the proximity of the mainstream school. The majority of the pupils will, upon reaching school leaving age, be expected to integrate fully into mainstream society either through work, further education or training. Developing their social and emotional resilience is, therefore, a key function of the unit.
- 5.11 With the proposed closure of Rock Ferry High School, it is important for the authority to secure similar provision in the future. With this in mind it is the authority's intention to commission 40 resourced base places within the Academy. This resource base, situated within the main body of the Academy and established in line with guidelines contained within Building Bulletin 102, will;
- Provide a secure base from which the students can more easily and flexibly access the full range of curriculum and social opportunities available to them by their inclusion within the main body of the academy;
 - Make provision for multi-agency and multi-professional working to greatly enhance the support available to the students;
 - Greatly enhance the physical and learning environment available to the students in modern, purpose designed surroundings geared to their specific needs;
 - Provide opportunities for those students in the main body of the academy who would benefit, to access the expertise and facilities available from the resources base.

The SEN improvement test has been met, and this is not a ground to reject the proposals.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet give conditional approval to the published proposals to close Park High School and Rock Ferry High School in order to establish an Academy.
- 6.2 Conditional approval requires a date to be set by which the condition will be met. As the intention is to implement the Academy on 1st January 2011, it is suggested that Cabinet set the condition date at 31st December 2010.

7.0 Risk Assessment

- 7.1 The implementation date for the Academy is currently 1st January 2011. If the Funding Agreement is subsequently not expected to be signed by the condition deadline of 31st December 2010, the condition approval date can be modified by Cabinet before the implementation date and notified to the Department for Education.
- 7.2 If the Funding Agreement is not signed by the condition approval date, Cabinet must reconsider the proposals.
- 7.3 If the implementation date for the Academy will not be met, the implementation date for the closure proposals can be modified by Cabinet before the original implementation date, following consultation with both governing bodies of the predecessor schools and the Sponsors of the Academy. The change in date is then notified to the Department for Education.
- 7.4 Other significant changes to the proposals after the decision to approve has been taken

would require the publication of revocation notices with a six week representation period, followed by the publication of new statutory proposals with another six week representation period, which represents a significant delay in implementing the proposals for closure and consequently the implementation of the Academy.

8.0 Financial Implications and Value for Money

8.1 In the interim period prior to Cabinet's decision, both Schools have been allocated a 5/12ths budget for 2009/2010. The remaining 7/12ths budget would then be redistributed through the Budget formula to Wirral schools.

9.0 Staffing Implications

9.1 When a school closes, all staff at the school are made redundant. The Academy will of course require staff, and the governing body will be expected to make appointments from within the existing pool of staff wherever possible.

9.2 The Authority has a long and successful track record in assisting redundant teaching and non-teaching staff into new positions. Wirral does not have a redeployment scheme in place for teaching staff at present, and the present arrangement relies on the co-operation of governing bodies when making appointments.

9.3 The change to a 1st January 2011 start date for the Academy has had implications for staff at the two predecessor schools. All staff were contacted by 1st July 2010 to ask whether they wished to be considered for posts within the Academy, if it is approved by the Secretary of State. Those who declined will be made redundant on 31st December 2010, with an accrued pension, at the Authority's expense. TUPE notices for the remaining staff will then be issued by the end of September 2010. At this stage there is no staffing structure, which means staff will be TUPE'd with their existing responsibilities and conditions.

9.4 There are implications for catering, cleaning and caretaking staff who are not employed directly by the Authority. The catering contract at Rock Ferry site may need to be bought out by the Authority whilst the site is in operation. Cleaners and caretakers at the Rock Ferry site also cannot be TUPE'd to the Academy, as these functions at the Park site are operated by Hochtief under the terms of the PFI contract.

10.0 Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

10.1 It is essential to plan school provision across the Authority so that it is both efficient and effective in the interests of all pupils.

10.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on these proposals.

11.0 Community Safety Implications

11.1 Rationalisation and refurbishment of schools allow the most vulnerable accommodation to be removed and other security improvements carried out.

12.0 Local Agenda 21 Statement

12.1 The provision of efficient and effective education is a vital part of serving local communities; inefficient use of resources is wasteful both in educational and physical resource terms.

13.0 Planning Implications

13.1 All sites are subject to the usual planning permissions.

14.0 Anti-Poverty Implications

14.1 The redistribution of funding released by school reorganisation, in combination with the Authority's intention to realign the schools budget to give higher levels of funding to schools with high levels of deprivation, as well as improved accommodation, goes towards raising aspirations and narrowing the attainment gap for vulnerable groups.

15.0 Social Inclusion Implications

15.1 School re-organisation and transforming accommodation provides opportunities to promote joint agency work to promote co-ordinated solutions for pupils and their families.

16.0 Local Member Support Implications

16.1 The schools specifically mentioned and the Claughton, Bidston and St James, Oxton, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Rock Ferry and Bebington wards.

17.0 Background Papers

17.1 Previous Cabinet reports, particularly 27th May 2010

Responses to Consultation.

Decision Makers Guidance on closing a maintained mainstream school -

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg/data/guidance_Documents/ClosureGuide%202010-01-25-DM%20only.doc

Recommendations

- (1) That the proposals for the closure of Park High School and Rock Ferry High School be conditionally approved subject to the Secretary of State's signature on the Funding Agreement for the new Academy taking place by 31st December 2010.
- (2) That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to ensure the prescribed procedures are followed in furtherance of the proposal, with closure of the schools on 31st December 2010.

Howard Cooper

Director of Children's Services