



RELOCATION OF TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
LEARNING**

**GILL ROLLINGS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND
LEARNING**

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide feedback on public consultation undertaken on the option of relocating Trinity Catholic College to Saltersgill Avenue.
2. To seek a modification to the original statutory school organisation and Outline Business Case proposals, changing the location of Trinity Catholic College from Hall Drive to Saltersgill Avenue.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

3. As part of Middlesbrough Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, work is underway to establish a new single new Catholic secondary school to replace the existing schools of St. David's RC Technology College and The Newlands FCJ School.
4. Early in the BSF programme options appraisals identified a new build solution to be the preferred way to deliver accommodation for the new school. Various locations were considered as sites. However, nationally imposed timeframes and budget constraints meant that a new build could not be delivered. A new preferred solution to refurbish the existing accommodation currently used by St. David's was identified. This solution was included in the Strategic Business Case (SBC) and Outline

Business Case (OBC) agreed by Executive and submitted to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) in November 2006 and March 2007 respectively.

5. The Diocese of Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Council consulted widely on this option with the schools involved, parents and the public. The consultation identified some support for a new build school and locating the school at the Newlands site on Saltersgill Avenue with links to St. Mary's Sixth Form College. However, for the reasons stated previously, a new build option could not be progressed at that time and the refurbishment of St. David's remained the preferred option to be taken forward.
6. In March 2008 the Diocese of Middlesbrough published statutory notices proposing to open Trinity Catholic College on 1 September 2009. The notice named the St. David's site on Hall Drive as the permanent location of the school, but set out how the school would operate across both sites between 2009 and 2011 while the refurbishment of the St. David's site took place. Following a further period of consultation the Executive approved the proposal on 12 June 2008.
7. After the proposal had been approved additional detailed survey information indicated that refurbishing St. David's accommodation would not offer the best value for money. On the basis of contractual rates negotiated with the BSF Design and Build Contractor, Willmott Dixon, it was identified that a predominately new build scheme could be delivered on the Saltersgill site. Such a scheme would remain within the funding envelope available, subject to additional Carbon Reduction funding that a new build scheme would attract.
8. On 31 March 2009 the Executive considered a report detailing a predominantly new build scheme on Saltersgill Avenue as an alternative option for Trinity Catholic College. The report explained that this option would minimise disruption to students during construction and ensure that decant costs were minimal. Other advantages identified included reduced traffic and congestion on Hall Drive, regeneration of the Saltersgill area, reduced school buildings maintenance costs and co-location with St. Mary's Sixth Form College. These advantages also reflect the preferences of stakeholders during earlier rounds of consultation.
9. The report also noted that, while outside the direct control of the Council, mitigating access issues on Saltersgill Avenue would be fundamental to the success of the project and that as such, a new access to the Newlands site from Ladgate Lane should be progressed.
10. The Executive agreed to support a period of consultation on the new option, including a change in location from the Hall Drive site to the Saltersgill Avenue site and a change from a mainly refurbishment scheme to majority new-build.
11. Following the decision, further work has identified that a capital scheme consisting of 100% new build is affordable within the funding available. This would remove the need to refurbish any existing accommodation on the Saltersgill site.

CONSULTATION

12. The Diocese of Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Council undertook a period of public consultation on the relocation of Trinity Catholic College between 1 June and 26 June 2009.

13. A consultation leaflet detailing the potential relocation, its benefits and implications, was distributed to all parents, staff, and governors and to Community Councils at Beechwood and Acklam, plus residents of Saltersgill Avenue. Copies were also made available at Catholic churches, libraries and Council offices and on the corporate website. A copy of the leaflet is attached to this report as Appendix A.
14. A public drop-in session was held at The Newlands FCJ School on 15 June 2009 for all stakeholders. Council officers and a representative of the Diocese of Middlesbrough were present to provide information and give an opportunity for people to raise concerns. A comments form was provided to enable written views to be submitted. In total 40 staff, parents and governors attended the event.
15. In advance of this public event, the Headteacher Designate of Trinity Catholic College also held a meeting for parents on 2 April 2009. Over 150 people attended this event.
16. Verbal feedback during the consultation was generally positive, although some issues were raised. These were largely about the logistics of operating the school across two sites and were issues that would need to be resolved by Trinity Catholic College in the event of the relocation. No serious concerns were raised, especially when considered within the context of the relatively low number of responses.
17. Five written responses were received to the consultation. Of these, one was a letter of support while four raised objections or queried elements of the option or how it would be implemented.
18. In summary the verbal and written feedback received was:
 - It was felt that a new-build solution was better than the previous proposal to refurbish existing accommodation. Parents also liked that the school would be co-located with St. Mary's College. Some comments were received about the advantage of the school's facilities being available for the use by the Beechwood community.
 - Parents queried the travel arrangements in relation to walking distances and transport via school buses. Parents wished to know if the present level of service would be available should the relocation take place and what the implications for their children would be. In particular, would siblings be able to travel together and would journey lengths and waiting times be increased while the school operates across two sites. This is a matter that will be addressed by Trinity Catholic College in collaboration with the Council.
 - A number of queries were raised about traffic congestion along Saltersgill Avenue. However, these concerns were raised on the basis of an understanding that Saltersgill Avenue would be directly linked to Ladgate Lane and hence become a thoroughfare into town, creating a safety concern for students. This is not to be the case and there would be no through access from Ladgate Lane to Saltersgill Avenue.
 - A small number of queries related to the deliverability of the capital scheme for the new school given that changes were being proposed at such a late stage in the BSF programme. It was explained that the change would not introduce any delay to the programme.

