

CABINET – 9 MARCH 2010

TRANSFORMING LEARNING IN THE LOUGHBOROUGH, QUORN AND BARROW UPON SOAR AREAS: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

PART A

Purpose of report

1. i) To inform the Cabinet on progress on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar area.
- ii) To present the results of the consultation on proposals to transform learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:
 - (a) That the current position in relation to the County Council's application to the Government for BSF funding for the Loughborough, Quorn, and Barrow upon Soar area be noted, in particular the submission of the Readiness to Deliver (RTD) statement;
 - (b) That actions which may flow from the approval of the Readiness to Deliver statement, which could formally take the Council into the BSF programme, be noted;
 - (c) That the appraisal of the option submitted jointly by the governing bodies of Garendon and Limehurst High Schools, known as 'Option C', be noted and that no further action be taken in this respect;
 - (d) That the results of the consultation on proposals to transform learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar be noted;

- (e) That approval be given to Option B, which in relation to post-16 provision recommends two school-based sixth forms attached to The Rawlins College and the new school to be built on the Thorpe Hill (Burleigh/Garendon) campus, as the preferred solution;
- (f) That approval be given, subject to entry to the BSF programme, to the early issue of statutory notices by the Director of the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) to enable progress to the next stage in the implementation of the agreed option. Such notices would include ceasing to maintain Limehurst High School, Burleigh Community College and Garendon High School in September 2013;
- (g) That Option B above be supported and that steps be taken to establish a single catchment area for Loughborough and another single catchment area for Quorn and Barrow upon Soar in line with the implementation dates in the statutory notices;
- (h) That the Director of the Children and Young People's Service be authorised to open discussions with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on the possibility of establishing the new school on the Thorpe Hill campus as an Academy and to report back to a subsequent Cabinet meeting;
- (i) That further reports be submitted to the Cabinet following the representation period for statutory notices to enable the Cabinet to determine whether to proceed with discontinuance of any school(s) and to report on progress generally.

Reasons for recommendations

3. The submission of the RTD statement represents a key milestone in Leicestershire's preparations to enter the BSF programme and demonstrates the Council's commitment to transform learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow.
4. The consultation has demonstrated that there are mixed opinions about how schools in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow should be transformed. There is, however, continued support for change and a strong desire to secure the investment which BSF will bring to transform education in the area. Taking a decision now ensures that the Council is in the best possible position to take advantage of this opportunity.
5. Detailed appraisal of all options shows that Option B will best deliver transformation, meet BSF national guidelines and the aspirations of many stakeholders.

6. The establishment of a separate single catchment area for Loughborough, and a further single catchment area for Quorn and Barrow, will support the transformation process by maximising choice and ensuring that all students are treated equitably and fairly in the admissions process.
7. The opportunity to establish an Academy as the new school on the Thorpe Hill campus will be subject to further discussions with the DCSF to ensure that this course of action is appropriate and that it will increase choice and diversity of provision for parents.

Timetable for decisions (including Scrutiny)

8. Following submission of the RTD on 29 January 2010, the Council was invited to attend a pre-engagement meeting with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) on 12 February 2010. This is a precursor to possible notification of formal entry to the BSF programme at a date probably in March 2010. The Cabinet will be updated on the position at this meeting.
9. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the options for transformation of schools in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow on 8 February 2010. A copy of the extract of the minutes of this meeting is attached as Appendix A to this report.
10. If approval is given by PfS, to enable the programme to progress, statutory notices will need to be published and Cabinet will be required to determine the statutory notices at a future meeting.
11. The outcomes of discussions with the DCSF concerning the potential to establish the new school on the Thorpe Hill campus as an Academy will be reported to the Cabinet in due course.

Policy framework and previous decisions

12. The Cabinet approved the submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) to the Government on 14th November 2008. Approval of the EoI was received from the DCSF at the end of February 2009.
13. A first round of consultation to raise awareness of BSF and the key issues of transformation was undertaken in the summer term of 2009. The outcomes were reported to the Cabinet on 28 July 2009.

Resource implications

14. The DCSF announced that up to £80 million of capital monies will be made available for the first group of schools within the Authority's BSF programme for Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar. This funding allocation is dependant upon acceptance of Leicestershire within the programme. Funding is based on pupil numbers and the national

indices of building costs. As these indices alter considerably from quarter to quarter the funding allocation will also vary. Based on the latest Funding Allocation Model used by Partnerships for Schools Funding is estimated to be in the region of £75 million with an estimated 'affordability gap' unchanged at £1.7 million.

