

**DIOCESE OF
MIDDLESBROUGH**



**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST. DAVID'S RC AND THE
NEWLANDS FCJ SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND
OPEN A NEW CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**LINKED PROPOSALS OF
THE DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH AND
MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

13th March 2008



STATUTORY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

- 1. CLOSURE OF ST. DAVID'S R.C. TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE**
- 2. CLOSURE OF THE NEWLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL FCJ**
- 3. OPENING OF A NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THE EXISTING SITE OF ST. DAVID'S R.C. TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, HALL DRIVE**

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Local Education Authority area | Middlesbrough |
| 2. Closure proposals published by | Middlesbrough Local Education Authority
Vancouver House
PO Box 69
Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL |
| New school proposals published by | The Diocese of Middlesbrough
The Curial Office
50a The Avenue
Linthorpe
Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT |
| 3. Names of schools involved | St. David's RC Technology College
(8064701)

The Newlands Catholic School FCJ
(8064637)

New Roman Catholic School - unnamed |
| 4. Date Proposals published | 13 th March 2008 |
| 5. Proposed implementation date | 1 st September 2009 |

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INTRODUCTION

Middlesbrough's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is providing a once in a lifetime opportunity to redesign and renew secondary school provision across the town. Every secondary and secondary age special school in Middlesbrough will benefit from record levels of capital investment.

As part of the BSF programme the Diocese of Middlesbrough, in collaboration with the Faithful Companions of Jesus, has been consulting on creating a single Roman Catholic secondary school to serve Middlesbrough, replacing the existing two schools of St. David's RC Technology College and The Newlands FCJ School. Having listened to the views expressed during several periods of consultation over the last year, this document presents the final, formal proposal of the Diocese of Middlesbrough for a single new Catholic secondary school. Middlesbrough Council's proposals for the closure of the two existing schools, an integral part of creating a single school, are also included.

The consent of the Secretary of State has been obtained in a letter of the 11th June 2007, to publish these proposals without the need to hold a full school competition.

A final decision on the linked proposals is expected by Middlesbrough Council's Executive in May 2008. This document provides information on where comments on these proposals can be sent in order for them to be considered prior to a final decision being made.

The Diocese of Middlesbrough has an established record of delivering high quality learning opportunities for children of all ages across the diocese, providing over 60 schools. The Diocese works in close partnerships with the maintaining Local Authorities of these schools to ensure continued school improvement leading to enhanced standards for children and their communities.

All stakeholders involved with Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough are excited about the opportunity to provide a school that will transform education for future generations. It will be a centre of academic excellence delivering the highest levels of attainment. The school will be a beacon of hope and aspiration that will contribute significantly to the lives of the Catholic community of Middlesbrough.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Diocese of Middlesbrough proposes to open, on 1st September 2009, a new Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic secondary school on the site of the existing St. David's RC Technology College, Hall Drive, Middlesbrough. Once full implemented the school will educate up to 1,200 pupils mainly between the ages of 11 and 16. The new school will also provide 15 places for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties.

In order to facilitate the Diocesan proposal, Middlesbrough Council proposes to close the existing schools of St. David's RC Technology College and The Newlands Catholic School FCJ at the same time. The result of these changes will be for Middlesbrough to be served by a single new Catholic secondary school.

Table 1: Schools involved in the proposals

Name of School	School Number	Proposal	Proposer	Implementation date
New Catholic School	Unknown	Open a new school	Diocese of Middlesbrough	1/9/2009
St David's RC Technology College	8064701	School closure	Middlesbrough Council	31/8/2009
The Newlands Catholic School FCJ	8064637	School closure	Middlesbrough Council	31/8/ 2009

The three proposals detailed within this document are linked to one another and must be implemented together. The council's proposals to close both St. David's and The Newlands FCJ schools have come about as a direct consequence of the Diocesan proposal to establish a new single Catholic secondary school for Middlesbrough. A copy of the linked statutory notices summarising these proposals is included with this document at Appendix 1.

It is proposed that, in order to accommodate refurbishment works taking place on the Hall Drive site, the new school will operate on two sites when it initially opens in September 2009, catering for 1,450 pupils with the greater number of students initially attending school at the Saltergill Avenue site. The school will consolidate onto a single site on Hall Drive in September 2011 when remodelling under the BSF programme is complete and will educate 1,300 pupils. The capacity of the school will reduce to 1,200 pupils in 2013.

OBJECTIVES

These proposals for school reorganisation form part of the Middlesbrough BSF programme. Through this programme it is intended to reduce to one the number of schools providing Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough. The existing accommodation on Hall Drive will be refurbished, remodelled and extended to current building standards and used to provide the accommodation for the new school.

The advantages of creating a larger school are many. They include the opportunity to create a broad and balanced curriculum to accommodate the educational needs and aspirations of all Catholic young people in Middlesbrough, increased flexibility to manage resources and class size, improved opportunities for professional development of staff, and broader curriculum expertise within a larger staffing establishment. The building itself will deliver improved use of light and ventilation, with purpose built, innovative, flexible spaces designed to improve the education experience for students by removing barriers to teaching and learning that are present in the current school accommodation. These factors will in turn have an impact on all students and will help to maintain and build upon the quality of teaching and learning.

The proposal will reduce the number of surplus places currently present in Catholic secondary schools in Middlesbrough, and address in the order of a £3.8 million repairs and maintenance backlog currently outstanding on the two schools.

The overarching objectives of the proposal are:

- To enhance educational standards;
- To provide value for money solutions to address ageing, and as a consequence, poor quality school accommodation;

- To create a viable, thriving school to serve the Catholic community of Middlesbrough;
- To make better use of resources currently tied to existing provision and maintaining surplus places.

The amalgamation of these two schools into a single school is fundamental to the continued success of Catholic education in Middlesbrough. Catholic education has been a mainstay of education in Middlesbrough for over a century, and students, parents, and the wider Catholic community need to be assured that it will continue to be available for future generations following this development.

The educational vision of the new school has been carefully constructed as part of a holistic approach to secondary education across the town. The specialisms identified for the new school have been chosen to enhance the diverse choice for all parents and young people across Middlesbrough.

PLACE PLANNING

St. David's R.C Technology College can currently provide places for 1,021 boys and girls between the ages of 11-16. It also provides 15 Special Educational Needs (SEN) places for students with Moderate Learning Difficulties. The Newlands FCJ Catholic School currently provides for 740 boys and girls between the ages of 11-16. There are no places reserved for students with SEN although close links are maintained with Beverly Special School.

It is proposed that the new school will, when fully implemented, provide 1,200 places for boys and girls between the ages of 11-16, with 15 places reserved for students with Moderate Learning Difficulties. Based on current figures, it is expected that over 80% of the students at the school will be Catholic, the remainder of the school roll consisting of other children whose parents have exercised their preference for a Catholic education for their children.

This proposed reorganisation of Catholic education is in line with the current projections of student roll numbers and parental preferences which show that there will be demand for fewer than 1,200 places for Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough. The amalgamation of the two existing schools and an associated phased implementation of this amalgamation allows for the number of Catholic secondary school places to be matched to anticipated demand.

Supply of secondary school places is being managed throughout the Middlesbrough BSF programme to ensure that demand can be met. By the completion of the BSF programme there will be an appropriate number of places to meet demand with a small surplus of 5.3% across all providers by 2011, and a surplus of 9.4% by 2016. Sufficient school places will be available at the new Catholic secondary school to cater for those students currently on roll at St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools.

Following the full implementation of the Middlesbrough BSF programme, the number of Catholic secondary student places, as a percentage of all secondary school places in the town, will have been reduced from 18.8% in 2007 to 15.1% in 2016. This small reduction in the availability of Catholic places is in line with the projected reduction in student numbers and parental demand and is not expected to have a detrimental effect on parental choice.

The existing places at St. David's R.C Technology College reserved for 15 students with Moderate Learning Difficulties will be continued by an equivalent number of places in the new school. There will be no detrimental effect on the number of SEN places, or the provision available either within the Catholic sector or across the town

CONSULTATION

Throughout the formulation of these proposals both the Diocese of Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Council have ensured that all statutory requirements to consult with the schools, parents and other stakeholders have been fully complied with.

Two periods of public consultation have taken place. In each phase of consultation approximately 6,500 consultation documents were either posted or emailed to stakeholders or distributed via the town's Catholic schools. Copies were also made available on the council's website, in local libraries and civic offices, and made available at parish churches. A freepost response form was included in each document for ease of reply. All statutory stakeholders were consulted including:

- The families of pupils attending St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools and all Catholic primary schools in the town;
- The governing bodies of St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools;
- Staff at St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools and their trade union representatives;
- Local diocesan authorities;
- The Learning and Skills Council;
- Ashok Kumar MP and Sir Stuart Bell MP;
- All Middlesbrough community councils;
- Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar & Cleveland local authorities.

Copies of the consultation documents used during these phases of consultation along with minutes of public meetings are included in appendices 2 and 3.

Pupils at the two secondary schools have also been engaged through the BSF programme via design workshops. Further engagement activities are planned to take place around the five Every Child Matters outcomes, and how these should inform the schools of the future.

The first phase of consultation, to consult on a range of options for the reorganisation of Catholic education, was carried out during March and April of 2007. The consultation included three options for reorganisation and expressed the Diocese and the council's preference from within these options to open a single new Catholic school and close the existing two schools. 84% of the 61 responses received supported this option.

The outcomes of this initial consultation were used to inform the Diocesan proposals for change, and to support an application to the Secretary of State for approval to publish proposals for a new Catholic school in Middlesbrough. A second phase of consultation on draft proposals for the closure of St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools and the opening of a new Catholic secondary school was then undertaken in January and February of 2008.

The results of the second phase of consultation were mixed and of the 50 responses received, 66% felt that they could not support the draft proposals, quoting various reasons for this.

However, a number of the issues raised are for future consideration by the new school's

governing body and cannot be resolved at this stage. For example, respondents were concerned about home to school journeys for pupils not eligible for Local Authority transport and the admission of pupils of other faiths or no faith to the school. Parents were also concerned about possible disruption to pupils and the quality of education provision during implementation. There was also some concern from staff about the staffing arrangements of the new school.

All of these concerns will be passed to the temporary governing body of the new school, once established, for their consideration.

A number of other issues related directly to the draft proposal or to the Building Schools for the Future programme. For example, concern was expressed about the location of the new school including suitability of the site, accommodation and playing fields, and access and congestion on the surrounding road network. Views were also expressed about potential population growth and the ability of the new school to cope with increased demand for places. Respondents also expressed a preference for new build accommodation for the new school rather than refurbished accommodation. A small number of respondents expressed a preference for an 11-18 school.

