

Building
Schools
for the Future

School specification

Competition to establish a
new mainstream Secondary
school for Acklam base

Middlesbrough Local
Education Authority

26th September 2008



Building schools for the future


Middlesbrough
moving forward

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1. Introduction

Middlesbrough Council is in Wave 2 of the government's Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF), providing an opportunity to replace or renew all secondary and secondary-age special schools across the town. As part of this programme, funding has been allocated to construct a new school building for a single school for the Acklam base area. The programme provides an ideal opportunity to provide a state of the art education facility in Acklam for future generations.

The Council is holding a school competition seeking a provider to establish a new school to utilise this new facility. This document provides some background to the competition and sets out the specification of the new school. The Council invites interested parties to bring forward proposals meeting this specification.

2. Case for a new school

Decreasing birth-rates and outward migration have led to a decrease in the number of school age children in Middlesbrough. School roll numbers have been falling across the town for many years, resulting in places that are no longer needed. As a result, Middlesbrough Council is undertaking a programme of school reductions in both primary and secondary sectors.

The Acklam base admission zone is currently served by two mainstream secondary schools. Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School are co-located on the same site on Hall Drive, Acklam and serve the same community. Together they have enough places for 2,200 pupils. However, in January 2008 only 1500 of these places were taken, leaving the schools with 32% of places surplus to requirements. This figure is projected to increase to 38% by 2011.

Middlesbrough Council has undertaken a review of its requirements for secondary school places and determined that there is no longer a need for two schools to serve the Acklam base admission zone. Middlesbrough Council requires a new secondary school to replace these two existing schools. A single new school will be better able to serve the community and provide a more sustainable future for secondary education in Middlesbrough.

In addition, both Hall Garth and King's Manor schools have been identified by the DCSF as National Challenge schools and are required to achieve national floor targets for the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and maths. The transformation of education through the BSF programme, and hence the amalgamation of both of these schools, is a key element in raising standards for the pupils of the Acklam base in response to this.

The new school will directly replace the closing schools of Hall Garth and King's Manor, admitting all pupils registered at the time of their closing.

3. Site, location and admission zone

The new school will be located on the current single site of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools. The postal address of the site is:

Hall Drive,
Acklam,
Middlesbrough
TS5 7JX

The site is located within the admission zone of the school and has playing fields and pitches which meet and exceed national requirements. The site also adjoins playing pitches and land owned by the Hustler Trust and the school will have access to these pitches during school hours. The site has been chosen for its suitability for a secondary school within the admission zone and to maximise the use of existing accommodation during the school's construction.

The new school will serve the existing, shared admission zone of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools known as the Acklam base. This admission zone consists of two separate areas of Middlesbrough covering much of the central area of the town, including an area subject to a major regeneration scheme, and parts of the Stainton & Thornton and Hemlington wards to the south of the town. A plan of the school's location and admission zone is included at Appendix B.

The site is accessible for vehicles and pedestrians via Hall Drive and some public transport is available within the vicinity. The school's accommodation will be purpose built and, once fully completed in 2012, will meet all Disability Discrimination Act requirements and be fully accessible for all users.

4. School Profile

The new school should open on 1st September 2010 and operate at its full capacity from this date, providing education for 1,350 boys and girls aged 11-16 years old. In accordance with this, the school's admission number will be 270 and the school should admit up to this number of pupils into Year 7 every year from the date of opening.

In September 2010 all other year groups will admit pupils from the closing schools of Hall Garth and King's Manor. Estimated pupil numbers are given below:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
School roll	249	275	295	247	267	1,333

Where, once opened, the school receives in-year admissions applications, pupils should be admitted up to the admission number of 270 in each year group.

Initially the school will operate from existing school buildings while construction is undertaken to build new accommodation elsewhere on the site. The new accommodation should be ready for occupancy by the school by 2012.

As the new school will replace two existing schools there is a requirement that all displaced pupils are provided with a place at the new school. There are therefore no plans to implement admission arrangements in stages. The school should operate at full capacity from its date of opening. Although the school's new accommodation will not be ready until 2012, this will have no effect on the school's admissions.

It is not proposed that the school should provide sixth form provision, early years provision or provision for boarding pupils.

5. Special Educational Needs

The school should also have provision for 30 pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties, directly replacing Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision currently available at Hall Garth Community Arts College.

Middlesbrough Council expects that SEN pupils will benefit from the improved school accommodation which will be available for use from 2012. The accommodation will include facilities for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties in a fully accessible building. It is also expected that these pupils should benefit more generally from improvements in teaching and learning being brought about through the BSF and other programmes and from improved links with local Special schools.

6. Transport

Free home to school transport will be provided for pupils who qualify under the Council's Home to School Transport policy. Other pupils will be expected to use alternative forms of transport to travel to school including walking, cycling and public transport. To this end the school will have enhanced cycling and pedestrian access, and drop off and turning points for vehicular access. Secure bike storage will be provided on site. Traffic calming measures are already in place along Hall Drive to ensure pupils' safety.

