



Statutory proposal

**Proposal to close Hall
Garth Community Arts
College and King's Manor
School**

Middlesbrough Council

13 February 2009



Building schools for the future





STATUTORY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

- 1. CLOSURE OF HALL GARTH COMMUNITY ARTS COLLEGE**
- 2. CLOSURE OF KING'S MANOR SCHOOL**

1. Local Education Authority area Middlesbrough (806)
2. Proposals published by Middlesbrough Council
Vancouver House
PO Box 69
Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL
3. Schools involved Hall Garth Community Arts College (8064000)
Hall Drive
Acklam
Middlesbrough TS5 7JX

King's Manor School (8064110)
Hall Drive
Acklam
Middlesbrough TS5 7JY
4. Date Proposals published 13 February 2009
5. Proposed implementation date 31 August 2010

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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 Middlesbrough Council has been consulting on establishing a single secondary school to serve the Acklam base admission zone, replacing the existing two schools of Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School. Having listened to the views expressed during several periods of consultation over the last two years, this document sets out Middlesbrough Council's proposals for the closure of these two schools.

Middlesbrough Council is also running a parallel process to establish a new school for 1,350 boys and girls aged 11-16 on the existing school's site on Hall Drive in Acklam. On 26 September 2008 Middlesbrough Council published a statutory notice inviting bidders to publish their own proposals for the new school. By the end of the bidding process three proposals had been received. These proposals have also been published and are open for consultation until 27 March 2009. These proposals can be viewed at www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/bsf

The proposals published here to discontinue Hall Garth and King's Manor schools should be viewed in relation to the three proposals for the new school. They set out what Hall Garth and King's Manor will be replaced with, what services will be offered, and how it is proposed that standards of school provision in the area can be improved.

The Council's Executive will choose a successful bidder from the three proposals received. The bidder selected will then implement their proposals in time for the new school opening. At the same time the Executive will determine the outcome of the proposal to close Hall Garth and King's Manor. The proposals for closure and establishment are related and will be implemented together. It is anticipated that a final decision on both sets of proposals will be taken by the Council's Executive in April 2009.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Middlesbrough Council propose to close, on 31 August 2010, Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School. Both of these schools share a single site located on Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough.

Hall Garth Community Arts College is a mixed sex secondary Foundation school. It has sufficient capacity to offer education to 1,102 boys and girls mainly between the ages of 11-16. The school provides 30 places reserved for students with moderate learning difficulties. In October 2008 the school had 558 students on roll.

King's Manor School is a mixed sex secondary Community school. It has sufficient capacity to offer education to 1,111 boys and girls mainly between the ages of 11-16. The school has no provision recognised by Middlesbrough Council as being reserved for students with special educational needs (SEN). In October 2008 the school had 882 students on roll.

A copy of the statutory notice summarising the proposal is included at Appendix A of this document.

OBJECTIVES

Through the Middlesbrough BSF programme it is intended to reduce to one the number of secondary schools providing secondary education to the Acklam base admission zone. It is proposed that both Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor Secondary School would be closed and a new secondary school opened following a school competition process to select a suitable school provider.

Under the BSF programme new school accommodation would be built on the current schools' site, to current building standards, and used to provide accommodation for the new school. This accommodation would be purpose built, providing 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 would in turn have a positive impact on all students and help to maintain and build upon the quality of teaching and learning.

The proposal would reduce the number of surplus places currently present in the existing schools by replacing them with a new larger school built to accommodate the students from both. A larger school with a larger staffing establishment would provide greater opportunities to create a broad and balanced curriculum to accommodate the educational needs and aspirations of students, increased flexibility to manage resources and class size, improved opportunities for professional development of staff, and a broader curriculum expertise.

It would also address a multi-million pound 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 Acklam base admission zone;
- To make better use of resources currently tied to existing provision and maintaining surplus places.

NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES

Hall Garth Community Arts College can currently provide places for 1,102 boys and girls between the ages of 11-16. It also provides 30 Special Educational Needs (SEN) places for students with moderate learning difficulties. King's Manor School currently provides for 1,111 boys and girls between the ages of 11-16; there are no places reserved for students with SEN.

It is proposed that the new school, once open, would provide 1,350 places for boys and girls between the ages of 11-16, with 30 places reserved for students with moderate learning difficulties, continuing the provision currently available at Hall Garth.

This proposed reorganisation of secondary education is in line with the current projections of student roll numbers and parental preferences. These show that by September 2013 there will be fewer than 1,350 students accessing secondary education at these two schools. The closure of these two schools and replacement by a new school has been designed to match provision of school places to demand. Sufficient school places will be

available at the new secondary school to cater for all those students on roll at Hall Garth and King's Manor upon closure in August 2010.

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 secondary school places in the town to meet demand, with a slight surplus of 5.3% across all providers by 2011 and a surplus of 9.4% by 2016.

The existing places at Hall Garth Community Arts College reserved for 30 students with moderate learning difficulties would be replaced by an equivalent number of places in the new school. There would be no detrimental effect on the number of SEN places, or the provision available.