All of these issues have been considered and investigated both prior to consultation during the formulation of the proposals, and following consultation. It is still considered that the proposals provide the best available solution given the inevitable constraints of an educational reorganisation of this nature.

LOCATION AND ADMISSION ZONE

Once fully implemented the new school will utilise existing, significantly refurbished and remodelled accommodation on the site currently used by St. David's School. The postal address of the school will be:

Hall Drive
Acklam
Middlesbrough
TS5 7EY

However, initially the school will operate on a split site until 2011, utilising both the accommodation at St David's and the accommodation currently used by The Newlands FCJ School at Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW.

The new school will serve the Catholic community of Middlesbrough and some small areas outside of the borough boundary. A map showing the location of the site, and the proposed admission zone is provided at Appendix 4.

STUDENT NUMBERS AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

It is proposed that when the new school has been fully implemented it will cater for 1,200 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16 years, although initially upon opening in 2009, and while operating on two sites, the school will cater for up to 1,450 students. As the older and larger year groups leave the school after completing Year 11 the school will naturally reduce in size to the target capacity of 1,200 by 2013.

The new school will entirely replace the existing two schools of St. David's and the Newlands FCJ and to this extent all students, including those with SEN, attending these schools at the time of closure on 31st August 2009 will be offered a place in the new

school. Parents may express a preference for another school, and the Local Authority will endeavour to comply with any such requests where places are available.

The implementation of the new school will take place in three stages:

1. The school will open in September 2009 on a split site with capacity for 1,450 students. This is the number of students it is anticipated will be attending the two outgoing schools of St. David's and the Newlands FCJ. While building works progress on the Hall Drive site through the Building Schools for the Future programme the majority of pupils will attend the Saltersgill Avenue site.
2. The programme of works will be completed by summer 2011, and the school will open its doors in that September entirely located on the Hall Drive site. The school accommodation at that stage will be augmented with some temporary accommodation to ensure the school has initial temporary capacity for 1,300 students.
3. September 2013 all temporary accommodation will have been removed leaving only the permanent school accommodation, and reducing the long-term capacity of the school to 1,200 students.

During the admissions round for new Year 7 students to start in September 2009, and in every subsequent year, the admission number for the new school will be 240 students. The governing body, which will be the admissions authority for the new school, will admit up to this number of students in every Year 7 cohort.

The governing body will conduct admissions to the school in line with the Diocesan Trust Deed, the Admissions Code of Practice, and within the legislation laid down in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The school will not select students by ability.

In the event that the school has more applicants for admission into Year 7 than there are places, priority for admission into the school will be given to children who are baptised Catholics. Other children will be able to take up available places once Catholic children have been allocated places

Students with statements of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be given overriding priority in keeping with the over subscription criteria. The governing body as the admission authority will also give high priority to those young people in public care who express a preference for the school. Should further school places be available, children of other Christian denominations or other faiths, or children from families of no faith disposition but seeking for their children to be educated within a Catholic setting, will be offered these under the Governing Body Admission Policy.

It is anticipated that the school will admit the following approximate number of students into each year group in the first year of its opening in September 2009. These numbers reflect the numbers of pupils it is anticipated will transfer from St. David's RC and The Newlands FCJ schools.

Table 2 – Admissions into each year group in September 2009

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
Admissions	240	282	294	309	307	1,447*

** Includes 15 Special Educational Needs Children with Moderate Learning Difficulties*

The number of students admitted into Year 7 in every following year will not exceed 240. 15 students with moderate learning difficulties aged between 11 and 16 will also be admitted into the SEN unit.

ETHOS

The proposed new Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic secondary school will operate under the Diocesan Trust Deed for schools in keeping with the requirements of Canon Law. The school will be under the control of the Bishop of Middlesbrough. The Catholic faith will permeate all aspects of school life. Students and staff will be part of a learning community in which all seek to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and culturally.

The ethos of the school will be set by the governing body in conjunction with the Trustees. However, as a maintained Catholic school in the diocese of Middlesbrough it will:

- Contribute to the creation of a society which is highly educated, skilled and cultured;
- Assist the Church in making Christ known to the people;
- Assist parents, who are the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children;
- Be a service to the local Church – the diocese, the parish and the Christian home.

The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) will continue to be actively involved in the governance of the new school, and will contribute to its ethos and values in the same manner that has benefited Middlesbrough for over a century.

The Diocese of Middlesbrough will ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a Catholic school.

DIVERSITY AND QUALITY OF PROVISION

The amalgamation of the existing two Catholic secondary schools into a single school is fundamental to the continued success of Catholic education in Middlesbrough. Catholic education has been a mainstay of education in Middlesbrough for over a century, and students, parents, and the wider Catholic community can be assured that it will continue to be available for future generations following this development.

The reorganisation of the two existing schools into a single Catholic secondary school, and the investment provided through BSF will remove barriers to learning presented by older school accommodation, and by releasing funds tied down to maintaining surplus places to be spent on students.

The new school will form a central part of the Middlesbrough family of specialist secondary schools, and within this context increase options and choice for parents. The council's portfolio of specialisms is being carefully managed throughout the BSF programme to ensure cohesion and choice is maintained for parents and students. The new school will play a central role in this strategy with its joint specialism in technology, and computing and maths; the only mainstream specialist provision of this type in Middlesbrough.

Access to provision for students of all ability and aptitude will be made available to ensure that all Catholic parents and other parents seeking an education for their children in a Catholic setting have the opportunity to enrol their children at a Catholic school committed to provide both excellence, and flexibility and choice.

STANDARDS AND CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The proposed new school will grow from the strengths and traditions of its two constituent parts, Newlands FCJ and St. David's RC Technology College. It will also exploit the recommendations of the Report '14-19: Extending Opportunities, Raising Standards' to create an educational setting which extends each and every student to their full potential.

The current Headteachers have developed a joint education vision statement that focuses on transforming teaching, learning and standards of attainment. This incorporates effective use of modern technology, access to learning 24 hours a day, community involvement, and a rigorous programme of staff development and training. The vision statement will ensure that as the two schools continue to work together to create a single school, young people and their educational opportunities and outcomes remain central to their endeavours.

The refurbished school accommodation will include high levels of information technology provision and purpose designed general and specialist teaching spaces that meet the demands necessary for delivery of the modern curriculum. The two existing schools are already working together to plan and specify the requirements of the school accommodation to create a learning environment that will inspire staff and students alike.

Developments in the school's curriculum, personalised learning, enhanced specialist provision, academic mentoring and pastoral care for students will deliver improvements to students' achievements and academic success.

The existing institutions are discussing a range of joint professional development opportunities to ensure a 'flying start' for the new school.

THE SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM

The school will meet the values, aims and purposes of the National Curriculum as contained in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 by promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and hence of society, and in doing so preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The school will meet the basic provision of the curriculum for 11-16 year olds, including social, moral and sex education for all registered students, and will develop a curriculum appropriate to the needs of all students. This will include both enhanced vocational and traditional academic courses, and the continued development of Specialist Diplomas, notably engineering and ICT, as well as being the lead school with construction.

The school envisages that it will become a centre of excellence for maths, computing and technology, and so provide a strong lead for the study of all areas of construction providing the vital link between education and industry in this hugely important area for the future regeneration of the town. The school will seek to provide the community with the engineers, scientists, architects, and skilled craftspeople of the future as well as well-rounded learners in a wide range of curriculum areas through the following major

developments:

- An innovative curriculum that allows students to build upon prior achievements and experience success.
- Personalisation of learning through promotion of a guided choice of content, level, timing, learning activities and assessment.
- Teaching and Learning strategies that continually evolve and improve and allow students an ever-greater degree of personalised learning in a low-stress, high-challenge atmosphere.
- Staff development that is continuous and tailored to increase the level of personalisation of learning.
- Promotion and development of specialisms in Maths, Computing and Technology.
- Development of a range of Specialist Diplomas including the lead for the Borough in the Diploma for Construction.
- Development of the current range of curriculum excellence, particularly Modern Foreign Languages in collaboration with St Mary's College.

SPECIALISMS

The school will have a broad and balanced curriculum but will also have a joint specialism in technology, and maths and computing. Middlesbrough Council in support of the Diocese and in partnership with the Head designate and temporary governing body of the new school, once appointed, will apply to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to enable the school to be designated a technology, maths and computing specialist school from the first day of opening. This will build on the work already undertaken by St. David's R.C. Technology College, and The Newlands FCJ School who have recently been awarded a specialism in maths and computing. This will be the only mainstream provision of its kind available in Middlesbrough.

THE WIDER AGENDA FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The principles behind Every Child Matters meld effectively with the beliefs which underpin Catholic Education. The key teachings of the church recognise a duty to ensure that, in partnership with parents and carers, all children are encouraged to develop a full and rewarding lifestyle linked to high expectations. The school will liaise with all relevant agencies to ensure the health and safety of its children.

COMMUNITY COHESION

The Catholic vision for education involves each student being encouraged to grow emotionally and spiritually in keeping with the teaching of the Gospels. An educated young person is expected to contribute to the good of society, both locally and in wider contexts. The new school will seek to fulfil this broader mission by offering opportunities for all young people to serve the community of Middlesbrough. Empowerment of the students to influence their learning through a strong student voice will be encouraged. The development of citizenship skills leading to a desire to play an active role in their communities will be integral to all social and moral education programmes.

Moreover, all Catholic schools from September 2007 are monitored under the Section 48 inspection arrangements in their obligation to provide for social cohesion. The temporary

governing body of the new school will be required to determine how best this can be achieved within the town of Middlesbrough in keeping with the advice and guidance provided by the Diocese.

The governing body will be representative of the community it serves and will be charged with:

- Promoting shared values of respect for diverse cultures;
- Ensuring genuine equality of opportunity;
- Closing the achievement gap, removing barriers to participation and progression;
- Developing common values of citizenship;
- Building good community relations.

EXTENDED SERVICES

The school will share and celebrate Middlesbrough's vision for extended schools. The school will be an inclusive, lifelong learning environment with a range of activities, opportunities, and services for all members of the Catholic and local communities, thereby contributing to improved public health, social cohesion and regeneration.

Consideration is being given at the preliminary design stage of the school accommodation to ensure that community access to the building can be achieved safely throughout the school day. This includes the location of shared facilities close to the main school entrance so that for example sports, ICT, resource and meeting facilities can be made available to the public without disturbance to students.