Prior to the school opening, Middlesbrough Council will support the governing body to produce a school travel plan encouraging sustainable alternatives to the use of the car for pupils and staff, reducing congestion and traffic danger.

7. Specialisms

Middlesbrough Council would prefer the school to have a joint specialism in sports and creative arts, building on the strengths of the work already undertaken at Hall Garth and King's Manor schools. This would be the only specialist provision of its kind in Middlesbrough and forms part of a town-wide approach to the provision of secondary school specialisms.

8. Extended services

The school will be expected to deliver the core offer of extended services to pupils and their families. The school should offer extended learning opportunities and the use of facilities beyond the school day, weekends and school holidays, that respond to the needs of the school and the local community. Middlesbrough Council would prefer to see proposals that continue provision already available at the two schools, including but

not limited to, the continuation of Adult Education services, extended use of sports and arts facilities, and after school study support.

The school would be part of the Middlesbrough family of schools working together to develop extended services in partnership with other organisations, underpinned by a robust Community Use Agreement. The school will be supported by Middlesbrough Council to develop these services and facilitate an audit of community need. The school will be able to access resources and funding through a range of sources, assisting the delivery of these services.

9. Land, Capital and Estates

While the new school will open in September 2010 in existing school premises, Middlesbrough Council will provide new school accommodation on site through the BSF programme. This accommodation is expected to be ready for use by 2012.

The estimated capital cost of providing this new accommodation is £27.6 million. Middlesbrough Council will meet the cost of implementing the proposals above, in line with the financial allocations made through the BSF programme.

The tenure of the proposed school site on Hall Drive is freehold. Upon the new school opening, Middlesbrough Council will transfer its interest in the site, buildings or premises to the school's trustees, foundation body, or governing body, as appropriate.

10. Consultation

In drawing up the specification for the new school, Middlesbrough Council has complied with all requirements to consult under Section 9(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

An initial consultation on options for creating a single Acklam base secondary school was undertaken during November / December 2006. The greater majority of those who responded were in favour of the establishment of a new school, replacing Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School.

Subsequent consultation has been undertaken on the draft specification of the new school. While the number of responses to that consultation was very small, 77% of respondents supported the amalgamation approach and 54% supported the use of the school specification. The views of those parent/guardians who responded showed greater support for the proposals, with 100% agreeing to the amalgamation and 71% supporting the specification. While respondents were largely supportive of the specification a small number of issues were raised in relation to:

- the opening date of the new school, including concern over opening the school in 2010 in advance of building works being completed in 2012;
- continuation of community facilities provided by the existing schools, especially for sports and performing arts;
- the school's admission zone.

Full details of the consultation process and the feedback received are available in the Council's Executive report: 'Acklam Base School Competition – Feedback from Consultation and Advertising the School Competition', 26th September 2008. This report is available by accessing the Council's Committee Management and Information System, accessible at the following web address:

www2.middlesbrough.gov.uk/commgmt/Comm2008.nsf?OpenDatabase

Alternatively, contact Gary Maddison, Children, Families & Learning, PO Box 69, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1EL. Tel: 01642 728722/729609

11. Partnership working and collaboration

A key element of selection will be the proposer's approach to partnership and collaboration with other schools and stakeholders, Middlesbrough Council and the BSF programme.

Middlesbrough Council will expect the successful proposer to work closely during the reorganisation process to ensure the continued employment of staff at the existing schools wherever possible. To this end, there is an expectation that posts in the new school will, in the first instance, be ring-fenced to existing staff at Hall Garth and King's Manor schools wherever this is permissible. The successful provider will be expected to comply with all relevant employment, equalities and governance law and work in close consultation with staff unions.

The successful proposer, once appointed will be required to work with the BSF design team and their contractor at an early stage in the process to agree and contribute to the design of the school's new accommodation. As Middlesbrough's BSF programme contains no PFI element, there is no associated buildings maintenance provision. The governing body will be required to sign up to a 25 year maintenance plan and associated sinking fund.

Middlesbrough Council has also entered into a contractual agreement with RM to provide a managed ICT service across Middlesbrough's secondary school estate. This agreement includes services for the new Acklam base school. The governing body will be expected to adopt this service and be liable for its financial maintenance for the duration of the contract, as agreed by all other Middlesbrough BSF schools.

Middlesbrough Council wants Middlesbrough to be proud to be a learning community where all have access to high quality education and training, which meets their needs and aspirations and gives them the skills, knowledge and vision to succeed. At the heart of Middlesbrough's BSF programme is the aim of transforming education, leading to improved standards and opportunities for young people. Proposals should reflect these aspirations, embedding the principles of raising standards at their centre.

12. Submission of proposals

All proposals made in relation to this notice must be received within four months of the date of publication and by no later than 26th January 2009.