15. In addition, it is a BSF requirement that each local authority funds 2.5% of the project costs as a contingency. For both options presented in this report this will be £1.9 million, which can be contained within the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) Capital Programme.
16. Any substantial new build in the programme is likely to be funded through a PFI scheme which may be managed through a Local Education Partnership (LEP). There are on-going financial implications from supporting a LEP, but there are also opportunities to gain some efficiencies in respect of the procurement of future projects.
17. The CYPS 2009/10 budget incorporated growth for the initial preparation for the BSF programme which increases to £0.5m in 2010/11. Additionally the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy makes provision for an additional and one-off allocation of £4m to support the programme. Partnership for Schools requires a financial commitment to appropriately resource a BSF programme from local authorities.
18. The on-going financial implications of the BSF programme will require further consideration if and when Leicestershire's entry is accepted.
19. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

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PART B

Background

20. BSF aims to support educational transformation by renewing the secondary school estate in England. DCSF guidance (for BSF) states, *“School buildings should inspire learning. They should nurture every pupil and member of staff. They should be a source of pride and a practical resource for the community.”*
21. Through BSF, the Government aims to have school buildings that:
 - transform levels of attainment and achievement;
 - respect the need for children and young people to feel safe and secure and to enable all of the other outcomes of Every Child Matters to be achieved;
 - are world class places for teachers to teach and pupils to learn, supported fully by comprehensive Information and Communications Technology (ICT);
 - increase choice and diversity of learning provision;
 - are well used by the community; offer extended services and co-location of other services where appropriate; and
 - are well and sustainably designed, built on time and at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer, and are properly maintained over their lives.
22. ICT is given a very high profile within BSF as it has immense potential to change teaching and learning, encouraging individual learning programmes tailored to the needs of the student. It will also facilitate learning outside of school sites and school hours. Around 10% of BSF funding is allocated to ICT, reflecting its importance. It will also enable parents to access information on their child’s progress along with general school information.
23. In accordance with revised guidance for BSF, approval to an amended Expression of Interest was received from the DCFS at the end of February 2009. At the same time the DCFS indicated a provisional allocation of £80 million capital funding to support this work once Leicestershire entered the BSF programme.
24. A first stage of consultation to raise awareness of the key issues of transformation was undertaken in the summer term of 2009. The results of this consultation showed that there was substantial support for changing the current organisation of the secondary and special schools in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar area. The consultation further showed that the majority of respondents favoured a change towards a system of ‘all through secondary schools’ and the development of an area special school.

25. By early invitation from PfS our Readiness to Deliver statement was submitted on 29 January 2010. A copy has been circulated in advance of this meeting to all members of the Council and the schools forming part of our BSF proposals. This was followed on 12 February 2010 by a pre-engagement meeting with PfS, the Office of the Schools Commissioner and the DCSF. This was attended on behalf of the County Council by the Chief Executive, Director of CYPS, Assistant Director CYPS, and the BSF Programme Director.
26. This may be followed by an invitation from PfS to formally enter the BSF programme. Further key stages would then follow including: the preparation of a 'Strategy for Change'; an 'Outline Business Case'; and procurement of a Local Educational Partnership (LEP) to act as the delivery vehicle for transformation. An outline Programme Timeline to illustrate a potential timetable for these key stages is attached as Appendix B. These stages are lengthy and must be completed successfully before any building work can take place. Hence from the point of entry to completion of building works, the BSF programme in the area could extend for approximately five years.

The consultation process

27. The second round of consultation ran from 13 January to 2 March 2010. This involved the distribution of 16,500 consultation booklets to all secondary, primary and special schools in Loughbrough, Quorn and Barrow, their associated communities and others involved in the delivery of services to children and young people in the area, e.g. Charnwood Borough Council, Loughborough University and Loughborough College, independent schools and local businesses.
28. To support the consultation there has been a large number of meetings with a wide range of stakeholders, including: parents; pupils; governors; staff; and community groups. A total of 41 meetings have been held attended by 1,453 individuals.
29. The consultation invited views on two options, A and B, to achieve transformation which are summarised in Appendix C. The two options differed in the way that education would be provided for Post-16 students. In Option A this proposed the establishment of a Post-16 Centre for 800 students on the Limehurst site, whereas Option B proposed two sixth forms at the Rawlins College and on the Thorpe Hill campus.
30. The consultation process invited other options to be put forward which would be considered in terms of their potential to deliver transformation, meet national BSF criteria, and be deliverable and affordable.