A coordinated town-wide approach to the provision of extended services is being taken through the BSF programme which will map extended services across all Middlesbrough secondary schools. This approach is particularly important for the new school given the proximity of other neighbouring facilities along Hall Drive, and should help to ensure duplication of services is avoided. The school will be committed, through this approach, to provide services for young people, their families, and the local and Catholic communities that are tailored to their needs.

At the core of the extended offer will be the opportunity for extended learning opportunities and use of facilities beyond the normal school day. Revision and homework classes, and a range of curricular and sports clubs will be provided for students. Residential trips and holidays will also be available to students providing them with wider experiences of different cultures and languages.

The new Catholic school will provide lifelong learning opportunities that respond to the needs of the local and Catholic communities. The school will be committed to replacing all of those services currently available at St. David's and The Newlands where this is still appropriate. These services include:

- Breakfast club;
- Out of hours study, revision and homework clubs;
- Community use of premises including sports facilities;
- Educational outreach work with parents and the wider community.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND INCLUSIVENESS

The existing schools are working in partnership with each other in preparation for the proposed new school, and will seek to meet the needs of the school community through initiatives designed to foster partnership working of staff, students, parents and parishes. All partners are well placed to develop a new Catholic school within Middlesbrough's learning community, and the school will be encouraged to continue its positive approach to collaborative working, building on existing strengths and identifying potential new areas for development.

The school will play an integral role in delivering Middlesbrough's range of specialist secondary provision, and will collaborate further with St. Mary's RC Sixth form college and local training providers in delivering pathways to success in line with the Governments 14-19 agenda through the development of specialist diplomas. Student progression will be encouraged as part of the 11-19 education vision for all. All students upon entry at age 11 will have a right to transfer at age 16 to St. Mary's College to a programme suitable to their aspirations and educational achievements.

The Diocese in conjunction with the Authority's Department of Children, Families and Learning will establish a temporary governing body that is fully committed to inclusiveness and partnership working in all areas of service delivery, ensuring the success of the new school. To this end the Governing Body will be supported to:

- Establish the aims and ethos of the school in partnership with parents, students, the local community, parishes and other stakeholders;
- Promote the school within and across the Catholic parishes of Middlesbrough and the community generally;
- Work with staff, students, parents and parishes to provide an educational experience of high quality, meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum and which seeks to develop to the full the potential of every member of the school community;
- Strengthen existing links with the Catholic feeder primary schools and St. Mary's College in order to ensure sustained continuity and progression for all students through effective transition processes both after KS2 and KS4, developing enhanced curriculum cohesion and progression;
- Continue to work on the enhancement of the existing links with Beverley School;
- Involve stakeholders and other interested parties throughout the process through consultation and delegation of responsibility;
- Identify key groups to monitor and evaluate progress and to report on impact and improvement to the Diocese, and LA as appropriate.

Support will be provided for all students, including academic mentoring, pastoral care and differentiated curricular provision with full access to all facilities for all. The school will be committed to early intervention and support matched to students' specific needs. As such, provision for all students, from those with SEN to the gifted and talented, will be at the heart of the school. The needs of no specific group will be overlooked.

The school will have facilities for students with emotional and behavioural needs as well as students at risk of exclusion supported by specialist staff. Students will be helped to

acquire the life skills and approaches to independent learning they need in order to re-integrate successfully.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The new school will have fifteen places reserved for students with Moderate Learning Difficulties replacing provision currently available at St. David's RC Technology College. As this is a direct replacement of provision no fundamental change is envisaged, hence these places will continue to meet the needs of parents and Middlesbrough Council in terms of the quality and breadth of provision available across the town.

The current approach of a fully inclusive environment at St. David's R.C Technology College, and the places themselves, will transfer to the new school upon opening, offering a wider curriculum base, personalised learning, and greater levels of specialised support. The larger staffing establishment of the new school will allow greater access for the students to specialised education input.

Accommodation will be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to meet the needs of all users, including students, with visual, hearing or physical difficulties, ensuring that services can be accessed within and outside of the normal school day. Facilities such as small breakout rooms for one-to-one tutoring and small group work will be available to facilitate tailored approaches to teaching and learning.

The school's Special Educational Needs (SEN) policy will be based on valuing all students whatever their needs, offering equal opportunity to all learners and aiming to secure full participation in the curriculum by identifying and removing barriers to learning for those students with additional needs. The school's SEN policy and procedures will be set in the context of the national Codes of Practice on SEN and Disability Discrimination, the National Curriculum 2000 statement on inclusion, and the council's SEN policy.

The school's SEN policy will be established by the temporary governing body and will draw upon the strengths of existing programmes within The Newlands FCJ and St David's.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The governing body will draw up a travel plan covering the transport arrangements of students and staff to the new school. The plan will encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport, and alternatives to the use of cars. This will include the use of public transport and school buses at the start and end of the school day. Students will also be encouraged to cycle or walk to school where it is safe to do so. In relation to this Middlesbrough Council will consider the main walking and cycling routes to the school to ensure that wherever practicable routes are safe for use by students.

There will be enhanced pedestrian access to the school, including a new walkway, ensuring a safe approach for all traffic. Bike storage facilities will be provided on site to ensure secure storage during lesson times, and offer protection from the weather.

A traffic survey of the surrounding estates has been commissioned and the school's travel plan will be informed by this survey. The school will work closely with the neighbouring schools on Hall Drive to minimise traffic disruption.

The new school's admission zone covers the whole of Middlesbrough (see Appendix 4) and as a result travel distances for individual students could be significant. Middlesbrough

Council will operate its home to school transport policy on the principle that where a decision related to the implementation of this school amalgamation adversely affects an existing student's entitlement to free transport, the Council will continue to provide free transport. Where a student's entitlement is adversely affected by a decision made by the parent or guardian and otherwise not directly related to this amalgamation e.g. a decision to move home or move school, then free transport will not be provided.

The new school will operate on a split site between opening in September 2009 and the refurbished accommodation being ready in August 2011. During this time both existing school sites at Hall Drive and Saltersgill Avenue will be utilised to educate students.

Students admitted into Year 7 at the new school in September 2009 and 2010, will be educated at The Newlands FCJ site. Additional travel will be expected for some students who may have usually expected to attend St. David's School. Middlesbrough Council will provide free home to school transport for those Year 7 Middlesbrough students whose parents adhere to the Catholic Faith and who either reside over three miles from the site, by the shortest walking route, or who reside over two miles from the site and are from lower income families.

Students already attending the two existing schools will continue to attend school at their existing site until September 2011 and therefore no additional travel distance for these students is expected. Where students, whose parents adhere to the Catholic Faith, have previously received free transport on the grounds of living over three miles from either the former The Newlands FCJ School or the former St. David's RC Technology College and reside at the same address, or have previously received free transport to one of these school on the grounds of coming from a lower income family and continue to meet the lower income eligibility criteria, free home to school transport will continue to be provided.

In September 2011 all students will be educated at the Hall Drive site. Middlesbrough Council will provide free home to school transport for all Middlesbrough students attending the school whose parents adhere to the Catholic faith if they either reside over three miles by the shortest walking route from the school, or they have previously qualified for free transport on the basis of coming from a lower income family and reside over two miles, by the shortest walking route, from the school. Where students have previously qualified for free transport, but would no longer qualify as a result of a shorter walking distance directly brought about by the relocation, free transport will continue to be provided as long as they reside at the same address.

In recognition of the new school being established in September 2009 Middlesbrough Council has agreed that, in addition to the above arrangements, in September 2008 free home to school transport will be provided to all Middlesbrough Year 7 students transferring to The Newlands FCJ School or St David's RC Technology College who reside over three miles, by the shortest walking route, from their school and whose parents adhere to the Catholic faith. Free home to school transport will also be provided to those Year 7 students from lower income families who live two miles, by the shortest walking route, from their school and whose parents adhere to the Catholic faith.

In relation to students who are the subject of a statement of special educational needs or have a medical condition their transport requirements will be provided in line with their individual needs.

Students living outside of Middlesbrough attending the school should contact their Local Authority for details in relation to home to school transport arrangements.

ESTATES AND PLANNING

Upon final implementation the new school will be accommodated in refurbished, remodelled and extended buildings currently being used by St. David's RC Technology College, Hall Drive, Acklam. The accommodation will be split over two levels in buildings constructed on a level site. The school will be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Tenure of the Hall Drive site is freehold. The site is level with access from Hall Drive via St. David's Way. Access along St. David's Way will be enhanced to ensure that vehicular and pedestrian access can be achieved safely and effectively. Congestion on Hall Drive presents an issue at school start and close times and a traffic survey has been commissioned to study this in detail. Council officers are working closely with local residents to mitigate these issues.

The site's existing playing fields will be supplemented with additional playing fields currently used by another school and located directly adjacent to the site. Together these facilities meet Sport England requirements and the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

The footprint of the school building and surrounding the hard-standing will be held on trust by the Diocese of Middlesbrough in accordance with the Diocesan Trust deed. The playing fields associated with the school are owned by Middlesbrough Council. There will be no additional capital costs associated with obtaining any further land for use by the school.

The governing body of the new school will carry out their obligations in relation to the alteration and repair of school buildings, and all other provisions under Schedule 3 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

No planning permission has yet been sought for the modification and extension of the accommodation on the Hall Drive site. Preliminary discussions with planning officers from the council have indicated that outline planning will not be needed. It will be for the successful design and build contractor to gain full planning permission for the scheme. It is intended that the successful contractor will start on design proposals in January 2009 with an expected full planning submission in June 2009.

PROJECT COSTS

The estimated capital cost of the establishment of the new school is sensitive commercial information. It should also be noted that as this project forms part of a group procurement scheme involving many other school projects, capital costs will only be monitored at a programme level. The successful Design and Build contractor has discretion and full responsibility for individual project costs and is only charged with delivering all schemes within the total funding envelope. Middlesbrough Council has ensured that the project is affordable as part of a programme level affordability analysis.

The refurbishment of the Hall Drive accommodation and creation of a single Catholic secondary school is an integral part of the BSF programme and as such commitment to the capital allocation has been secured as part of this programme. A letter from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families confirming this funding allocation is included at Appendix 5. The usual diocesan contribution of 10% of the capital value of the project for a Voluntary Aided school has been waived in keeping with the national policy

for BSF. Middlesbrough Council is contributing to the overall affordability of the entire programme, however, project contributions are not known at a school level.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

It is accepted that these proposals for change will impact positively and directly upon the quality of life not only for many thousands of young people but also on those who use the schools regularly, or those who have to live in close proximity to the schools.