All proposals should be in line with the requirements set out in this document in sections 4, 5 and 8. However, proposals that do not comply with all of these requirements but which meet the need for places in the area will still be considered.

All proposals must contain the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. Please note that the information specified in Part 3 of Schedule 5 will be published by the Council in accordance with the regulations. For further information, please refer to the DCSF guidance document 'Guide for people wishing to enter a new school competition':

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tools/schoolhandbooks/competitions/>

Proposals should be sent for the attention of:

Gary Maddison
Children, Families & Learning
PO Box 69
Vancouver House
Gurney Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 1EL

13. Next stages

Within three weeks of the closing date of the bidding period Middlesbrough Council will publish a second statutory notice summarising the proposals received. At the same time, statutory notices will be published proposing the closure of Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School to coincide with the opening of the new school. Both of these notices will be made available:

- in the Evening Gazette;
- at the gates of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools;
- in conspicuous places in the area serviced by the new school (for example local libraries or on lamp-posts within the vicinity of Hall Drive).

A copy of the statutory notice and complete copies of all proposals received will also be published on the Council's website.

The notice will:

- explain where full copies of the proposals received can be obtained;
- invite comments and objections within six-weeks of the date of the notice;
- provide notice of a public meeting which will be held to discuss the proposals.

A public meeting will be held providing parents, staff, governors and other stakeholders with an opportunity to seek further information about the proposals. Each proposer will be invited to the meeting. Any comments received in writing during the six-week representation period will be considered by the Council's Executive prior to a final decision being taken. A final decision is anticipated in April 2009.

In choosing a successful school provider from the published proposals, Middlesbrough Council will use the 'Decision Makers' Guidance for Establishing a New Maintained Mainstream School', published by the DCSF. Assuming that all place-planning requirements have been met, the Council will wish to be satisfied that proposals contribute to raising standards of provision and will lead to improved attainment for young people and a narrowing of the attainment gap for under-performing groups.

If the Council were to decide to submit its own proposal, this would be published in the second competition notice. The effect of such a decision would be to transfer the power to determine the proposal from the Council to the Schools Adjudicator. In such circumstances all of the proposals, the competition and closure notices and the representations and responses received would be forwarded to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for determination. There is no prescribed timescale for decision making which is binding on the Adjudicator in this instance.

14. Contact details

Further information can be obtained from:

Gary Maddison
Children, Families & Learning
PO Box 69
Vancouver House
Gurney Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 1EL

Email: gary_maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Web site: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/BSF

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR ACKLAM BASE

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is given in accordance with section 7(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Middlesbrough Council invites proposals to establish a new mainstream secondary school to open on 1st September 2010, replacing the existing schools of Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School.

The new school should provide places for 1,350 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16. The school should also cater for 30 pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties. The admission number at age 11 for the school will be 270 upon the school opening and in every subsequent year.

The school will be located on a single site on Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 7JX and serve the existing admission zone shared by both Hall Garth and King's Manor schools known as the Acklam base. This admission zone includes much of the central parts of Middlesbrough, including areas subject to significant regeneration, and parts of the Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton wards to the south of the town. A map of the admission zone is included in the full invitation notice which is available upon request.

Initially upon opening, the school will operate from the existing buildings currently used by Hall Garth and King's Manor schools, while construction works take place to build new accommodation. These two school buildings are co-located on the same site. The new accommodation, available for use by 2012, will be built on a separate location on the same site. These arrangements will not affect the admission of pupils to the new school which will operate at full capacity from the date of opening.

The school is expected to deliver the core offer of extended services to pupils and their families. The school should offer extended learning opportunities and the use of facilities beyond the school day, weekends and school holidays, that respond to the needs of the school and the local community, Middlesbrough Council would prefer to see proposals that continue provision already available at the two existing schools, including but not limited to the continuation of Adult Education services, extended use of sports and arts facilities, and after school study support.

Middlesbrough Council will provide funding for the construction of the new accommodation as part of its Building Schools for the Future programme. The estimated capital cost of providing the school is £27.6 million. Middlesbrough Council will, upon the school opening, transfer their interest in the site, buildings or premises to the school's trustees, foundation body, or governing body, as appropriate.

The complete notice states what information must be included in a proposal made in response to this published summary invitation notice. Copies of the complete invitation notice can be obtained by contacting Gary Maddison, PO Box 69, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL, by telephoning 01642 729609, or from www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/BSF

Proposals made in response to this invitation notice should be sent to: Gary Maddison, Children, Families & Learning, PO Box 69, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL. All proposals should be received within four months of the date of this notice, and **by no later than 26th January 2009**.

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

26th September 2008

Explanatory Notes

This competition notice invites proposals for a new secondary school to replace Hall Garth and King's Manor schools, both of which should close to coincide with the opening of the new school. Within three weeks of the deadline of this notice, a second notice will be published summarising the bids received. A corresponding notice to close Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School will also be published at the same time. Both notices will invite comments and objections to the Council within six weeks.

Map of the school's location and admission zone