Alternative proposal from Garendon and Limehurst governors, known as 'Option C',

31. During the consultation the governing bodies of Limehurst and Garendon schools put forward a new option, known as 'Option C'. It proposes the retention and expansion of Limehurst and Garendon as 11-16 schools and a reduction in the proposed size of the 11-16 Woodbrook Vale School. It leaves open how Post-16 education will be delivered.
32. Appendix D to this report provides a summary of this proposal and a detailed appraisal by officers.
33. This option has been considered in terms of its ability to meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 30 above. In brief the analysis shows that 'Option C' would not meet national BSF criteria and is unlikely to deliver transformation, particularly higher standards. It would create excessive surplus places, would not be deliverable within the timescale, or within the affordability envelope. It is not acceptable to other schools, as it would potentially jeopardise entry to the BSF programme and it is not therefore recommended to Cabinet for further consideration.

Results of the consultation

34. Consultation closes on 2 March 2010. At the time of circulating this report two days prior to the closing date, a total of 1621 respondents had submitted their comments on-line or through the post, representing a 10% return. An analysis of the final position will be submitted to Cabinet on 9 March. Appendix E provides a summary of the responses received to date. This shows that:
 - 16% of respondents favour Option A;
 - A slightly larger number (19%) favour Option B;
 - 39% of respondents favour the option put forward by Limehurst and Garendon schools, known as 'Option C';
 - A further 9% and 10% expressed a preference to respectively retain Limehurst or Garendon Schools;
 - most of the remaining 7% did not have a clear view on a preferred option.

There were fewer opinions (1467) expressed on the establishment of a single catchment area. Where given they showed views were broadly divided with (44%) supporting the concept and (56%) against. Of those supporting the proposals there are mixed opinions about having one single catchment area to serve the whole of Loughborough, Quorn and

Barrow, or two discrete single catchment areas, one serving Loughborough and the other for Quorn and Barrow.

35. The majority of respondents expressed concern about one or more of the following key issues:
- The distance that pupils might be required to travel to access a secondary school and the availability of suitable transport
 - The potential disruption to pupils during the period of transition
 - The retention of the skills and expertise of staff currently working in schools
 - The potential impact on community cohesion
 - The possible economic impacts
 - Environmental considerations e.g. increased traffic.

Position of Partnership schools

36. In addition to the views expressed by the governing bodies of Garendon and Limehurst schools for consideration of 'Option C', submissions have also been received from the governing bodies of Woodbrook Vale High, Rawlins College, and De Lisle Catholic Science College. These are attached as Appendix F.
37. Discussions with the Loughborough Heads' Development Group indicate that opinions are mixed on a preferred option.

The preferred solution

38. Consultation has shown strong support for change from all parties. However, there is a preference for Option B rather than Option A as the means by which transformation will be achieved. Hence this is recommended to Cabinet as the preferred solution.
39. The proposal to close three schools will not be implemented if the Secretary of State's approval is not secured for the new school or if appropriate the development of the Academy (referred to in paragraph 40 below) on the Thorpe Hill campus.

Academy

40. The government supports the development of academies as a means of raising standards. Previously Leicestershire has not qualified for entry to the academies programme, however discussions with the Office of the Schools' Commissioner indicate that they may support the development of the new school on the Thorpe Hill campus as an Academy. This could provide a number of opportunities by:

- raising standards;
- further improving choice; and
- securing a successful sponsor from the academies programme.

A non-BSF funded option

41. There is still no guarantee that Leicestershire will secure BSF funding this year. Following a national election, capital funding for school improvement may change. The consultation undertaken has identified a strong desire for change, to address school organisation issues in order to raise standards further. Therefore if BSF funding is not given, an alternative option, based on the 11-16 and post-16 provision of Option B, is being developed which identifies the minimum work and costs required to bring about change. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in due course if necessary.

Equal Opportunities Implications

42. BSF is a national programme to improve standards for all children and young people, and to offer greater choice and diversity of educational provision. Our Readiness to Deliver document sets out ambitious targets to reduce the gap in achievement between pupils with SEN and those without, raise the achievement of Bangladeshi students to above average for the area, and increase the achievement of girls. Either option A or B would achieve these targets. Either option would deliver a new area special school, which will promote inclusion and improve outcomes for pupils.

Conclusions

43. BSF offers a unique opportunity to invest in the transformation of learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow. Good progress is being made. The Readiness to Deliver submission is a step to achieving this. The recommended decisions are a further step to achieving a transformation in educational provision and significant improvements in the outcomes for children and young people.

Appendices

- Appendix A Extract of Minutes of CYPS Overview and Scrutiny Committee 8th February 2010
- Appendix B BSF Programme Indicative Timeline to Construction
- Appendix C Summary of Options A and B
- Appendix D Appraisal of 'Option C' put forward by the governing bodies of Garendon and Limehurst High Schools

Appendix E Results of the consultation

Appendix F Submissions from governing bodies of:

- Woodbrook Vale High
- Garendon High
- Limehurst High
- Rawlins College
- De Lisle Catholic Science College

Background papers

Report to Cabinet on 14 November 2008, "Building Schools for the Future - Expression of Interest"

Report to Cabinet 28 July 2009, "Transforming Learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar Areas"

Report to Cabinet 12 January 2010, Transforming learning in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar areas: proposals for consultation

Extract of minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 8 February 2010.