DISPLACED STUDENTS

Upon closure, students attending Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School will be offered a place at the new school to be opened on the same site. Parents may express a preference for their child to attend another school and Middlesbrough Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 86 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Students attending one of the 30 places reserved for students with moderate learning difficulties at Hall Garth would be offered a place in the replacement provision in the new school. This provision would be a direct replacement of that already operating at Hall Garth Community Arts College.

Middlesbrough Council does not intend to make any further arrangements to expand provision at other schools in relation to these proposed closures.

STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY

The closure of the existing two secondary schools to make way for a single new secondary school is fundamental to the continued success of secondary education for the area. Taken with the investment provided through the BSF programme it would remove barriers to learning presented by older school accommodation, and release funds tied down to maintaining surplus places to be spent on students.

The new school accommodation would 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. It is anticipated that the successful school provider will work together with the existing schools to plan and specify the requirements of the school accommodation to create a learning environment that will inspire staff and students alike.

The replacement school would be a self-governing school established through competition. The competition has sought new education providers and consortia of providers to bring forward their own proposals for a self-governing school. Having received all proposals through this process the new school would either be a Foundation school with a foundation or an Academy. The proposals received would bring with them new structures, ideas and expertise and create links to other organisations, maximising the capability that they bring for the benefit of students.

The new school would 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 would play a central role in this strategy with its proposed joint specialism in sport and art.

The proposed new school would grow from the strengths of its two constituent parts, Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School. Each school proposer has set out its own plans for improving standards, quality of provision and school improvement. Middlesbrough Council, as decision maker, will place great importance on the raising of standards in selecting a successful school provider from those proposals it has received.

Each proposal sets out how it will bring additional challenge, support and expertise to the school to mitigate the risk of low attainment and to improve the prospects for current and future students.

As part of a recent Department of Children, Schools & Learning (DCSF) initiative, both Hall Garth and King's Manor have been identified as National Challenge schools along with two others in Middlesbrough. National Challenge schools are schools where 30% of school leavers did not achieve 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths in 2007. In consultation with these schools, Middlesbrough Council has submitted an action plan to the DCSF outlining the Council's approach to achieving this floor target. The establishment of the new school would build on the progress already achieved within these two schools to raise levels of achievement.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS BENEFITS

The places for 30 students with moderate learning difficulties currently available at Hall Garth Community Arts College would be directly replaced at the new school. The provision of these places is in line with identified need for the area and across the town as part of a planned approach to provision for students with SEN.

Each proposal to establish the new school received by Middlesbrough Council has committed to these places and to the quality of education and services provided. Each proposal sets out how it is intended to maintain and improve access to education and associated services for these students. Access to specialist staff and services provided by Middlesbrough Council would remain available to the new school.

All students with SEN attending either Hall Garth or King's Manor schools on the date of closure would be offered a place in the new school. Funding for the ongoing support and education of these students would continue to be provided through the school's budget share provided by Middlesbrough Council, or by the DCSF in the case of an Academy.

Accommodation provided through the BSF programme would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to meet the needs of all users, including students with SEN, with visual, hearing or physical difficulties, ensuring that services can be accessed within in and outside of the normal school day. It is anticipated that facilities such as small breakout rooms for one-to-one tutoring and small group work, along with other specialist facilities would be available to facilitate tailored approaches to teaching and learning. This would provide greater access to the curriculum and other extra-curricula activities for

students who may normally experience difficulties accessing these.

The larger staffing establishment of the new school will allow greater access for students to specialised education input, and a wider curriculum base.

The school's SEN policy will be established by the temporary governing body.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

As secondary education would continue to be delivered on the existing school site there would be no changes to the length or journeys travelled by students in order for them to attend school.

The governing body of the new school would be encouraged to draw up a travel plan covering the transport arrangements of students and staff to the new school. The plan would encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport and alternatives to the use of cars. This would include the use of public transport at the start and end of the school day. Students would also be encouraged to cycle or walk to school where it is safe to do so. A traffic survey of the surrounding estates has been undertaken and the school's travel plan would be informed by this survey.

Home to school transport would continue to be provided to students as it is now, in accordance with Middlesbrough Council's policy on such matters. Transport would also continue to be provided to students with a statement of special educational needs or medical condition in line with their individual needs.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

It is accepted that this proposal would 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.

As education provision and associated services would continue on the current site it is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impact on the community. All three proposals to establish the new school have committed to maintaining and/or enhancing extended services available within the area based upon an audit of community need. Should a need exist that is not being met, Middlesbrough Council would work with the school and other providers in the vicinity to ensure that appropriate services are commissioned.

It is anticipated that all extended services currently offered by Hall Garth and King's Manor will continue to be provided by the new school.

RELATED PROPOSALS

These closure proposals are related to proposals published separately on 13 February 2009 to establish a new secondary school on the same site replacing Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School. The proposals for closure and establishment of the new school will be decided and implemented together.

CONSULTATION

Throughout the formulation of this proposal, Middlesbrough Council has worked hard to ensure 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. The first phase, to consult on a range of options for school reorganisation was carried out in November 2006. The consultation included four options going forward and expressed the Council's preference from within these options to open a single new secondary school and close the existing two schools.