It is anticipated that there will be a limited amount of disruption during implementation of the single school at the Saltersgill Avenue site largely as a result of the temporary increase in traffic bringing new students to the site during the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11. It is, however, expected that the location of the site and the proximity to St. Mary's sixth form college will mean that any adverse impact will be small. In the longer term the site will cease to operate as a school and local access to the school facilities offered will stop.

The closure of The Newlands FCJ School will impact upon the local community whose use the schools facilities out of school hours. Middlesbrough Council will work closely with other local schools and facilities to ensure that alternative arrangements can be made wherever there is still a need. To this end the council has established a working group to plan and oversee the extended services offered by secondary schools across Middlesbrough.

It is anticipated that residents in the locality of St. David's will suffer from increased site traffic and noise over a limited time period. This will be compounded by a similar project being undertaken on two community secondary schools on an adjoining site. Upon final implementation there is concern that increased traffic and throughput on the estate, and Hall Drive in particular, will impact on the quality of life of local residents.

In mitigation to these problems, acoustic barriers will be placed on site to reduce noise and air pollution to residents. A small group of local residents, established by the Mayor, meets with officers of the council on a regular basis to discuss their concerns and plan solutions. A traffic survey of the area has also been commissioned to study the issues in more detail.

It is expected that much of the projected increase in traffic will be offset by the relocation of Middlesbrough College from Acklam Hall to a new site in September 2008. Falling student rolls until 2016 at the schools on Hall Drive will also result in a decrease in vehicular and pedestrian traffic, leading to a reduction in congestion and disruption for residents. In addition, pupils will be encouraged to walk/cycle to school through the development and implementation of a School Travel Plan.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Please note that in order for comments and objections to be considered during the decision making process they must be in written form. If you have previously expressed a view over these proposals during the informal consultation process held during April 2007 and January/February 2008 you must resubmit these views again in writing for them to be considered. Assumptions will not be made on current views based upon views expressed previously during earlier periods of consultation.

Any person may submit an objection or comment on these proposals to the following address within six weeks of the date of proposal and by no later than 24th April 2008. Comments and objections can be withdrawn in writing at any time.

Director of Children, Families and Learning
Catholic School Proposals
PO Box 69
Vancouver House
Gurney Street
TS1 1EL

Queries regarding this document or the proposal can be directed to:

Colin Hardy
Acting Director of Schools
Diocese of Middlesbrough
The Curial Office
50a The Avenue
Linthorpe
Middlesbrough TS5 6QT

Gary Maddison
School Organisation Officer
BSF Team
Civic Centre
TS1 2QQ

01642 850515

01642 729609

directorofschools@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk gary_maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Copies of this document are also available at www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/BSF

ہم آپ کو یہ انفارمیشن دوسری زبانوں بڑے حروف، بریل، سی ڈی یا ٹیپ پر دے سکتے ہیں۔ نمبر 01642 729610 پر ٹیلیفون سے یا بذریعہ ای میل رابطہ قائم کیجیے۔ e-mail bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

باستطاعتنا تقدیم هذا المنشور بلغات اخرى أو بكتابة كبيرة أو الابريل على قرص سي دي أو شريط، الرجاء الاتصال بالهاتف 01642 729610 أو البريد الالكتروني e-mail bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

ਅਸੀਂ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੁਜਾਬਾ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੈਲ, ਸੀ ਡੀ ਜਾਂ ਟਾਪ ਤੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।
ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ 01642 729610 ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਤੇ ਈ ਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ:—
e-mail bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Tyto informace mohou být provedeny i v jiných jazycích, velkém tisku, Brailovým písmem, na CD či na kazetě. Volejte prosím na telefonní číslo 01642 729610 nebo E-mail na bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Jestesmy w stanie zapewnić te informacje w innych językach, wielkim drukiem, w języku Breilla, na płycie CD lub na kasecie. Proszę zadzwonić pod numer 01642 729610 lub przesłać email pod adres: bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

THE DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH AND MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST. DAVID'S RC TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND THE NEWLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL FCJ AND OPEN A NEW CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Notice is given that: -

- A) The Diocese of Middlesbrough, The Curial Office, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT intends to establish a new Voluntary Aided school on 1st September 2009 under section 10(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The Secretary of State's consent has been obtained in order to publish this proposal.
- B) In accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Middlesbrough Council, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL intends to discontinue (i.e. close) on 31st August 2009:
 - a) St. David's RC Technology College situated at St David's Way, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 7EY and
 - b) The Newlands Catholic School FCJ situated at Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW.

These proposals are related and will be implemented together. In relation to these proposals both Middlesbrough Council and the Diocese of Middlesbrough have undertaken all statutory consultation requirements and given all stakeholders an equal and fair opportunity to pass comment. It is proposed that:

1. The new school will have a Roman Catholic religious character and the Diocese of Middlesbrough will ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a Catholic school. The school will operate under the Diocesan Trust Deed for schools in keeping with the requirements of Canon Law. The Catholic faith will permeate all aspects of school life. Students and staff will be part of a learning community in which all seek to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and culturally.
2. When fully implemented the new school will be situated on a single site at Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 7EY and have capacity for 1,200 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16. However, upon opening the school will operate on two sites at Hall Drive and Saltersgill Avenue to allow construction work to take place on the Hall Drive site. This will allow the school to open on 1st September 2009 with capacity for 1,450 students. The school will operate from the single site on Hall Drive from 2011 with 1,300 students, with the capacity of the school reducing to 1,200 by 2013.
3. The new school will serve the Catholic community of Middlesbrough and some neighbouring parts of Redcar and Cleveland. The admission number at age 11 for the new school will be 240 upon the school opening and in every subsequent year.
4. The new school will have 15 places reserved for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties directly replacing and maintaining the standard and quality of provision currently available at St. David's RC Technology College.
5. The governing body, as the admission authority for the new school, will determine its admissions policy in line with the Trust Deed for the Diocese and the Admissions Code of Practice. Priority for admission into the school will be given to children who are baptised Catholics. Students with statements of Special Educational Needs naming the school, and children in public care will be given overriding priority for places. Should further school places be available these will be offered to children of other faiths or children from families of no faith.
6. It is intended that existing pupils from the closing schools, including those in provision reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs, will be admitted to the new Catholic secondary school. Parents may express a preference for their child to attend another school and Middlesbrough Council will comply with such preferences wherever possible subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended.
7. The new school will have a joint specialism in technology, and maths and computing and the Diocese of Middlesbrough will apply to the Secretary of State for the school to be a specialist school from the date of opening.
8. The new school will offer extended learning opportunities and the use of facilities beyond the normal school day that respond to the needs of the local and Catholic communities, continuing provision already available at the existing two schools. It is envisaged that services will include breakfast clubs and out of hours study.
9. Home to school transport will be provided for Middlesbrough Catholic pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, and will only be considered where the shortest safe walking route to school is over three miles in length. Home to school transport will also be considered for Middlesbrough Catholic pupils from low-income households where the shortest safe walking distance in relation to the new school is over two miles in length. Existing arrangements for home to school transport for existing pupils of St. David's and The Newlands FCJ schools will be maintained.
10. The governing body will draw up a travel plan encouraging the use of more sustainable forms of transport to the new school. This will include the use of public transport and school buses at the start and end of the school day. Students will also be encouraged to cycle or walk to school where it is safe to do so.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Gary Maddison, BSF Team, Civic Centre, Middlesbrough, TS1 2QQ or from www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/BSF.

Any person may submit an objection or comment on these proposals to the Director of Children, Families & Learning, Catholic School Reorganisation, PO Box 69, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1EL within six weeks of the date of this notice and by no later than 24th April 2008.

13th March 2008

Dr Jim Whiston, Company Secretary
Diocese of Middlesbrough, Trustee

Gill Rollings, Director of Children, Families &
Learning Middlesbrough Council

Catholic Secondary Education Consultation
Note of meeting with parents of St. David's RC and Newlands FCJ schools
18:00 29th March 2007 – Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Present: Dr Jim Whiston, Colin Hardy, Terry Redmayne, Cllr Paul Thompson, Gill Rollings, Gary Maddison, Peter Coady, Steve Wing, Sister J Barron. In excess of 90 parents of primary and secondary schools and other interested parties attended.

Meeting was held at Sacred Heart parish hall.

PT opened the meeting and introduced the Diocesan and Local Authority (LA) officers.

TR gave a presentation on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the reasons for the Diocese and LA undertaking consultation. Reference to the consultation materials circulated to staff, governors and parents was made. The full presentation is available. Key points that varied from the overheads included:

- BSF is a significant investment for Middlesbrough.
- Planned investment through BSF was in the accommodation on the St. David's site, not in St. David's School itself.
- BSF in Middlesbrough is grant funded and not Public Finance Initiative (PFI), this delivered great benefits to the town but also introduced restrictions in the programme timetable.
- Middlesbrough is investing more per capita in BSF than any other LA. Some LAs are not investing any of their own money at all.
- It is exceedingly unlikely that the Diocese will not be given permission to establish the school outside of a competition.

Following the presentation CH addressed the room on behalf of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The professionalism, support, and commitment of the LA has been absolute. The Catholic community must recognise that there are time and financial constraints placed on the LA which are enforced by central government. National politicians are applying pressure to the timeframes of the BSF programme: this is not a local arrangement, or anything that can be controlled locally. The BSF project in Middlesbrough is grant funded and not PFI, this means a mortgage free future for the schools and pupils of Middlesbrough.

PT opened the meeting to the floor for comments and questions.

A number of queries were raised about why the options for consultation did not include provision for an 11-18 school as had originally been proposed. Disappointment was expressed that an 11-18 school was no longer an option.

PT explained that financial constraints were imposed and St. Mary's College decided not to continue with the project. The council and the Diocese took forward the 11-18 options as far as possible, but it was not feasible to achieve.

CH added that the existing two Head Teachers and the Head designate of the new school will work to ensure that the new 11-16 school forms part of an 11-19 educational continuum emphasising the Catholic ethos. He believed that St. Mary's playing a part in this continuum can deliver greater opportunities for young people.

A comment was passed that the amalgamation route to creating a single school is preferential, but that the refurbishment of the St. David's accommodation was a second-class option.

Points were raised with regard to the location of the school and the option of new-build accommodation on a new site. Why could a new site not be secured?