59. Transforming Learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar: consultation.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Young People's Service seeking its views on the consultation on transforming learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar areas. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with these minutes. The Committee also considered a supplementary report of the Director on an 'Option C' for the consultation that had been put forward by the governing bodies of Limehurst and Garendon schools (marked 'CC') and a submission from Mr. J. Miah CC, both of which are filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Miah CC to the meeting. Mr. Miah acknowledged that the reorganisation of schools in Loughborough was needed but reported there was disagreement in Loughborough with the proposed form of that reorganisation. He hoped that the County Council would not attempt to deliver proposals in Loughborough that the parents did not want.

In connection with Option C, the following points emerged from questions and discussions:

- It had been possible for some local authorities to obtain Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding for schools on smaller sites than was considered optimal but only when there was no available nearby green space. It would not be possible to justify submitting a plan to redevelop Limehurst on a small site when a larger site was available within what the funding body concerned would consider an acceptable distance.
- The headteachers of all the schools concerned had been consulted extensively for a period of more than a year on the principles upon which to take the plan forward. At that stage, it had not been possible to specify which sites would be retained.
- The Option did not sufficiently address the problem of vacant secondary places in Loughborough.
- Specialist advice had been sought as to whether or not Option C would fulfil the criteria to allow the Authority to attract BSF funding.
- There was not enough information on Post-16 provision to be satisfied that Option C addressed this issue.

The following general comments were made on the consultation:

- There were currently 700 vacant places in Loughborough and

this situation would need to be addressed, whatever the outcome of the BSF bid.

- The Authority needed to do more to help parents fully understand the opportunities transformational change would afford to children in the area and its implications.
- It was hoped that lessons had been learnt from the staggering of improvement works in Melton Mowbray, which had resulted in parents opting to send their children to the schools capable of offering new and improved facilities. Parents would be consulted on their preferences.
- The middle schools in Loughborough were judged as good or outstanding but currently fed into an upper school that was only judged as satisfactory.
- The Authority's highways department was being consulted on the possible development of travel plans to address concerns regarding the extra distances some children would have to travel, if the reorganisation of schools in Loughborough went ahead. This was an issue of particular importance for areas of significant deprivation.
- A 6th Form College that drew in students from the whole of the town would contribute to the formation of a more cohesive local society.
- The proposal for a University Technical College was welcomed. It was noted that this was a very new initiative and few details were available yet. CYPS were talking with individuals, civil servants, Loughborough University and the FE College to further investigate the possibilities. Such a facility would be for young people from across the County.
- The Readiness to Deliver document submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) at the end of January set out how the Council intended to deliver the project, should funding be forthcoming.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet be informed that the Committee

- a) supports the consultation on Options A and B, as set out in the paper to the Cabinet on 12th January 2010;
- b) does not support Option C, as set out in the supplementary paper;
- c) notes that the Cabinet will consider any further Options that might emerge from the consultation.



Summary of Options A and B

Option A

This would provide:

A new Post-16 Centre of up to 800 places on the Limehurst site. This would be based on a large amount of new building plus some remodelling of the existing school and will include community facilities.

A new 11-16 secondary school of 1200 places to be developed on the Burleigh/Garendon site. This would be based on extensive remodelling and refurbishment of existing Burleigh buildings together with some new build. This would involve the demolition of the existing Garendon buildings.

The development of Woodbrook Vale into an 11-16 school of 1050 places. This would involve remodelling and refurbishment of the existing buildings plus some new build.

These three proposals would involve the closure of Burleigh, Garendon and Limehurst schools. It would be necessary to hold an external competition to decide which organisation would be responsible for the new secondary school on the Burleigh/Garendon site. The provision of residential facilities for students at Field House would be phased out.

The development of Humphrey Perkins into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would involve some remodelling of existing buildings together with some new build.

A new 11-16 Rawlins College of 900 places plus the Stride Special Needs Unit located on the playing fields to the rear of the school.

The building of a 4-19 Area Special School of 120 places on the Burleigh/Garendon site to enable Ashmount Special School to be re-located.

On completion of this development, the existing Ashmount School building would be vacated.

The remodelling, refurbishment and some new build at De Lisle as an 11-19 school to accommodate current numbers of students

A new 14-19 University Technical College of 800 places on a site close to the University.