Following consultation on the initial options, Middlesbrough Council undertook a further period of public engagement as part of discussions on the specification of the proposed new school during June/July 2008. The consultation set out the closure of the two schools as part of a process to establish a new school through competition and explained the implications for students, staff and governors.

In both consultations documentation was provided and sent to staff, governors, and every parent/guardian of students attending Hall Garth and King's Manor schools or one of their ten feeder primary schools. Copies of all documentation were also made available on Middlesbrough Council's website. Approximately 7,000 leaflets were distributed for each consultation. Other stakeholders consulted included neighbouring local authorities, the Learning and Skills Council, diocesan authorities, local MPs and ward councillors.

In support of both consultations a series of meetings and events were held around the community with parents, staff, governors and the public. These included meetings at the schools involved, at local Community Councils, and at drop-in sessions held in schools.

Feedback received through consultation was largely supportive of the proposals. During the first consultation 72% of staff, parents, and governors who responded supported the Council's preferences to close both Hall Garth and King's Manor, and open a new school to replace them. In the second consultation relatively few responses were received, however the majority (77%) supported the closure of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools as part of this wider proposal to establish a new school.

The Council's Executive considered the views of those people consulted following each stage of engagement prior to agreeing to proceed.

A copy of the consultation documents used in both of these consultations are included as appendices to this document. A copy of the minutes of a public meeting held on 12 December 2006 is also attached. Further details on the views of those people who responded to the consultations are available from Middlesbrough Council by using the contact information at the end of this document.

CONTACT DETAILS:

If you have previously expressed a view over these proposals during previous consultations held during 2006 and 2008 you must resubmit your views again for them to be reconsidered. Assumptions will not be made on current views based upon views expressed previously.

Written comments and objections to the proposals detailed within this document should be sent to the address below within six weeks of the date of this notice and by no later than 27 March 2009. Comments and objections can be withdrawn in writing at any time

Gary Maddison
School Organisation Officer
Acklam Base School Closures
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TS1 1EL

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

CLOSURE OF HALL GARTH COMMUNITY ARTS COLLEGE AND KING'S MANOR SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Middlesbrough Council, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL intends, with effect from 31 August 2010, to discontinue (i.e. close):

- a) Hall Garth Community Arts College (ages 11 to 16) situated at Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough;
- and
- b) King's Manor School (ages 11 to 16) situated at Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough.

Both of these schools are located on a single, shared site located on Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough.

These closure proposals are related to proposals published separately on 13 February 2009 to establish a new secondary school on the same site. In formulating these proposals Middlesbrough Council has undertaken all statutory consultation requirements and given all stakeholders an equal and fair opportunity to pass comment.

It is intended that existing pupils from the discontinued schools, including those in provision reserved for pupils with special educational needs, will transfer to a new secondary school to be opened on the existing site of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools, Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough on 1st September 2010. The new school will be large enough to admit all pupils displaced by the closures. Middlesbrough Council does not intend to make any further arrangements to expand provision at other schools in relation to these closures. Parents may express a preference for their child to attend another school and the Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 86 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

As both schools proposed for closure are to be replaced by a new school on the same site there will be no changes to the distance or journeys that pupils need to travel to school. Home to school transport will continue to be provided to pupils as it is now, in accordance with the Council's policy on such matters.

Special educational needs provision at Hall Garth Community Arts College will be continued at the new school. Proposals for the new school, published separately, set out how three potential school providers propose to provide for these pupils, maintaining and building on the current standards of provision. In establishing the new school Middlesbrough Council anticipates that pupils will benefit from new school accommodation better suited to teaching the modern curriculum including specialist accommodation. This will include specialist accommodation for pupils with special educational needs.

This notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the full proposal can be obtained from Gary Maddison, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL or by calling 01642 729609. A copy can also be downloaded from the Council's website at www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/bsf

Within six weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, any person may make comment on or object to the proposal by sending them to the Gary Maddison, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1EL. Any such comments or objections should reach the Council **by no later than 27 March 2009**.

13 February 2009

Gill Rollings
Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning

Explanatory notes:

1. Falling school rolls has resulted in an unsustainable level of surplus places at secondary schools in the area. It is proposed that Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School are closed and that pupils on roll will transfer to a new single secondary school to be opened on the same site. The Council, following an open competition seeking school providers, has published three sets of proposals for the new school. These proposals are currently available for consultation until 27 March 2009.
2. A new 1,350-place purpose built secondary school will be built to accommodate all pupils currently being educated at Hall Garth and King's Manor. The school will have 30 places reserved for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. It is intended that the school will serve the same admission zone as currently served by the two existing schools.
3. Middlesbrough Council's Executive will determine the outcome of this proposal within two months of the end of the six week period specified above.

Acklam Base Consultation Note of meeting with parents and community members 18:30 12th December 2006 – King's Manor

Meeting was held in King's Manor School's main hall.

Present: T Redmayne, Cllr P Thompson, Terry Sutcliffe, Gary Maddison, Cllr Ron Lowes, 9 others in attendance including one parent.