PT gave a brief history of the programme:

- 2004 LA was asked to express an interest in the BSF project. The council undertook this

expression of interest but it took months to be awarded the programme by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

- The next step was to submit the council's Strategic Business Case (SBC) in April 2006. Due to barriers that were preventing the council delivering its 'platinum option', which included the new-build RC school, the council was given until November 2006 while it tried to find solutions.
- Government permission to use capital receipts from the potential sale of a schools site was not approved until July 2006. In order to secure a new site for the school, discussions had started with the university to swap land on Ladgate Lane.
- In November 2006 the council had to commit to a deliverable programme of school transformation, or be dropped from the BSF programme entirely. The council could not obtain the planning permissions to build on green-field site within the implementation timeframes set by the government, and was told that if the council did not have a deliverable scheme it could not be part of the BSF programme. Had to find an affordable solution which could be delivered within the timeframe, and this is what has now been done. The council has invested millions of pounds into the programme, but simply could not find the additional capital, or land to create a single new Catholic school in the timeframes imposed on us. Not the platinum solution we wanted, but still gold.

A parent asked how the LA can manage to secure more money for the other schools but not for a Catholic school?

TR explained that there were not the planning constraints on the other sites and so their projects were easier to deliver. Ultimately there is only so much money to go around. The government stipulates that of the money available for BSF 50% must be spent on new-build accommodation, 35% on remodelling existing accommodation, and 15% on minor refurbishments. In this way, there was never the opportunity to rebuild all of the schools, so we would always be having this discussion with at least one school.

There was a need to ensure that the best value for money is delivered across the programme, and this was assured by taking consideration of a whole range of information on the schools including the condition and suitability of all buildings. The solution we have arrived at is the best that can be delivered. Some of the original £23million estimated to build a new school was to come from the Learning and Skills Council for the college. The council has no remit in the provision of post-16 education in this manner and could not control this capital investment.

Concerns were raised about the transfer of pupils to a new school, or to different sites. When, where, and how will this happen? Will staff and pupil numbers drop at Newlands in the interim period?

CH assured that nobody would gamble with children's education. A temporary governing body will be established as soon as possible with a view to appointing a Head Teacher designate. The Head and Chair of temporary governing body will champion the school's vision and work with the existing schools to ensure a smooth transition for pupils and staff. Must create a school that parents want to send their children to. The FCJ ethos will be important to new school. A concordat between the three governing bodies will need to be agreed to deal with change management across a number of areas.

SW gave his support for the Diocesan and LA preference to amalgamate the schools and assured Newlands parents that both schools are working together very closely. Certainty and vision is essential to provide security and in order to provide the best for pupils. SW was confident that the schools can deliver for all pupils throughout the process.

In response to a parental request TR displayed a presentation slide giving the capital values of all of the Middlesbrough BSF schemes. Costs were indicative only, and did not necessarily reflect the actual cost of each of the schemes. A sum of money not included on the slide was held as a contingency.

TR explained when asked, that outline plans for what the school accommodation may look like will be available at a future meeting for consultation. Officers are working on these at the moment.

A number of comments focused on the perception that it seemed like Newlands is the only school being closed. If pupil numbers at both schools increased, or ceased to fall, where would the pupils from Newlands go to school if there are not enough places for them at the new school?

It was explained that in the event that a new school is opened, both staff and pupils of both outgoing schools are treated equally. Option B would leave one school open and would therefore maintain that schools Governing body, ethos, staffing structure etc. Option C was the fairest approach because it gave a new start and allows both schools to contribute equally. Two smaller schools could not contribute to the 14-19 agenda and the concern was that parents would vote with their feet.

Newlands pupils will be as entitled to a place in the new school as pupils at St. David's. When the number of baptised catholic pupils fall it is difficult to maintain pupil numbers at a Catholic school.

It was asked if the LA is aware of any other successful applications to avoid a school competition in this sort of scenario.

PT confirmed that while there is no guarantee that Catholic schools will be automatically exempted, discussions with DfES officials and Ministers indicated that they are not likely to insist on a competition for the amalgamations of schools with a religious ethos – this would be contrary to current policy to encourage more faith-based schools. CH had checked with the Catholic Education Service: there have been no problems nationally in exemption applications, and none are expected.

At this point a number of local residents left the meeting. PT explained that previous meetings had been held with Acklam Community Council and Acklam 2020 to discuss issues related to two secondary schools being situated along Hall Drive. While residents had been invited to this meeting, prime consideration was being given to hearing the views of parents. The relocation of Middlesbrough College's Acklam Campus, and the fall in secondary school rolls projected to happen across the town will ensure that the number of pupils attending schools and college on Hall drive will reduce from present numbers – this will relieve some of the pressures currently being experienced by residents. Solutions to traffic congestion were also being sought.

One of Middlesbrough's primary school Head Teachers (and a resident) made a statement. 85% of pupils in her primary school are Catholic but not practising Catholics. After Year 6 all of these pupils transfer to St. David's or The Newlands but in other Catholic primary schools their children are not transferring to Middlesbrough's catholic secondary schools because of (incorrect) perceptions of the quality of provision. Need an amalgamated school to turn these perceptions around.

A discussion took place about the selection of site for the newly amalgamated school. Why St. David's site given all the traffic problems? Perception that the Newland's site would be better because of its more central location – this would reduce transport costs for parents and the LA. A number of options had been looked at by the LA and a balance of factors considered. St. David's site came out on top of this options appraisal process. The BSF Board and Stakeholder Group which included school representatives and representatives from the Diocese and FCJ were involved in this process from its inception. Legislation covering transport costs is changing, and the LA will need to look at this in more detail.

Prior to the close of the meeting Sister Jo Barron addressed the room. The FCJ have disagreed with the LA and the Diocese during the planning process on a number of occasions but does not think that the perfect solution can be achieved. Must work as a community to create the excellent school we all aspire to, and deserve. FCJ would love to be promoters of the new school but they cannot support in this manner due to falling resources but the FCJ will support this amalgamation. JB asked for support for the new catholic school.

TR thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Catholic Secondary Education Consultation
Note of meeting with Staff and Governors of The Newlands FCJ School
15:30 27th March 2007 – The Newlands FCJ School

Present: Dr Jim Whiston, Colin Hardy, Terry Redmayne, Cllr Paul Thompson, Gary Maddison, Gill Rollings, Steve Wing (Head Teacher), approximately 40 staff and governors including the Joe Herbst (Chair) and Sister J Barron (FCJ). Lou Bradley (signer).
 Meeting was held in The Newlands FCJ School hall.
 SW opened the meeting at 15:50 and introduced the Diocesan and Local Authority (LA) officers, and Cllr Paul Thompson, Executive Member for Education & Skills

TR gave a presentation on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the reasons for the Diocese and LA undertaking consultation. Reference to the consultation materials circulated to staff, governors and parents was made. The full presentation is available. Key points that varied from the overheads included:

- Both the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) and Diocese have invested substantially in their respective schools.
- Planned investment through BSF is in the St. David's site, not in St. David's School itself.
- Middlesbrough's Outline Business Case (OBC) is due to be submitted on 30th March, and must only include plans that are deliverable. New accommodation for the RC school could not be delivered within the financial and time constraints; this is a great disappointment to both the LA and Diocese.
- Alternative to amalgamation is significant enlargement of one of the schools. This option has many disadvantages.
- BSF in Middlesbrough is grant funded and does not have any Public Finance Initiative (PFI) element. This delivers many advantages to Middlesbrough, but also imposes restrictions on the project timetable.
- Middlesbrough is investing more per capita in BSF than any other LA.
- The governing bodies should consider a response to the consultation. The Diocese and LA were eager to receive comments and opinions from all stakeholders.
- Attendees were given contact information and told how they could register their views.

Five minutes into the presentation, due to the late start of the meeting, the school's domestic staff left in order to continue with their work schedule. *(Following the meeting domestic staff were written to and offered further opportunities to receive the presentation, and seek further information.)*

CH gave a brief presentation from the perspective of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. Three main points:

- National politics determining the timeframes of Middlesbrough's BSF– extremely tight.
- Middlesbrough BSF does not contain any Public Finance Initiative (PFI) funding. All funding is grant, and this is to Middlesbrough's advantage.
- Will be meeting with the Head Teachers shortly to plan the transition for the benefit of staff, pupils and parents. Planning will involve discussions with staff and unions.

PT commented that PFI involves renting school buildings from a private company. Middlesbrough Council took the decision to keep control of school buildings for the benefit of the town and fought to avoid the PFI route. At this point he opened the meeting for questions and comments from the floor.

A comment was made about the capital allocation that had been made to the Roman Catholic sector. Why is the Roman Catholic school only getting £13million from a total investment of £98million?

It was explained that the BSF programme was planning for the whole secondary estate in

Middlesbrough, and needed to find the best-fit programme-wide solution. The DfES insist that of the money allocated to LAs 50% can be spent on new-build, 35% on refurbishment/remodelling, and 15% on minor refurbishment. Following an options appraisal exercise it was determined that a significant refurbishment of the St. David's site was the best capital option. In terms of the whole BSF programme £13m spent remodelling the accommodation on the St. David's site makes sense.

A new build solution was considered as an option but would cost significantly more. Additional finance could not be secured through capital receipts from sale of surplus school sites in the time available. Not all green space in Middlesbrough is owned by the council, buying a suitable site, or arranging land swaps with the university take time that the council does not have. In addition green wedges of land are difficult to build on and would require planning applications, and a possible public enquiry if outside of the Local Plan. This could take between 2-3 years.

There was much concern about the stated location of a new school. It was expressed that the Newlands site would be a better site than St. David's, as it was more central to the catchment area, would reduced travel costs and congestion. There was concern that 'community facilities' made no sense on a campus situation such as Hall Drive.

The council had tried hard to secure another site for a new build school, but despite best efforts this was not deliverable. The issues associated with trying to first secure, and then build on a green-field site are multiple. Many Hall Drive residents and the surrounding community have concerns because of the disruption that the number of schools in the vicinity causes. However falling rolls and the relocation of the college will result in fewer pupils in the area. The council appreciates the issues over community use of extended schools facilities in the campus scenario.

Newlands is also a suitable site to use, but following the options appraisal process the St. David's site provided a more feasible solution and one that could be delivered as part of the wider programme.

Legislation on transport is changing and LA officers are aware that they will need to look at this issue in more detail.

One of the school governors commented that parents could not determine the difference between options B & C – regardless of the option the result is one school on the St. David's site!

TR explained that a new school means a new Governing Body, new staffing structures, policies etc. It is about a new organisation and goes further than just buildings. A new school offers a new start for all those involved. If one school is closed and another enlarged to cater for the additional pupils it creates an inequality of treatment that is difficult to overcome. The way in which a single school is created from two makes all the difference to the staff and pupils.