Option B

This would provide:

A new secondary school of 1200 11-16 places plus 449 sixth form places to be developed on the Burleigh/Garendon site. This would be based on extensive remodelling and refurbishment of existing Burleigh buildings together with some new build. This will involve the demolition of the existing Garendon buildings.

The development of Woodbrook Vale into an 11-16 school of 1050 places. This would involve remodelling and refurbishment of existing buildings plus some new build.

These two proposals would involve the closure of Burleigh, Garendon, and Limehurst schools. It would be necessary to hold an external competition to decide which organisation would be responsible for the new secondary school on the Burleigh/Garendon site. The provision of residential facilities for students at Field House would be phased out.

The development of Humphrey Perkins into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would involve some remodelling of existing buildings together with some new build.

A new Rawlins College of 900 11-16 places plus 335 sixth form places and the Stride Special Needs Unit located on the playing fields to the rear of the school.

The building of a 4-19 Area Special School of 120 places on the Burleigh/Garendon site to enable Ashmount Special School to be re-located.

On completion of this development, the existing Ashmount School building would be vacated.

The remodelling, refurbishment and some new build at De Lisle as an 11-19 school to accommodate current numbers of students

A new of a 14-19 University Technical College of 800 places on a site close to the University

Building Schools for the Future - Option C appraisal

Option C

1. The following Option C has been put forward by the governing bodies of Limehurst and Garendon Schools.

The development of Woodbrook Vale into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would involve remodelling and refurbishment of existing buildings plus some new build.

The development of Garendon into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would be based on the extensive remodelling and refurbishment of the current Garendon site.

The development of Limehurst into an 11-16 school of 650/750 places. EITHER this would involve remodelling and refurbishment of existing buildings plus some new build **(650 places) OR** a new school would be built on a different site in East Loughborough **(750 places).**

The development of Humphrey Perkins into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would involve some remodelling of existing buildings together with some new build.

The development of Rawlins into an 11-16 school of 900 places. This would be a new build on the current site, and would include the Stride Special Needs Unit.

16-19 Education

This would be delivered through **EITHER** a new 800 place post-16 centre on a site to be determined **OR** through the attachment of sixth forms to some/all of the 11-16 schools shown above.

Ashmount School

Relocated to a new building of a 4-19 Area Special School of 120 places. This would be on the Thorpe Hill site to facilitate effective inclusion.

De Lisle School

De Lisle would remain as an 11-19 school to accommodate current numbers of students. The school would benefit from some remodelling, refurbishment and some new build.

Boarding Provision

The provision of residential facilities for students at Field House sits outside the BSF Programme and would therefore not be affected by these proposals.

University Technical College

The Local Authority would continue to explore the possibility of an **800 place UTC** on a site close to the University, and investigate how this could complement Loughborough Learning.

This paper analyses this option in a similar way to the development of Options A and B, using the criteria that our plans will be judged against by Partnership for Schools (PFS), the government body which oversees the BSF programme.

Limehurst School

2. In option C there are two options for Limehurst School:

(Ci) 650 11-16 place school on the Limehurst site with remodelling, refurbishment and some new build; and

(Cii) 750 11-16 place school on a new site in the east of Loughborough.

Option (Ci)

Education

3. Curriculum choice will be restricted for students in the small secondary school.
4. Standards in KS4 nationally are highest in medium sized secondary schools of 1000 – 1200 students, that is six to eight forms of entry. Whilst there are small schools often in rural locations, they would not be the first choice in a more densely populated area.

Condition and suitability of existing school buildings

5. The current Limehurst High School occupies a building that was built in the early 1930s and subsequently extended several times. A modern sport hall was constructed in the early 1990s. The front block of the School only has a useful life of 11 years and the County maintenance analysis indicates that it would be most cost-effective to replace this block.
6. An assessment of the suitability in educational terms carried out in Sept 2009 indicated that teaching methods were inhibited in a substantial part of this block. Also there are the following issues:
 - The site has already proved restrictive in the past and the relationship of the buildings on the west side of the campus with adjacent properties in Limehurst Avenue and Limehurst House would constrain potential development.
 - The site frontage is in a Conservation Area and is bounded by mature trees. Any development would need to take the requirements of the Conservation Area into account. These have already been a constraint to improvements to the access and car parking.
 - The site is close to the route of the Inner Relief Road which will bring an increase in traffic numbers (estimated at 20,000 vehicles per day) close to the site entrance and potentially cause safety issues for pupil numbers that could be up to twice the current level.
7. Vehicular access is restricted along Gladstone Street. This is a narrow Victorian residential street and traffic management has already been put in place. The site of Tatmarsh House or the adjacent maintenance access is not considered a suitable alternative vehicle entrance. The suggestion of using Tatmarsh as an access or a new access through Ivy Lodge site would not be appropriate from a highways perspective particularly where options involve Gladstone Street/ Gladstone Avenue.