TR opened the meeting at 18:40 and delivered a 25-minute presentation on the options for school reorganisation for the Acklam base. The advantages of creating a single school were explained, and a summary given of the BSF programme. Reference to the consultation materials was made. Full presentation available, points from the delivery included:

- £20million pounds had already been secured to build a new school building on the existing Acklam base site.
- Receiving parental support for the establishment of a Community School was important.
- Contact information was given and attendees told how they could register their views.

Many of the attendees were local residents, and not parents of students currently attending one of the schools. As a result much of the discussion revolved around the disruption that the high concentration of schools, and hence pupils was having on the area.

It was commented that residents needed to see the bigger picture of planned education provision in the area; the Roman Catholic schools also have an impact upon the local area, and if SEN provision is also co-located onto one of the sites the whole area would be very busy. The industry of Acklam is becoming education. It was felt that consultation had been left too late: the issues of school provision and the planning/transport issues are joined by the eventual solution. Could the consultation be delayed by one year?

PT responded that there will be no SEN school on site, and the RC school will remain where it is. Planning, school design and transport issues will also need consultation but at a later stage. Key question today is whether the schools' communities would like to see a single school to replace Hall Garth and King's Manor, and if so, should the school be a Community school. Consultation cannot be delayed on these issues without putting the Council at significant risk. LA believes that a single school is the only option because of the falling roll numbers.

Residents expressed dismay at the prospect of the Roman Catholic school remaining at the St. David's site, and had concerns over the disruption of additional pupils. The need to reduce the number of surplus places at secondary schools and for Acklam Base was understood, but did not understand the distinction between a Community school and a Foundation school. One community member asked if a foundation school would be able to select its pupils.

PT explained that Community schools were established and supported by the Council; the land and assets of the school also remained the property of the Council. Foundation

schools were schools established and supported by other external agencies, the assets and building of the school transfer to the governing body of the school, and are no longer part of the Council's portfolio. Foundation schools are no more able to select its pupils on the basis of ability than community schools. Believed that a new community school created from the two existing schools, with the same staff and experience would provide the best educational opportunities for young people.

A parent whose children attended one of the existing schools commented that she had chosen the school for her daughters in preference to the existing Academies. She expressed a view that any new school be a Community school.

Concern was expressed that £20million did not seem enough to build a school for 1,400 pupils. It was explained that there were many very good schools built at a similar size for less than £20million. Middlesbrough would benefit from the economies of scale inherent in a £96million grouped procurement. Lessons learned by the contractor in one part of the programme would save the Council money in another part. Successful parts of a one school can be replicated throughout the programme without increased design costs. This would ensure that the programme delivered value for money.

Cllr Lowes - Residents of a large part of Acklam suffered the inconvenience of having many pupils from outside the area attending schools in the locality. School days were very difficult for residents. Residents were asking: why here and not the town centre? PT fought to secure the Clairville site for a new school to replace Hall Garth and King's Manor but to no avail. A large site is needed. Could not get permission to build schools elsewhere in the town, but significant efforts had been made.

Much interest was shown on how access to a new school could be improved over the current situation. General comment that a new building should be built further back from Hall Drive. TS confirmed that these issues would be looked at, planning constraints, part of design brief. Solution can be found, will work with transport, larger/more parking pays on site, turning circle and drop off point for parents. Look at needs of residents; detailed discussion will take place after OBC.

Land- swap solution is likely to be sought over the Hustler Trust land.

TR thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: OPTIONS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL REORGANISATION FOR ACKLAM BASE

November 2006

Terry Redmayne
Executive Director of Children,
Families and Learning

FOREWORD

Middlesbrough is being offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revitalise secondary schooling through the Government's Building Schools for the Future Programme. We are at the forefront of this programme to invest in new and refurbished secondary school buildings, and we intend to do everything we can over the next five years to maximise this opportunity for the benefit of our young people.

We believe that our schools' staff and pupils deserve inspirational school buildings that reflect the quality of the learning taking place within them, that provide the best teaching resources and facilitate new ways of learning. Our aim is to raise standards and educational opportunities for our young people. The changes being consulted upon for Hall Garth and King's Manor schools will allow us to do this in the most effective way possible, by reducing surplus school places and providing a modern school building in which the best can be achieved for our young people.

Schools form the heart of our communities and any changes to them must be very carefully managed to ensure that everybody involved, including pupils and staff, can gain maximum benefit. We believe that this is a sound proposition in which the money planned for investment in a new school building is much needed and will be much appreciated by the pupils, staff, and wider communities served by the school.

Your views are important to us so please take time to consider the information in the leaflet and respond using the attached response form. We are particularly interested in hearing from the parents of children currently attending primary school; it is your children who will most benefit from these new facilities, and we would like you to let us know your thoughts.

We look forward to receiving your views and meeting you at the consultation meetings that are being held.



Councillor Paul Thompson
Executive Member for Education
& Skills



Terry Redmayne
Executive Director of Children,
Families & Learning

Building Schools for the Future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a Government initiative bringing major investment to secondary schools in Middlesbrough and across England. It is a key part of the Government's plans for education reform and is the largest investment in schools for more than a century.

Middlesbrough is at the forefront of this initiative and will receive £90.9million to invest in building and refurbishing our secondary school buildings over a 5-6 year period. This is a substantial allocation which is being supplemented by millions of pounds of the Council's own money, and we are determined to make the most of this once-in-a-life-time opportunity to transform our secondary schools. Every community and voluntary aided secondary school and secondary age special school in Middlesbrough will benefit from this money.