A comment was made regarding a recent reporting problem in the local media that had caused confusion and concern within the school community. Messages must be communicated clearly. TR agreed. The recent article was regrettable and outside of the LA's control. A rebuttal was printed in the Gazette but not given prominence. The LA relies on staff and governors to help in dispelling myths and spreading the real messages - amalgamation of two schools, not simply a closure of Newlands.

In response to a staff comment regarding the opinions of St. David's staff toward joining with Newlands staff, SW commented that it is important that both schools continued to work together closely as the amalgamation progresses. Must secure certainty for staff and pupils and their parents so we can get down to the nitty-gritty. Option C – the amalgamation of the schools -treats both schools equally and does not give preferential treatment to one school or another.

Some questions were raised about the next steps in relation to establishing a single school, and in particular with regard to the governing body of the new school, and the participation of the FCJ.

CH responded that if supported by parents, the diocese will establish a temporary governing body as soon as possible to appoint a Head Teacher Designate to spearhead change with the Chair of Governors. Together they will create the vision and ethos of the school. The new governing body will

consist of an amalgamation of the 2 existing governing bodies plus new blood to provide new impetus. Involvement of the FCJ is very important. The temporary governing body will work in partnership with the existing schools. Early tasks will be to look at arrangements for sharing staff; a 'memorandum of agreement' will need to be drawn up. Diocesan Trustees are very keen to involve the FCJ in the new school. Challenge for the new Governing Body is to create something that is attractive to parents, and this will include the FCJ perspective via their representation on the Governing Body.

May Dan, Union representative, stated that she understood that amalgamation of the schools is the best way forward, providing greater security for staff and pupils. Amalgamation is not a take-over of one school by another.

A member of school staff sought assurances that the sports, ICT and Arts facilities will all be of the same quality as the schools currently have.

TR reported that the BSF programme was about delivering enhanced facilities, standards and opportunities for staff and children. Two schools on Hall Drive must be thought about - are there other options for shared use of facilities? Staff will need to enter into discussions about space and design at the relevant point in the process.

A general note of support was received from a governor in the audience.

Before the close of the meeting Sister Jo Barron addressed the floor. BSF arrived three years ago and at that time the FCJ agreed to the principle of a single school with the diocese. The FCJ do not have the capacity to propose and sponsor a new school but they will still work very closely with the diocese. All partners are singing from the same hymn sheet. Asked staff to 'give it all you can'. FCJ will sit on the Governing body and will settle for nothing less than the best possible.

On this note TR thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 17:20

Catholic Secondary Education Consultation
Note of meeting with Staff and Governors of St. David's RC School
15:30 29th March 2007 – St. David's RC School

Present: Dr Jim Whiston, Colin Hardy, Terry Redmayne, Cllr Paul Thompson, Gary Maddison, Peter Coady (Head Teacher), approximately 50 staff and governors attended.

The meeting was held in St. David's School hall.

PC opened the meeting and introduced the Diocesan and Local Authority (LA) officers.

TR gave a presentation on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the reasons for the Diocese and LA undertaking consultation. Reference to the consultation materials circulated to staff, governors and parents was made. The full presentation is available. Key points that varied from the overheads included:

- Both the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) and the Diocese have invested substantially in their respective schools.
- Planned investment through the BSF programme was in the accommodation on the St. David's site, not in St. David's School itself.
- The LA's Outline Business Case will be submitted on 30th March, and must only include plans that are deliverable. New accommodation for a single RC school could not be delivered within the financial and time constraints. This is a great disappointment to both the LA and the Diocese.
- The alternative to the amalgamation of the schools is significant enlargement of one of the schools, and the closure of the other. This approach has many disadvantages.
- BSF in Middlesbrough is grant funded and does not have any Private Finance Initiative (PFI) element of funding. The nature of grant funding, while delivering many advantages for Middlesbrough, also imposes restrictions on the programme timetable.
- Middlesbrough Council is investing more per capita in BSF than any other LA.
- The schools' governing bodies should consider making a response to the consultation. The Diocese and the LA are eager to receive comments and opinions from all stakeholders.
- Attendees were given contact information and told how they could register their views.

Following the presentation CH addressed the room. LA support for RC education in Middlesbrough is unquestioned. National politicians are applying pressure on the timeframes of the BSF programme; this is not a local arrangement, or anything that can be controlled locally. The BSF project in Middlesbrough is grant funded and not PFI – this is in the longer term interests of the town.

PT commented that the council is making a significant financial contribution to the programme. The council fought hard to make sure that the BSF programme was not funded through PFI, and this was in-line with what the Head Teachers told us they wanted. Without PFI the council / Diocese will own the school buildings after the construction work is completed.

The meeting was opened for questions and comments from the floor.

A school governor raised concerns about the project value of £13 million. How far will this money stretch given the recent financial track record of government projects such as Wembley Stadium and the Olympics?

TR responded that local government is more experienced at project managing schemes such as this than central government. A summary of the BSF procurement process was given in order to demonstrate the value for money approach of BSF, and the controls in place to ensure that it remained affordable and timely. The council will transfer as much financial risk to the Design and Build contractor as possible, but will need to quality assure the contract to manage the price.

PT added that additional funding had been recently secured to cover contingency and abnormal

costs. Experience shows that the biggest risk to project costs is the interference of Head Teachers and governors during construction work. The way round this is to undertake proper consultation with the schools at the planning stage, not while the school is being built.

It was commented by CH that a big advantage of the Middlesbrough BSF programme was the waiver of the usual Diocesan 10% financial contribution. In addition, special dispensation arrangements have been made for the paying of VAT.

A discussion took place around the avenue of trees to the east of the school site. Solutions to crossing this need to be sensible, not just possible. If a solution cannot be found how will the BSF timescale be met?

TR confirmed that in order to amalgamate the two schools onto the St. David's site, additional playing fields will need to be made available to the school from the other side of the Avenue of Trees. Both the Avenue of Trees and Acklam Hall are protected. Access to sports facilities will need to be through the avenue of trees, but the advice received is that this will not be an insurmountable problem.

PT added that other constraints have determined the selection of the site for the school, and planners assure us that this issue can be overcome.

A question was asked about timing of the project, and when the schools will merge?

CH responded that an exemption from school competition is expected to be granted by the DfES, and following this a temporary governing body will be formed as soon as possible. This governing body will include representatives from both existing schools and some new blood. Governing body to appoint Head Teacher Designate. In consultation with staff unions the three governing bodies will establish a working protocol for the sharing of staff and resources. This is all easily achievable within three years and before the refurbishment work is completed. Alternatively this could be achieved much earlier if there are advantages to the school. The Head Teachers have already started planning this process.

Staff were concerned about the level of disruption caused to pupils during the build, and in particular they were interested in how the Year 7 intake will be managed.

TR believed that some disruption is inevitable, but that detailed planning will minimise this as far as possible. There is a whole issue around change management and communication will be an essential element. Planning arrangements must include: decant arrangements; transport; school facilities and specialist spaces. From experience of similar amalgamations pupils and parents are usually fairly resilient.

CH added that children must not miss out, they only pass through secondary school once. The Heads have already started this planning process. Need passionate confident vision that parents can buy into and give them confidence in the change.

PC confirmed that he had been working with Steve Wing (Head Teacher of The Newlands FCJ) to find pragmatic solutions to these issues and enable staff to do the same. They are working hard to minimise the number of pupils on St David's site during construction. Commitment to ensuring that Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough remains good throughout this period of transition. Must work together and start early.

A discussion took place around the change in the plans for Catholic education since the inception of BSF. Given that this is a national programme could planning constraints for a new school on a new site not have been overcome? How much would a new-build cost, and is the council not cost-cutting?

It was explained that there were insurmountable problems with providing a new build 11-18 RC school, as was originally planned. This included the withdrawal of support from St. Mary's for the sixth form element. Middlesbrough fought hard to achieve a new-build on a new site, and introduced significant delays into the whole programme as a result. Ministers gave the clear message at this point that Middlesbrough must produce a deliverable programme of school transformation within the

specified timescales or be removed from the BSF programme altogether. The council acted and we now have a programme that is deliverable, but at the expense of a new build RC school. Planning consent could not be speeded up just because this is a government priority.

A new build would cost approximately £23 million compared to £13 million for a refurbishment. This does not represent cost cutting: we are using the best bits of the existing accommodation and adding £13million to give a significant improvement to the school. The refurbished building will look significantly different once completed, and will have the same life expectancy of the new-build accommodation (government requirement). The funding gap would have to be met from capital receipts of the sale of one of the school sites. This is not achievable given that the sites could not be disposed of while they are still needed for schools, and therefore would not be available until the building works were completed – money arrives too late. All possible avenues were explored to their fullest.

The Diocese were asked for their opinion of St. Mary's pulling out of the scheme. CH responded that while an 11-18 school would have been ideal solution for the Diocese, funding for the sixth form element would have to come from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), and not from the BSF money. This funding was not forthcoming. The new school will be able to play a real part in the development of the 14-19 agenda and will play an integral part of 11-19 education.

TR thanked everyone for their attendance and close the meeting at 17:30

Consultation on draft proposals for Catholic secondary education

Note of the meeting with parents and community Monday 4th February 2008, 6pm – The Newlands School FCJ

Attendees: Colin Hardy (CH), Steve Wing (SW), Peter Coady (PC), Gill Rollings (GR), Cllr Brenda Thompson (BT), Gary Maddison (GM), Martin Metcalfe (MM), approximately 90 parents and residents including Joe Herbst (JH) and Sister Jo Barron (JB).

CH opened the meeting and introduced BT, GR and the two Headteachers of St. David's RC Technology College and The Newlands FCJ School.

Both Catholic secondary schools are maintained by Middlesbrough Council and hence the Diocese of Middlesbrough has been working in partnership with the council, the school's governing bodies and the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). This round of consultation is the second phase in a cycle that started last year. Previous consultation had taken place and a subsequent exemption from the school competition rules had been granted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

A document had previously been circulated to consult on the draft proposals for the new Catholic school. The Diocese wished to seek comment on the formal publication of proposals leading to a temporary governing body being established to start planning for new school.

GR gave a 20-minute presentation on the proposals for the amalgamation of St. David's and the Newlands FCJ schools. Points of significance which varied from the slides included:

- Parents would be written to at the point statutory notices are published.
- The Newlands FCJ School has recently received confirmation of its specialism in maths and computing. Building on this success, and that of St. David's, the new school would therefore have a joint specialism in maths, computing and technology.

The meeting was opened to the floor for questions and comments. Comments and questions fell into the following broad categories.