Size of site and location

8. Under the School Premises Regulations 1999 a school of 650 pupils aged 11-16 should have a team games playing field area of 35000 sq. m. The Limehurst site has 9500 sq.m. In fact the whole site is just 22,500 sq. m.
9. In examining proposals for schools PfS would only expect a Local Authority (LA) to use such an undersized site if there was no suitable alternative, e.g. a large built-up city centre site where land simply is not available. However, in this case there are two possible school sites for pupils to attend which are both under 3 miles away which have perfectly adequate playing fields: Woodbrook Vale; and the Thorpe Hill campus (former Burleigh/Garendon site).
10. Any proposals that include bringing buildings to the frontage of the Limehurst site would need to take account of the adjacent listed Limehurst House and the Conservation Area while incorporating vehicle access.

Playing fields

11. It would be possible to argue that Limehurst does not require on-site playing fields as it has suitable, accessible, off-site playing fields. In this case the playing field is at Cumberland Road, a green space regarded by Charnwood Borough Council as public open space. It does not have changing or storage facilities. PfS will be concerned to ensure that the school can effectively meet its sport PSA target of the percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in at least 2 hours a week of high-quality PE and sport at school and the percentage of 5-19 year olds participating in at least 3 further hours a week of sporting opportunities. There is also concern about the greater likelihood of sport and PE activities being cancelled in poor weather compared with using on-site activities.
12. PfS would want to be clear that there was good access to any off-site provision, would examine the travel and changing times and the changing and storage facilities in order to be clear that the target can be met. They would also want to be clear that there is a robust usage agreement and that security, health and safety, provision of ICT support, quality of turf and drainage and an appropriate maintenance regime are all in place.
13. In the case of Cumberland Road, the site is 0.7 miles away across a main road. There is no off street parking, no changing facility, no ICT support, no storage and security is inadequate, particularly as there is an adjacent footpath. It is used by the public for dog-walking, amongst other activities and therefore presents serious health and safety risks. Using the site as a school playing field would mean that public access to the area would have to be restricted, so reducing its civic amenity value. Maintenance is adequate and drainage quite good but the playing surface would need attention to support more frequent team games use.
14. There is no other green open space for public use in that immediate area.

Surplus places

15. Based on the numbers used in Options A and B which take account of the potential University Technical College, option C creates over 200 surplus places which would be unacceptable to PfS.

Decant arrangements

16. In order to develop the new school on the Limehurst site there would have to be major decant arrangements as the school would require major remodelling and building works. This would be very difficult to arrange on such a constrained site, could be very costly and would seriously impair the use of the outside space for some time. It would also have to be carefully managed in order to protect children.

Option (Cii)

Education

17. Curriculum choice will be restricted for students in this small 750 place secondary school. Standards in KS4 nationally are highest in medium sized secondary schools of 1000 – 1200 students, that is six to eight forms of entry.

Site

18. This option requires a new site of 5.56Ha – 6.0 Ha in the East of Loughborough on which to provide a school of 750 students. A number of sites have been examined and none has been found to be suitable.

- i) **Dishley, Derby Road**, Loughborough - off Derby Road to the north of the town and approx 1.5 miles from Bridge Street. This has been discussed with the District Council.

- The site is very flat and low lying with the majority of the land in this area is within the flood zone. Any proposal in this area would require substantial re-modelling of the flood area and providing equivalent drainage capacity – the cost of this work would have to be met by the LA
- This site would also partially be within the Green Belt and would need to have a new access road constructed from Derby Road to the site running to the NW of Dishley Grange.
- The LA would need to meet the costs of finding and acquiring an alternative site for the Loughborough Town football club and bearing the total cost of relocating it in line with Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) powers even if these powers were not required.
- The land is allocated for employment and as such a change of use will be required and may require alternative employment land to be sought elsewhere. It is also adjacent to, and would need to have regard to, the designated green belt.

ii) **Burder Street, Loughborough, close to the station.**

The site is part owned by Charnwood Borough Council and Railtrack. It has been the subject of a successful CPO and residential development will commence in April 2010.

iii) **Moor Lane- Windmill Road Loughborough**

- A potential site in two parts located approx 1 mile to the SE of Limehurst and requiring a foot and/or vehicular bridge to cross the canal .
- one parcel of 1.9Ha approx located at the junction of Windmill Road and Great Central Road could be suitable for the construction of the school building.
- the playing fields could be located to the East in 5.1Ha of land outside the limits of development but within the flood zone. The pitches would need to be constructed to take account of the fact that this area is designated as part of the Soar Valley, having local landscape value. It may be possible for joint use of the adjacent cricket pitch.
- the land to the East is owned by a private developer who is seeking residential development although it appears to be currently in use for waste recycling and scrap yard.