What does BSF mean for Hall Garth and King's Manor?

Hall Garth and King's Manor schools are at the heart of the Council's transformation plans. The Council has earmarked in excess of £20million to build a new school for the Acklam Base pupils, replacing the existing facilities at Hall Garth and King's Manor. The building will be large enough to accommodate all pupils from both schools and it is intended that it will open by 2011.

The reality of a new school building and new facilities is still five years away, and at present we still have two existing schools, with two governing bodies, two sets of staff, and two sets of pupils. Decisions need to be taken as to how we can achieve our vision for a single school. Therefore the Council wants to start engaging with the communities who use these schools to ensure that we can make the right choices for the future of our young people and the surrounding school communities.

Key facts

The concept of a single school to serve the area currently served by Hall Garth and King's Manor schools would appear to us to make very good sense. Some of the influencing factors which helped us form this view are detailed below.

- ◆ **Surplus Places** – The size of the secondary school age population in the area served by the schools is declining, and forecast to continue doing so. A total of 20% of pupil places are currently surplus and this is projected to increase to 36% by 2011. By 2011 there will not be enough pupils to fill two schools.

- ◆ **School Size** – by 2011 the number of pupils projected to be attending Hall Garth and King’s Manor schools is approximately 1,400. This leaves one school with approximately 600 pupils and one with 800 pupils. The Council believes that ideally secondary schools should not have less than 900 pupils. 1,400 pupils will comfortably fit into one secondary school. A school this size also benefits from the advantages of an increased economy of scale.
- ◆ **School Buildings** – Both schools were constructed in the late 1960s. A survey of building condition in December 2005 identified that Hall Garth and King’s Manor schools require approximately £5.3million investment between them over the next five years if they are to be brought up to a good standard of repair.
- ◆ **Funding** – The funding available through Building Schools for the Future is not sufficient to allow the building of two new schools and the Council would not be able to demonstrate value for money given the forecast decrease in pupil numbers.
- ◆ **School location and admission zone** – The two schools are co-located on a single site and already share some accommodation such as sports facilities, the music block and the theatre. They both serve the same area of the town, a shared admission zone from which both schools admit the majority of their pupils.

What will be achieved?

The Council has already recognised the advantages of creating a single secondary school to serve the Acklam Base and we have started to put plans in place to commission a new single school building to be built on the existing site of Hall Garth and King’s Manor schools. This new building will deliver the best of educational and community facilities and will act as a hub for the community.

The creation of a single school aims to achieve four main objectives, which are:

- ◆ To enhance educational standards
- ◆ To provide value for money solutions to address poor quality school accommodation
- ◆ To create viable, thriving schools at the heart of their communities
- ◆ To make better use of resources currently tied down to existing provision and maintaining surplus places.

The options

The Council wishes to consult with school staff, Governing Bodies, parents and all others involved with the schools, or in the provision of secondary education on the best way forward. There are 4 options:

- ◆ **Option A** - Retain the status quo (do nothing), do not invest in a single school
- ◆ **Option B** – Close King’s Manor School and expand Hall Garth School to admit additional pupils
- ◆ **Option C** – Close Hall Garth School and expand King’s Manor School to admit additional pupils
- ◆ **Option D** – Close both King’s Manor School and Hall Garth School and open a new school to replace them.

Option A does not help us to deliver our vision for the area, and is not sustainable in the medium to long term. The Council does not see this as a viable way forward.

The Council has expressed a preference for **option D**. The Council understands that this option creates the greatest equality of treatment and opportunity for the pupils, staff, and school governors of both schools whereas options B and C both favour one school over the other. Option D also creates the greatest opportunity for innovation, whereby both schools come together to create a new school using the best practice and experiences of both to push the boundaries and test new ground in the delivery of pupils’ education.

While the Council has expressed a preference for option D we invite comments on all of the options.

Who should run the School?

If, after we have heard your views, the Council decides that a new school should be opened to replace King’s Manor and Hall Garth schools (option D), then the Authority must then find an organisation to open and run the new school.

Historically new secondary schools were usually established and run by the Council. Both Hall Garth and King’s Manor schools are community secondary schools run by Middlesbrough Council. Other traditional providers of education in Middlesbrough include the Roman Catholic Diocese which has a number of faith-based schools in the town.

The government now wishes to see other organisations opening and running schools. If a new school is to be established the Council will need to invite potential new external providers of secondary education to bring forward their own proposals for a new school by holding a school competition. This only happens when it is a new school that is opened, not when an existing school is retained and made larger such as in options B and C.

The Council can enter the competition with its own proposals for a new school, and compete on an equal basis with any other organisations that show an interest. The perceived advantage of holding a school competition is that it helps to secure the best possible education for pupils, from the providers available at that time. It also increases the level of choice for parents. At the time of writing no Local Authority in the country has ever completed a school competition and therefore the ground remains largely untested.