- Parents were also concerned that the change could lead to increased disruption to students. This is an issue which will be addressed by Trinity Catholic College. Some also felt that, as was expressed during previous consultation exercises, an all through 11-18 school would be more advantageous.

19. A summary of the comments received is attached at Appendix B.

CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS

20. Following consultation, the Diocese of Middlesbrough has requested an amendment to its original statutory proposal which set out the plans for the establishment of Trinity Catholic College. A copy of the letter received is attached at Appendix C.

21. In support of the option consulted on, the Diocese have requested that the permanent location of the new school is changed from the existing site of St. David's RC Technology College on Hall Drive to the existing site of The Newlands FCJ School. The permanent address of the new school would therefore be:

Trinity Catholic College
 Saltersgill Avenue
 Middlesbrough
 TS4 3JW

22. Under the amended proposal, Trinity Catholic College would continue operating across both school sites between 2009 and 2011 while building works progress on the Saltersgill site. Students already enrolled at one of the existing schools would continue to attend their current site during this time.

23. It is proposed that new Year 7 students starting at the school in September 2009 and 2010 should attend the Hall Drive site rather than the Saltersgill site as stated in the original proposal. The resulting reduction in number of students on the Saltersgill site would allow the construction works to take place and reduce the cost of providing temporary accommodation for students. In 2011, once all construction works are completed, all students would be based on Saltersgill Avenue.

24. The phased reduction in the school's capacity would remain unchanged, resulting in a 1,200-place school by 2013.

25. The Executive is able to amend the original statutory proposal within its role as the local Commissioner of Schools. Such an amendment and the corresponding change in capital scheme would also necessitate an amendment to the OBC submitted to PfS in March 2007. These changes could be set out in the Final Business Case (FBC) for Trinity Catholic College upon submission to PfS.

26. The following summarises the impact of the proposed change of location on the original statutory proposal and the issues to be considered in making a decision.

Estates and planning

27. Upon final implementation the school would be based in new build accommodation on the Saltersgill site. The site is accessible and the accommodation would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. No planning permission has

yet been sought for the construction of the new accommodation on the Saltersgill site.

28. The buildings and land footprint of the Newlands FCJ School is owned by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) while the playing fields are owned by the Council. Part of these playing fields would be used as the site for the new accommodation and much of the brown-field site owned by the FCJ returned to playing fields.
29. The Diocese of Middlesbrough has started discussions with the FCJ to secure use of the brown-field site for the school and agreement has been reached in principle. The tenure of this arrangement is not presently known.
30. In order to meet Sport England requirements and the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 additional playing fields will also need to be provided for the school's use. Sufficient Council owned land is available adjacent to the site to ensure that these requirements are met. However, this land must be allocated for this use. In the longer term there is also the possibility of using land adjacent to the school, that forms part of the site of St. Mary's College, for this purpose.
31. These outstanding land issues are fundamental to meet the minimum area requirements for the playing fields of the school. Until further land is allocated, or agreements reached, this should therefore form a condition of approval of the proposed amendment.

Impact on the community

32. It is anticipated that there would be a limited amount of disruption to residents living on Hall Drive as a result of the increase in traffic bringing additional students to the site in 2009/11. In the longer term, the site would cease to operate as a school and traffic congestion would decrease. The loss of access to the school's facilities to the local community would be offset by the availability of facilities at another secondary school located on Hall Drive forming part of the BSF programme.
33. The relocation would also have an impact upon residents on Saltersgill Avenue with the potential of larger volumes of traffic. The Diocese and Middlesbrough Council are actively pursuing alternative access to the site from Ladgate Lane but without through access to Saltersgill Avenue. The relocation would ensure the long-term availability of extended services and access to school facilities for local residents and would contribute to the regeneration of the area.