iv) **Little Moor Lane.**

- This site comprising 10Ha of land to the East of the town bounded on the North East by the railway line and to the south west by the canal. It is separated from the town by the route of the Great Central Railway. Vehicular access is to the NW corner of the site which currently serves the Civic Amenity waste site.
- This property is known to be a former landfill site with substantial issues relating to ground stability, gassing and contamination and as such this site is not considered further in this analysis.
- The site is in the flood zone – sports pitches 1 in 100 years and potential buildings 1 in 1000 years.

Additional sites

19. Two alternative options have been put forward by Limehurst School which involve the use of Charnwood District Council Depot, either as playing fields or as a school site plus the formation of a new access to the school. These options would require up to four additional land interests to be acquired, including the District Council Depot for which an alternative location and transition costs would need to be met. It is unlikely that these sites could be assembled without the need for a CPO which would put the scheme outside the timescale of BSF and incur substantial purchase and relocation costs.

20. *Site conclusions and Recommendations*

- The potential sites available to the eastern side of the town are very limited and within the scope of this high level appraisal Moor Lane although far from ideal is probably the best. However, the fields are in the 100 year flood plain.
- Funding would be required to acquire any site as PfS would not support the purchase from BSF funds. In the case of Moor Lane, the potential alternative uses are likely to result in substantial acquisition costs which are outside the BSF funding allocation. This would therefore potentially increase costs to the County Council considerably.
- Putting forward a proposal for a school on a site which is not owned by the LA would be seen by PfS as not being 'ready to deliver'.

Surplus places

21. Based on the numbers used in Options A and B which take account of the potential University Technical College, this option would create over 300 surplus places which would be unacceptable to PfS. A school of this size would also require small schools protection funding, which comes from the overall schools' budget.

Education

22. Curriculum choice will be restricted for students in the small secondary school.
23. Standards in KS4 nationally are highest in medium sized secondary schools of 1000 – 1200 students, that is six to eight forms of entry. Whilst there are small schools often in rural locations, they would not be the first choice in a more densely populated area.

Garendon

Education

24. The proposed expanded Garendon School would have 900 11-16 places. However, if the first Limehurst option was taken forward, (Ci), the post-16 option would be the same as that in Option B, i.e. a sixth form on the Thorpe Hill campus. This would mean that Garendon which currently has 437 11-14 year old students would have to expand not only to take on KS4 but also KS5 and would have 1349 students on roll. Garendon school does not have the management experience to effectively run a school with both KS4 and post-16 provision. This could affect attainment at both KS4 and KS5.

Popularity and surplus places

25. Despite the 'good' rating by Ofsted, the surplus places at Garendon have been increasing over recent years, demonstrating some unpopularity. This option suggests that a school with lower than anticipated popularity is expanded (Table 1 at the end of the paper). Given the current popularity of Garendon and Limehurst Schools, it is reasonable to anticipate that the additional surplus places would be most pronounced at Garendon i.e. a

school of 900 places may be operating at 700 or less. This would trigger small schools' protection funding.

26. **Affordability**

- The BSF funding does not provide for the acquisition of sites, therefore such costs would fall to the County Council.
- Any decant costs would come from the BSF funding and would therefore impact on other parts of the programme. If they were substantial, this could have a serious impact on what could be delivered elsewhere.
- Providing an additional school in Option C would add additional costs to the programme which would have to be adjusted. This would mean that other schemes would be affected and may not be deliverable.
- If changing rooms and storage are required an additional cost of up to £0.75m may be required which would impact on the rest of the programme.

27. **Summary**

- Option C does not demonstrate that standards will rise significantly for all students - in 2 schools they may be impeded as curriculum choice would be reduced
- The site for the proposed small school does not meet national regulations
- Playing field arrangements for the small school are unsatisfactory and may well restrict provision for 650 students leading to lower standards and participation
- A good alternative site for the proposed school of 750 places in the East of Loughborough has not been found. Any site which was identified would lead to additional costs.
- There would be a negative impact on the scheme as a whole resulting from the need to create 6 schools as opposed to 5, with the consequential diluting of funds and resources
- The proposal expands an existing school which is graded as good, but there is a trend for significant numbers of parents to send their children to other schools. This may leave surplus capacity in an expensive, remodeled school
- The option expects a school which currently serves only KS3 to successfully manage provision for KS4 and post 16 provision. This risks jeopardizing the achievement of students.
- Creates more surplus places and requires small school protection funding.