In certain circumstances the Council can apply to be exempted from holding a school competition in order to publish exclusive proposals for a new school without any competition. This may be a route that the Council could pursue which would allow us to forge ahead more quickly with the creation of a new school. There are some potential disadvantages to doing this though; if our application is turned down then a full school competition will need to be held, but the delay caused may have knock-on effects possibly causing problems with the implementation of the BSF programme.

The Council has expressed a preference to open a new community school to replace Hall Garth and King's Manor if this is possible, and this might include applying for exemption and/or entering a school competition with our own proposals. The Council will take this decision after it has heard your views.

Who would you like to see run a potential new school for your children? Do you support the Council's preferred approach to establish a new community school supported by the Council?

Getting involved

This process is an open one, and we value your comments and opinions on all of the options available. The Local Authority is committed to working with the schools, parents and the wider community throughout the process.

All responses must be received by 5th January 2007. After this date this initial stage of consultation will be considered closed.

A series of meetings for parents and the wider community, school staff, and school governors are being held at the schools. These meetings are an opportunity for all parties to understand what is being consulted on, to ask questions, and form a considered opinion as to the best way forward. The feedback we receive from these meetings and from responses to the consultation documentation will be used to make a recommendation to the Council Executive as to the best way forward.

We will let you know the outcome of the consultation either by letter, or at a further series of school based meetings during the spring term 2007.

Have your say

By attending the consultation sessions – to be held at the schools.

Via questionnaire - Complete the response form on the final page of this document and mail it to:

Freepost MI 633, Acklam Base Consultation, Capital & Assets, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL

Via letter – If you want to say more than the questionnaire allows, or would like to respond collectively on behalf of an organisation, then you may prefer to write to us at the address above.

Electronically - gary_maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Telephone - Comments, questions and queries about the content of this document, or on the consultation process can be directed to Gary Maddison (01642 728340)

Please respond by 5th January 2007. After this date this informal consultation stage will be regarded as closed.

If you need this booklet translating please ring 728340

728340

728340

728340

Braille or large print versions are available on request.

Consultation Response

We are interested in hearing your views on the options for reorganisation of secondary education for the Acklam Base. Please complete the form below and return by 5th January 2007 to Freepost MI 633, Acklam Base Consultation, Capital & Assets, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL.

1. The consultation document proposes four alternative options for the future of secondary education for the Acklam Base. Which option do you believe is best? Please tick one.

Option A Maintain the status quo (do nothing), do not invest in a single school

Option B Close King's Manor School and expand Hall Garth School to admit additional pupils

Option C Close Hall Garth School and expand King's Manor School to admit additional pupils

Option D Close both King's Manor School and Hall Garth School and open a new school to replace them (Council's preferred option).

Comments _____

2. If the Council decides to move forward with option D, who would you like to see run a new school? Do you support the Council in its preference to establish a new community school, or would you prefer the Council to seek an external provider to establish a new school?

The Council should try to open a community school

The Council should seek an external provider to open a school

Comments _____

3. Please indicate in what capacity you are responding. (tick all that apply)

Parent/Guardian School Governor Staff

Other (Please specify) _____

4. Please indicate which school you are most closely associated with

Hall Garth School King's Manor School Other Secondary School

Primary School Please specify _____

Name: _____ Postcode: _____

Any information provided by you on this form will be anonymised prior to publication. The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this consultation.

PLEASE CUT HERE

Building Schools for the Future

Consultation
leaflet



**Draft specification for
the new Acklam base
secondary school**

Drop-in session:
14th July 2008, 3pm - 5pm
Hexagon Theatre



Building schools for the future


Middlesbrough
moving forward

introduction

Hall Garth Community Arts College and King's Manor School serve the same community, share a single site and sports and performing arts facilities.

Together the schools have capacity to educate 2,200 pupils, but in January 2008 700 of these places were not filled. This means that 32% of the places provided are currently surplus to requirements. This is projected to increase to 38% by 2011. By this time both schools would be smaller than the Council's preferred minimum size of secondary school of 900 pupils. In addition, both schools operate in outdated 1960s accommodation which would need millions of pounds of investment to bring up to 21st century standards.

The Council has decided that there is no longer a need for two schools and that a single school would be

better able to serve the community. A school reorganisation resulting in one school to serve the Acklam base would provide a viable future for secondary education for the area.

Middlesbrough Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme provides an opportunity to replace and renew all secondary and secondary-age special schools in the town. As part of this project, funding has been allocated to construct a new school building for a single school on the existing Hall Drive site. The Council is already seeking a Design and Build contractor for this and other schemes. The BSF programme, funded by the government, provides an ideal opportunity to provide a state of the art education facility in Acklam for future generations.



What has happened so far?

In late 2006 and early 2007, Middlesbrough Council consulted with parents, school staff, governors and the community on the reorganisation of Hall Garth and King's Manor schools. Options included an amalgamation via the closure of both schools and the opening of a new one, or the closure of one of the schools in favour of enlarging the other.

Of the responses received, 77% supported the Council's preference to amalgamate the two schools, opening a new school to replace the existing ones. The majority of respondees also preferred the resulting new school be a Community school opened and supported by the Council.