School size

There was general concern expressed that the school would not be large enough to cope with demand. The government had recently published population estimates which projected a national increase in school age children until 2056 – should the school not be made larger to accommodate these additional pupils? In line with this, a comment was made asking whether temporary accommodation would be needed beyond the date of 2013 stated in the consultation documentation. One parent stated that there may not be places available for children of other faiths at the new school.

GR explained that at present around 80% of pupils at both schools are Catholic and both schools are projected to have significant surplus places that need to be removed. The proposed size of the school had been determined using projections of pupil numbers based upon patterns of parental preference and the school age population. The capacity was agreed with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) who are overseeing the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme for the government. In terms of government funding 2056 is a long way off. A 2016 capacity target had been set by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and there is no room for further negotiation.

The school would be large enough to admit all Catholic pupils who wanted a place and still have additional places for children of other faiths or no faith. The admission criteria of the new school would be determined by the temporary governing body and would give Catholic children preference

for places in keeping with the ethos of the school.

Sibling links would also be considered for inclusion in the schools admission policy.

Pupil numbers continue to fall, so the temporary accommodation will only be needed for a short period of time.

Site

A discussion was held around the proposed site location of the new school. It was asked what considerations were given to site selection. A resident of Hall Drive expressed a view that the chosen site on Hall Drive was already inadequate for the existing school. Problems with transport on Hall Drive existed were raised. Site will be smaller and no sports facilities, more parking, more roads. JH expressed a preference for the new school to be located on the Saltersgill site. It was also asked what plans there were for the Saltersgill site.

GR explained that site selection had been based on a full options appraisal based on many factors including the suitability of the buildings for expansion, affordability, access, size of site and availability of surrounding land. It was explained that there were no plans for the Saltersgill site, and much of it was not owned by the council. JB added that the FCJ had no plans for the site as they were prepared to make the site available for the new school.

Improvements to congestion on Hall Drive were possible although there were no details to discuss at the present time. The existing schools on Hall Drive manage relationships well.

Transition

Parents wanted reassurances over the quality of education for their children during a period of potential disruption during the reorganisation of schools and the construction phase. Several parents expressed content with quality of education at their child's present Catholic school and felt that a choice had been withdrawn. Parents were concerned that pupils' GCSE and key stage results would suffer. In particular how would the transition to a single site be managed in 2011 to minimise the impact on GCSE results.

Some questions also centred on having to provide additional facilities during 2009/10 and 2010/11 at the Saltersgill site to cater for the increased numbers of pupils.

GR responded that all involved with the amalgamation were working to ensure that the school would be established to be a success. In particular the temporary governing body, and then the permanent governing body, will be charged by the Diocese with ensuring a seamless transition. There is time to plan for this before the amalgamation takes place and the transition would be well managed. Staff would transfer to the new school and move with the pupils.

CH added that change offers stimulation. Each child passes through secondary education once only and there is a commitment from the Diocese and the council to make sure pupils get the best education.

BT commented that many lessons had been learned from previous school reorganisation and that this expertise would be put to good use with a long lead in period.

PC and SW confirmed that working relationships between the schools were good and progress had already been made on bringing the schools closer together. Planning for change was already taking place on curriculum issues – maintaining continuity within the two sites as far as possible, teaching continuity, teacher groups and resources are of paramount importance. The architects bidding for BSF had been working with the schools on plans to maintain facilities on both sites during the construction period. This is a priority for the school. In particular plans had been discussed which would ensure no loss of sports facilities on the Hall Drive site until last stages of the build.

It was commented that concern over perceived disruption to children could change parents' minds about seeking a Catholic secondary education. Reliable information about what plans are in place is

needed.

CH replied that the Diocese and Headteachers would be meeting with the primary school Headteachers to discuss transition plans and would communicate clear messages to parents.

Design & build

Parents wanted to know what the school would look like. Concern was expressed that timescales would slip leading to a third year of disruption.

GR gave a summary of the Design and Build procurement process. Two construction companies were currently going through the tendering process for the BSF contract. They were currently working up designs for schools in the first phase of build with their own architects – designs are not known at this stage. The successful contractor will be selected on the basis of these first phase designs and then work can start on the second phase schools – the new Catholic school would be a second phase school. At this stage in the process the only designs available are those undertaken by the council to prove that a scheme was deliverable within the finances available. The school could look very different to this and would be dependent on which contractor is chosen. Input from the school's governing body would also impact upon the design.

The contract will ensure financial penalties are imposed on the construction companies if buildings are not delivered on time. Large national companies are bidding for the work and are used to this form of contract.

Transport

Many parents were concerned about transport arrangements to and from school and particularly about children having to walk unsafe routes to school. Much of the discussion centred on the transitional arrangements for all Year 7 pupils starting school in September 2009 and 2010 to attend the Saltersgill site.

It was felt that providing free transport for children living over three miles from the schools was not sufficient and that free transport should be available to all pupils. Parents were anxious that safe walking routes were put in place, and eager that solutions were in place before admissions applications had to be made.

GR referred to the council's home to school transport policy providing free transport to Catholic children living over three miles from the school site. Changes would also be introduced to provide transport to Catholic children from low-income families living over two miles from the site. Safe walking routes could be developed and the council would investigate solutions with the governing body.

PC and CH added that St David's school currently provides buses, above and beyond the arrangements made by the council, to ensure safe passage for pupils. The temporary governing body would be encouraged to look at transport arrangements with the safe passage of pupils of paramount importance. Many Catholic schools choose to provide additional transport in addition to local authority arrangements – this is a decision for the temporary governing body.

GR asked parents to bring their individual concerns to the council and introduced MM, Pupil Transport Coordinator, who was available to talk about concerns over transport at the end of the meeting.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

A discussion took place around provision for pupils with special educational needs. In particular, concern was expressed about the provision of 15 places for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and how this would affect provision for pupils with other forms of need and more severe needs. Parents wanted to know what happened if more than 15 pupils had MLD. Several

parents raised issues regarding their own children's needs within the context of the proposals. Support was shown for the existing provision and resources available at St. David's and The Newlands FCJ.

GR answered that 15 places would be funded at the school in order to maintain provision currently already available at St. David's. A statementing process was in place to fund individual pupils with other special needs and these statements identified the particular needs of the child and where their needs were best served. Many of these pupils attended mainstream schools where their needs permitted, and this would also be true of the new school.

Middlesbrough had several special schools that provided education to pupils with specific needs who could not be educated in mainstream schools.

PC added that the school would cater for a wide range of needs, not just moderate learning difficulties. This was already the case in St. David's and The Newlands FCJ schools.

GR advised that the 15 MLD places would in no way provide a limit on places for children with SEN and that being of the Catholic faith would be taken into account when deciding appropriate provision for children.

Miscellaneous

A short discussion was held around the age range of the school. Some parents thought that the school should provide sixth form education, while others believed that a 6th form college education was preferable and the age range should remain 11-16. Are there any plans for St. Mary's College?

CH responded that the Diocese wished to see a 4-19 entitlement to Catholic education within Middlesbrough and an 11-16 school played a vital role in this. Close professional linkages would be maintained between all phases of education including St. Mary's. There were no plans to physically relocate St. Mary's College.

CH continued that St. Mary's College was funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) not Middlesbrough Council. The LSC could not find the capital funds to join the school scheme and so withdrew from the plans. All sixth form proposals need support from the LSC.

A parent asked how much involvement the FCJ had had in the proposals. It was responded that they had been involved at every step of the way.

JB stated that she had reservations around the scheme and had tried to make changes but this had not worked out the she had hoped. The FCJ were disappointed that they were not in a position to be the promoters of the new school. She felt that an opportunity had been lost and that a new school on the Saltersgill site could have been achieved.

Several comments were made expressing concern about the proposals, the involvement of the Diocesan trustees and Bishop Draine, and the pressure placed on the BSF project by the government.

CH agreed to take comments back to the bishop. He then thanked everyone for attending, encouraged people to respond using the response forms and closed of meeting at 19:50.

Consultation on draft proposals for Catholic secondary education

Note of the meeting with staff and governors of the Newlands School FCJ Tuesday 22nd January 2008, 3.45pm - The Newlands School FCJ

Attendees: Colin Hardy (CH), Cllr Brenda Thompson (BT), Gill Rollings (GR), Harry Eagling (HE), Steve Wing (SW), Gary Maddison (GM), Kevin Buckle (KB), Graham Talbot (GT), approximately 35 staff, union representatives and governors including Joe Herbst (JH) and Sister Jo Barron (JB).

A signer was present.

SW welcomed visitors to the school and introduced CH, BT, GR, GM, HE and KB

CH opened meeting at 3:50pm. He introduced the diocesan proposal. The Diocese is working in partnership with both schools, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) and the council. Previous consultation had taken place, and a subsequent exemption from the usual school competition rules has been granted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This stage in the process is to consult on the draft proposals for the new Catholic school. A document had previously been circulated. The Diocese wishes to gain support for the new school before publishing public notices. A temporary governing body can then be established to oversee the school.

GR gave a 20 minute presentation on the draft proposal. Points of significance that varied from the slides were:

- The new school will have a short term need for temporary accommodation because of capacity targets handed down by Partnerships for Schools (PfS);
- A more in-depth description of transport arrangements was given.

The meeting was then opened for questions. The questions fell into the following categories.

School size

The proposed capacity of 1,200 students was an issue– is the school too small to cope with demand? It was stated that there were no Catholic secondary schools between Middlesbrough and York, and that potentially the new school would have a large catchment area

GR explained that the capacity of the school is based upon projections of the likely future demand for Catholic secondary education. Confident that the global picture for demand is secure. Parental preference plays a large part in determining what these projections look like. It cannot be assumed that there will be a large increase in preferences for the school without evidence.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) scrutinised the projections methodology for robustness before negotiating the capacity of the school. Some of the current preferences for Catholic secondary education are from parents who are not of the Catholic faith (approx. 20%). Catholic children will be given priority for places and there are more than adequate places for all Catholic children. Must plan using the information we have now. If there is pressure for places after 2016 then the DCSF have mechanisms in place to trigger additional funding.

CH added that upon opening, the new school would have a bulge in its roll as the larger year groups work their way through the school. Estimates of the number of immigrant families entering and staying in the school system are too insecure to satisfy DCSF that extra capacity is needed.

JH commented that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) project an increase in birth rate and trend for an increase in the national population. Anticipates a significant increase in children in next 20-30 years.

GR agreed that there had been a recent increase in birth rate although was uncertainty over the long-term trends. In Middlesbrough outward migration was affecting population size and limiting the number of children needing places in schools. To cope with parental choice and potential

unexpected increases in school population a 7.5% surplus capacity has been built into the BSF schools across Middlesbrough.