Transport

34. Arrangements for transport would continue to operate on the principle that where a decision related to the implementation of the school adversely affects an existing student's entitlement to free transport, Middlesbrough Council would continue to honour this entitlement. There would be an associated increase in cost to the Council to provide this service, as it is anticipated more students would be eligible than under the previous proposals.
35. The change in location would mean that the travel arrangements for new Year 7 students would need to change from those originally anticipated, with some students' journeys increasing and others decreasing.

Other issues

36. The majority of the original proposal for Trinity Catholic College remains unchanged. This includes plans and commitments on:
- proposed admission number and oversubscription criteria;
 - school standards, the curriculum and specialisms;
 - community cohesion;
 - SEN provision.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

Option 1 - Do not approve the relocation of Trinity Catholic College

37. The Executive could choose not to approve the relocation of Trinity Catholic College and the permanent location would remain on Hall Drive.
38. The only capital scheme available on this site is the refurbishment of the existing St. David's accommodation. This scheme is not considered to offer the best value for money. While accommodation can be significantly improved it would be impossible to bring it up to the standards of current new-build schools.
39. This option would not deliver the transformation in secondary education being sought through the BSF programme.
40. This option would not reflect the preferences of parents and the Catholic community shown during several periods of consultation.

Option 2 - Approve the new location of Trinity Catholic College conditional upon the acquisition of suitable playing fields.

41. The Executive could choose to approve the new location for Trinity Catholic College. The approval should be conditional upon the acquisition of appropriate playing fields to meet nationally prescribed minimum requirements.
42. Associated changes to the transitional arrangements for new Year 7 pupils entering the College would need to be approved without such a condition so that these changes could be made in time for the September 2009 intake.
43. The new school location would enable the commencement of a new build solution to the provision of a single Catholic secondary school in Middlesbrough and associated reduction in maintenance costs. The new location would also offer enhanced continuity of Catholic education for 11-19 year olds by being located close to St. Mary's College.
44. This option would reflect the preferences of parents and the Catholic community and allow greater scope for transforming secondary education for Catholic students.
45. This option would also necessitate that the OBC be amended to reflect the new site and capital solution. This change could be made upon submission of the FBC for Trinity Catholic College which the Executive would be asked to approve.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

46. **Financial** – The relocation of Trinity Catholic College would attract additional funding if the 60% carbon reduction target for new accommodation is achieved. The scheme would remain within the funding envelope allocated to BSF and the additional funding attracted. The BSF risk register includes the financial risks to the project.
47. Additional transport costs arising from the Council's duty to provide free home to school transport will be met from within existing budgets as a result of savings made in contract arrangements. A request will be made to use these to fund any additional costs in line with the Council's transport policy.
48. **Ward Implications** – The relocation would have an impact on all wards as Trinity Catholic College's admission zone covers the whole town. All ward members have been consulted throughout the process. The Acklam and Beechwood Community Councils have also been consulted.
49. **Legal Implications** – The process of making changes to schools is governed in legislation including the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Responsibility for making decisions on school organisation issues for Catholic Voluntary Aided schools falls to the Executive.
50. All legislative requirements have been complied with.

RECOMMENDATIONS

51. The Executive is recommended:
 - To note the outcome of the consultation process and the outstanding concerns from a small minority of parents and the public regarding the relocation of Trinity Catholic College.
 - To approve the new location of Trinity Catholic College and amend the original statutory proposal to state the new permanent address of the school as Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW subject to the acquisition of appropriate playing fields for use by the school.
 - To approve the new transitional arrangements for Year 7 students entering Trinity Catholic College in September 2009 and 2010 without condition.
 - To note the requirement to amend the Outline Business Case for Trinity Catholic College upon submission of the Final Business Case to PfS, reflecting the change in location and new capital scheme.

REASONS

52. To enable the relocation of Trinity Catholic College from Hall Drive in Acklam to Saltersgill Avenue in Beechwood.
53. To enable the delivery of the best capital solution to providing a single Catholic secondary school for Middlesbrough.
54. To enable a new build capital scheme for Trinity Catholic College to take place rather than a refurbishment.

55. To enable further scope for transforming secondary education for Catholic students in Middlesbrough.
56. To comply with PfS requirements in regard to the submission of the Outline and Final Business Cases

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Executive report – Building Schools for the Future: Consultation on Trinity Catholic College Option, 31 March 2009

Executive report – Determination of Formal Proposals to Establish a Single Catholic Secondary School for Middlesbrough, 12 June 2008

DCSF School Organisation Guidance - Establishing a New Maintained Mainstream School

AUTHOR: Gary Maddison

TEL NO: 728722

Address: Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL

Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>