With this support Middlesbrough Council applied to the Secretary of State for exemption from the school competition rules. These rules require the Council to invite other organisations to publish proposals to run the new school. An exemption would have enabled the Council to publish exclusive proposals to open a new Community school to replace both Hall Garth and King's Manor schools without the need to hold a competition.

The Secretary of State for Education declined the Council's initial application for exemption and a subsequent one. He wishes a competition to be held to increase diversity and maximise parental choice by encouraging a range of providers to put forward proposals for the new school. The Council is therefore preparing for a competition for the new school.



competition

Holding a school competition

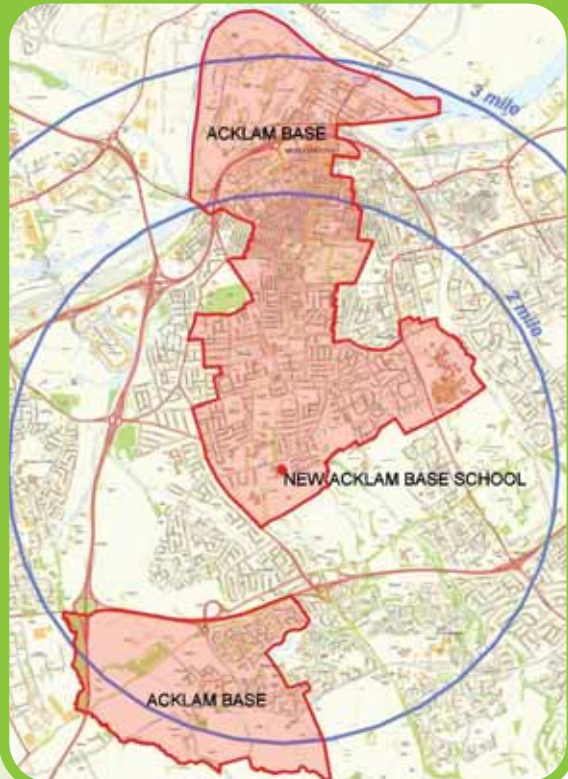
The first stage in holding a school competition is to consult parents, staff, governors and other stakeholders on the specification of the new school. The specification should be brief to enable potential providers of the new school to be as innovative as possible with their proposal. It does however include the size, location, and preferred specialism of the school. The draft specification for the new Acklam base school is set out below.

Specification for the new school for Acklam base

The school should open on 1st September 2010, replacing Hall Garth and King's Manor schools that would close at the same time. It should be large enough to accommodate 1,350 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16, and provide 30 places for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties, directly replacing the places currently offered by Hall Garth Community Arts College.

The school should be located on the existing site on Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough TS5 7JX, in new, purpose built accommodation. Initially, however, the school would operate from the current school buildings until the new accommodation is ready in 2012. The site is accessible for vehicles and pedestrians and some limited public transport is available within the vicinity. Playing fields are available on site which meet the needs of the school.

New Acklam base school admission zone



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Middlesbrough Council, LA 100023413, 2007.

competition

The school should primarily serve and admit its pupils from the existing admission zone of the current two schools as shown in the map. In line with the school's capacity, admissions into Year 7 in September 2010 and every subsequent year will be limited to 270 pupils.

The Council would provide funding for the construction of new accommodation for the school as part of its BSF programme. The estimated cost of providing this accommodation is approximately £27.6 million.

Middlesbrough Council would like the school to have a joint specialism in sports and creative arts building on the strengths of the work already undertaken by Hall Garth and King's Manor. This would be the only specialist provision of its kind in

Middlesbrough and forms part of a town-wide approach to the provision of school specialisms.

The school would also be expected to deliver the core offer of extended services to pupils and their families. The Council would like to see the continuation of Adult Education services, extended use of sports and arts facilities, after school study support and out of hours activities for pupils.

Free home to school transport would be provided for pupils who qualify under the Council's Home to School Transport policy. The school would have enhanced cycling and pedestrian access, and drop off and turning points for vehicular access. Middlesbrough Council would expect the school to produce a travel plan encouraging alternatives to the use of the car for pupils and staff.

The Council is seeking views on the specification for the new school before formally announcing the competition to see if any organisations want to set up the school. The Council cannot simply open the school itself, although it can submit a proposal into the competition if it wishes.

Once the competition starts, organisations wishing to set up the new school have four months to send their proposals to the Council. The Council then publishes all of the proposals received and asks for people's views on them. At the same time the Council would publish proposals to close Hall Garth and King's Manor schools. A public meeting would also be held to discuss the proposals.

After a period of consultation, the Council's Executive will meet to consider all of the proposals and any comments received on them and decide which of the providers will set up the new school.

transition

Transition to a new school

Pupils

All pupils registered at either Hall Garth or King's Manor would automatically be offered a place at the new school. If parents prefer not to accept this offer then they can request a place at another school and the Council will comply with this request where there are places available, and in line with the Admissions Code of Conduct.

Governors

The temporary governing body of the new school would be established prior to the school opening. The temporary governing body would ensure that all relevant policies and procedures are developed and implemented. Their responsibilities include choosing the name of the school, recruiting the school's Headteacher, and establishing the staffing structure.

Staff

The establishment of a staffing structure for the new school would be the responsibility of the temporary governing body. The posts of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher would be advertised in accordance with their wishes and in line with current legislation.