Staff

A number of issues were raised about the staffing arrangements for the new school. In the period of time before the new school opening would vacant posts be backfilled from existing schools? Would the schools agree to backfill vacancies with temporary posts as in previous reorganisations? Concern was also expressed that fewer staff would be needed – what would happen if this were the case? Was there a possibility of redundancies? During the interim period would staff be expected to work between sites? Would money be available to fund transitional staffing costs and protection?

GR explained that the new school's staffing structure would be determined by the temporary governing body. Anticipate that the schools would work closely over this and the council and Diocese would help to put in place a mechanism for dialogue when vacancies arise.

Staffing arrangements would need to be considered in two stages:

- Split-site operation would require greater numbers of staff and the staffing structure would need to reflect this;
- Single-site operation would require fewer staff and a new staffing structure will be needed.

Unions would be consulted on the staffing structures and on any protocol to manage staff vacancies. The overarching intention would be to ensure that all staff that want a post in the new school get one. Redundancies were however always a possibility. A transition funding element would be included in the school's budget, but as yet there were no details.

SW commented that both schools are already meeting to discuss many of these issues and will work to minimise issues arising when staff leave. Attempt to overcome problems in advance wherever possible. In the interim period it is unlikely that staff would be required to work across sites, but there may need to be some transfer of staff to the Newlands site to follow pupils in 2009 and 2010. The schools were discussing this and would seek interest from staff.

Governing Body

It was asked when the temporary governing body would be established for the new school, and why such a body would be responsible for making such decisions.

CH explained that the temporary governing body would be established in March/April 2008. Government legislation determines that this body is established to make decisions for the new school until it opens. The format of the temporary governing body has been agreed with the existing governing bodies. While the trustees have not determined the selection criteria yet the temporary governing body will be a mix of existing governors from the two schools and new governors all working for the benefit of the school.

Site

Questions were raised about the site selection for the new school. Discussions centred on the use of the St. David's site for the new school, with a general opinion in the audience that the Newlands site would be a better choice.

GR explained that the choice of site centred on the deliverability of the scheme. While both school sites are of a similar size, ownership of some of the land surrounding The Newlands presented a barrier and could not be delivered in time.

CH added that the Diocese had initially pushed for a new building on a new site. Understand now that this is not achievable and that holding out for this as a solution presented a real risk that the BSF funding could be withdrawn and not be available again for a significant number of years. Intense pressure from Ministers to deliver a scheme.

JB commented that there was no choice on the location of the new school and she shared a lot of the reservations but must make the best of what we get.

Transition

Staff were interested in how the Newlands' site could cater for additional pupils in the interim period before the refurbished accommodation was ready. Will temporary accommodation be funded from the capital BSF funding? It was also asked what assurances would be given regarding the quality of education during this time.

GR said that issues regarding 'bulge' accommodation were being looked at, specialist areas presented a particular problem. The council will provide what is required to ensure pupils are at the centre of plans. Liaison with the Headteachers is crucial. Temporary accommodation will be funded through BSF.

SW added that temporary accommodation is of high quality. Location of temporary classrooms still to be decided and the location of a sports hall is most difficult. A good start has already been made – the draft proposals seek to minimise pupil transfers and limit disruption. The schools have already started to converge (timetables already on same structure).

CH added that plans for minimising disruption to ensure quality of education are still to be worked through. The temporary governing body may want a sub-committee to address these issues

Design & build

A brief discussion took place regarding the capital solution for the new school. Questions were asked about the value of the capital project and whether the two contractors had been involved with schools before.

The meeting was told that the funding for the scheme stood at £13million and that both contractors have experience of building schools. BT commented that it was essential that young people got involved with the design of the new school

SW added that both contractors had been very open in discussion with the schools and that the signs are good.

Curriculum & Specialisms

There was concern about the perception that The Newland's FCJ would close and be taken over by St. David's. This perception was not helped by the consultation material referring to the school having an initial specialism in Technology and potentially a secondary specialism in maths and computing.

GH explained that the temporary governing body would inherit the specialisms of the closing schools. If Newlands is notified of a specialism in computing and maths then the school will open with a dual specialism and this will be published in the statutory notices.

Transport

Home to school transport provisions laid out in the 1944 Act were no longer suitable for the modern world. In 1944 there was not the same anxiety as now about safe routes. The council's policy should talk about safe walking distances. This issue affects many parents.

GR said that references to safe walking distances would be checked and added to the council policy if necessary. In addition the council's Director of Environment had been charged by the Mayor to looking at improving access to schools in the Acklam area.

CH thanked GR for her assistance and asked that colleagues completed and returned their response forms. The meeting was closed at 5:10pm

Consultation on draft proposals for Catholic secondary education

Note of the meeting with staff and governors of St. David's RC Technology College Thursday 31st January 2008, 3.45pm – St. David's RC Technology College

Attendees: Jim Whiston (JW), Gill Rollings (GR), Cllr Brenda Thomson (BT), Gary Maddison (GM), Harry Eagling (HE), Karen Secker (KS), Peter Coady (PC) and approximately 60 staff, union representatives and governors including Bernard Marron (BM)

JW opened the meeting at 3:50pm and introduced BT, GR, GM, HE, KS. The diocesan proposal was introduced. The Diocese was working in partnership with both schools, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) and the council. Previous consultation had taken place and a subsequent exemption from the school competition rules granted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). A document had previously been circulated to consult on the draft proposals for the new Catholic school. Next stage is to publish statutory notices. A temporary governing body would then be established to oversee the establishment of the school.

GR gave a 20-minute presentation. Points of significance which varied from the slides included a more in-depth explanation of home to school transport arrangements

The meeting was then opened to the floor for questions. Comments and questions fell broadly into the following categories.

School Size

A discussion took place around the proposed capacity of the new school. Would the new school experience a bulge in pupil numbers before the new admission number of 240 could be put in place? Would an influx of pupils of no faith or other faiths mean that Catholic children may not be able to secure a place?

GR explained that the admission number could not be reduced before September 2009. The admissions round for 2008 had already started under the arrangements for two separate schools. Year groups larger than this would need to work their way through the school hence temporary accommodation would be supplied to cater for the initially larger school.

School admission limits are determined by the physical capacity of the school according to regulations laid down by the DCSF. Catholic children would take precedence for places above pupils of no faith or other faiths.

Staff

School staff were interested in the arrangements for the new staffing structure and how staff would be appointed to it. Are posts in the existing schools terminated once the new school opens? Would staff have to apply for posts in the new school and when would this take place? There was also interest in how the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher recruitment process would take place.

GR explained that posts in the existing schools would be terminated if they are closed under the amalgamation but, through ring-fencing, staff would either be slotted into or be able to apply to posts in the new school. The governing bodies of the existing schools and the temporary governing body of the new school would work together to provide as much staff security as possible.

The temporary governing body of the new school would be responsible for the staffing structure of the new school. Two different staffing structures were anticipated due to the phased implementation. Initially the school would operate on two sites and so would need a staffing structure that reflects this. Once the school consolidated onto a single site a different staffing structure would be needed. An interim structure would be put in place by the temporary governing body as far in advance of the school opening in September 2009 as possible. The council will support the process.

The post of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will be advertised in accordance with the temporary governing body's wishes. It is their decision as to how this will happen.

It was asked if staff would have to travel between sites? PC explained that some movement of staff between schools would be inevitable, but would be kept to a minimum.

A Union representative asked, would transitional funding to fund a larger staffing structure while operating on two sites be available? GR responded that funding would be provided through the fair funding formula specifically for split site arrangements.

Transition

Concern was expressed about the schools ability to recruitment pupils into Year 7 during the period of uncertainty that the reorganisation would bring. What position would the school be in after a formal decision had been taken on the reorganisation to 'sell' the school to the parents of potential new pupils?

GR responded that this was always an issue with reorganisations of schools. It was imperative that the temporary governing body be put in place as soon in the process as possible to deal with such issues.

JW commented that there was a need to get the primary Headteachers of Catholic primary schools together to discuss the future of Catholic secondary education and clarify the messages being given to them. A joint approach was needed to ensure that the new Catholic school would be a success.

Action – JW to ask Colin Hardy to arrange a meeting with the Headteachers of Catholic primary schools before the summer recess.

PC added that some work had already been undertaken with the primary Headteachers but there were opportunities to enhance this work in the near future.

Transport

Some concern was expressed over the safety of pupils walking to the school site on Saltersgill Avenue. Would transport be provided for year 7 and 8 pupils to get to the site?

GR explained that the council was responsible for providing transport to Catholic pupils living more than three miles from the school site they attend. Additional regulations were also about to be implemented which would mean that Catholic pupils from low -income families may be provided with transport if they live more than two miles from their site. Any remaining transport issues would be looked at creatively by the council and the temporary governing body.

JW promoted the public meeting being held on 4th February and encouraged people to attend As there were no further questions from the room, JW thanked everyone for their attendance, encouraged the use of the response forms in the consultation documentation and closed the meeting at 4.30pm.

ADMISSION ZONE OF NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

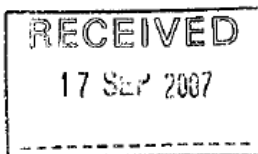


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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONFIRMING CAPITAL FUNDING

department for
children, schools and families

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13 September 2007

Dear Karen

Building Schools for the Future (BSF): Middlesbrough's Outline Business Case

I am writing to inform you that our consideration of Middlesbrough's Outline Business Case (OBC), and of the additional information provided by your project team, has been completed. This did take some time as we needed to obtain a number of clarifications. However, I am now able and pleased to confirm that the Department has approved your OBC and that your project will receive central Government support.

On the basis of your OBC we expect our capital support for this project to be £100.955 million of conventional capital funding, including the allowance for abnormalities agreed with PFS, for design and building work. A further £7.54 million of conventional capital funding will be allocated for ICT.

We look forward to receiving your Final Business Case (FBC) in June 2008. Phil Crotty or Liz Neale will advise you on the format and content of this document.

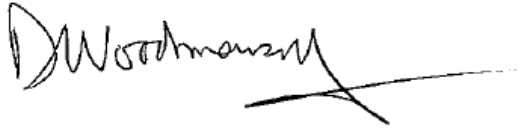
This letter is without prejudice to any other consent that may be required, for example, in connection with planning legislation.



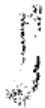
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We are confident that we can now move forward together to deliver a project that will make a real difference for the children of Middlesbrough. If you have any queries or would like to discuss progress on your project please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Woodmansey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana Woodmansey
BSF Programme Manager

A small, dark, handwritten mark or stamp, possibly a stylized letter or symbol, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.