It is anticipated that staff at Hall Garth and King's Manor would transfer to the new school. The total number of staff required would depend on the number of students on roll upon opening and the school's budget. The temporary governing body would have flexibility to design a staffing structure that maximises the specialisms and experience of the staff, and benefits the needs and aspirations of all students.



Types of school

Through a school competition, school providers can propose one of a number of different types of school. All of these are known as self-governing schools.

Foundation and Trust schools

Foundation schools are run by the governing body, which employs the staff, determines the admission arrangements and is responsible for the management, strategy and ethos of the school. Day to day funding is provided by the Council, while the school's land and buildings are usually

owned by the governing body. Foundation schools must comply with national codes of practice for education.

Foundation schools can also form a charitable trust with an outside partner - for example, a business or educational charity - and become a Trust school. In a Trust school the trust establishes the ethos and strategic direction of the school. The trust can also appoint the majority of governors to the school's governing body. In all other respects Trust schools operate in the same way as Foundation schools.



schools

Voluntary schools

Two types of Voluntary schools exist - Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled. Voluntary schools are usually faith or religious schools. Day-to-day funding for both types of schools is provided by the Council, although in the case of Voluntary Aided schools the governing body contributes to the school's building and maintenance costs.

Staff at Voluntary Aided schools are employed by the governing body, while staff at a Voluntary Controlled school are employed by the Council. Voluntary Aided schools also set their own admission arrangements, but for Voluntary Controlled schools these are set by the Council.

The buildings and surrounding land are usually owned by a charitable body such as the church which also appoints some members of the governing body

who are responsible for the strategic direction, ethos and performance of the school. The Council usually owns the school playing fields. Voluntary schools must comply with national codes of practice for education

Academies

Academies are independent schools established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups. Academies receive their day-to-day funding directly from the government, employ their own staff, own all of the school's assets, and determine their own admission arrangements.

Academies also have some freedoms over national codes of practice for education including Special Educational Needs and the national curriculum. They do not have to employ staff on national terms and conditions.



Getting involved

Middlesbrough Council values your comments and opinions on the draft school specification and is committed to working with governors, staff, parents and the wider community in establishing the new school.

Drop-in session

14th July 2008, 3pm - 5pm

Hexagon Theatre, Hall Drive, Acklam

A drop-in event is being held to provide an opportunity to further understand what is being consulted on, ask questions, and form a considered opinion as to the best way forward. All interested parties including parents, the wider community, school staff and governors are invited to the event.

Questionnaire

You can also use the attached questionnaire to give us your views.

Completed questionnaires and letters should be sent to the following freepost address:

Freepost MI 633

Acklam Base Consultation

BSF Team

Vancouver House

PO Box 69

Middlesbrough

TS1 1EL

The closing date for all responses is 31st July 2008.

While we will endeavour to consider all comments and views submitted, those received after this date may be too late to affect the final school specification.

Queries

If you want to find out more, queries can be directed to:

Gary Maddison

School Organisation Officer

gary_maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk

01642 729609

School providers

Any providers interested in submitting a proposal once the competition is launched should access the 'Guide for those responding to a competition for a new school' on the Department for Children, Schools and Families' website at.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg.

What happens next?

The Council will consider the responses received during this consultation before deciding how to proceed. Should the Council choose to proceed with a school competition then the intent is to meet the following timescales:

Publication of statutory notice and start of the competition

September 2008

Publication of all proposals received and statutory notices to close both schools

February 2009

Consideration of the proposals and selection of the school provider by the Council's Executive

April 2009

New single school opens

1st September 2010

New accommodation ready

2012



consultation response

We are interested in hearing your views on the draft specification for the new secondary school in preparation for announcing a school competition. **Please complete the form below and return by 31st July 2008 to Freepost MI 633, Acklam base Consultation, BSF Team, Vancouver House, PO Box 69, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL.**

1. Do you support proposals to close Hall Garth and King's Manor schools and open a new school to replace them on the Hall Drive school site?

Yes No Don't know

2. Do you support the use of the draft specification for the proposed new school,

Yes No Don't know

3. Is there anything in the specification that you disagree with or would like to see changed?

Comments:

.....

.....

4. Is there any issue that you would like to see more information provided on?

Comments:

.....

.....

5. Please indicate in what capacity you are responding. (tick all that apply)

Parent/Guardian School Governor Staff

Other (please specify)

6. Please indicate which school you are most closely associated with.

Hall Garth School King's Manor School Other secondary school

Primary School Please specify

Name: Postcode:

Any information provided by you on this form will be collated anonymously prior to any publication. The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this consultation.

We can provide this information in other languages, large print, Braille, on CD or tape.
Telephone 01642 729610 or email bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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

ਅਸਾ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੂਜਿਆ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾ, ਵਡ ਅਖਰਾ, ਬ੍ਰਲ, ਸੀ ਡੀ ਜਾ ਟਪ ਤ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ
ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ 01642 729610 ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਤੇ ਈ ਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ:—
email bsf@middlesbrough.gov.uk

This document is also available on Middlesbrough's
BSF website at www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/BSF



Building schools for the future


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