Capacity Information

Sep-10

	Min	Max	Capacity
Burleigh College	1424	1583	1462
Garendon High School	756	840	810
Limehurst High School	466	518	518
Total	2646	2941	2790

Numbers in the school

	Academic Year															
	2004/ 5	2005/ 6	2006/ 7	2007/ 8	2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20
Burleigh College	1317	1296	1226	1178	1119	1040	949	945	938	932	963	968	949	951	959	946
Garendon High School	739	696	628	558	491	427	416	408	420	412	407	414	413	422	435	453
Limehurst High School	451	378	365	366	390	399	413	410	403	396	391	398	397	406	419	437
	2507	2370	2219	2102	2000	1866	1778	1763	1761	1740	1761	1780	1759	1779	1813	1836
Surplus Places	283	420	571	688	790	924	1012	1027	1029	1050	1029	1010	1031	1011	977	954

In Summary

The three schools mentioned above have a capacity of 2790 places. This is for 11 - 19 year olds. In the autumn term of 2009/10 there were 1866 pupils in the schools which means that there were 924 surplus places.

The number of surplus places has increased over the past 5 years from 283 in 2004/5 to the current number of 924. These are predicted to rise until 2013 to 1050. They are predicted to remain at that level thereafter.

Transforming Learning in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow upon Soar areas Stage 2 Consultation

Summary of responses received.


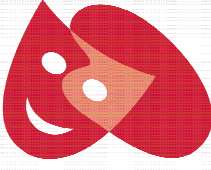
	Total	Total as %	Support Single Catchment		
			Y	N	No opinion
Option A Includes new Post-16 centre on the Limehurst site	270	16%	188	77	5
Option B Includes 6 th form provision at Rawlins & Thorpe Hill sites	311	19%	210	85	16
'Option C' Proposal by Limehurst & Garendon governors	630	39%	129	392	109
Keep Limehurst open (includes support to extend to 11-16)	142	9%	17	117	8
Keep Garendon open (includes support to extend to 11-16)	158	10%	52	96	10
* Other	110	7%	46	58	6
Total received	1621	100%	642 (44%)	825 (56%)	154

Note

* Other includes responses which in the main, only provide comments

Appendix F

Submissions from governing bodies

 <p>Caring for Success</p>	 <p>Arts Colleges</p>	<p>WOODBROOK VALE HIGH SCHOOL <i>~ A Specialist Arts College</i></p> <hr/> <p>HEADTEACHER: Graham Bett M.Ed., B. Ed Grasmere Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 2ST Tel: 01509 557560 Fax: 01509 557562 Email: office@woodbrookvale.leics.sch.uk</p>
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**Reorganisation of Secondary Education and Building Schools for the Future in Loughborough, Quorn & Barrow
A Policy Statement agreed by the Governing Body
20 January 2010**

“Woodbrook Vale has a long standing commitment to the introduction of 11-16 education for our young people and so the Governors and Staff of Woodbrook Vale High School welcome the proposals to transform learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow. It is an exciting opportunity to expand the age range of the school up to sixteen years and we feel that this continuity of teaching will be of great benefit to pupils' educational outcomes.

If successful, the BSF programme at Woodbrook Vale would provide some exciting new school buildings, as well as refurbishment of existing facilities.

Our strong preference is for a separate Post 16 Centre serving the whole Loughborough, Barrow & Quorn area, located in Loughborough, that would provide specialist, fair and equitable provision for all young people. We support the point made in the Paper approved by Cabinet that a “state of the art Post-16 Centre” is a “key factor in achieving transformation”. Of the two options available this means we support Option A.

We would prefer less restriction on parental choice than is proposed, so would support a single whole-area catchment area across the whole of Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow. We already work very closely with Rawlins and Humphrey Perkins, as well as the Loughborough Schools. We believe that a single catchment area would encourage close working between all schools. We are certain all the schools will become specialist schools. Unless we have a common catchment area across the whole area parents and young people will be unable to access a reasonable breadth of different specialisms. A single whole-area catchment area would contribute to equal access and opportunities for all pupils. The catchment area issue need not wait for the building programme. This means ticking “No” on the Consultation Form.

One of the benefits of the refurbishment could be to improve access to the school while alleviating impact on our neighbours. We would be very surprised if the entrance to Woodbrook Vale remained as it is at the moment. The most likely possibility is that there would be a drive into the school from Fairmeadows Way with a car park, well away from houses, that would allow traffic to be absorbed on to the site with less disruption to our neighbours than with the current entrance off Grasmere Road. We hope that, in order to dilute the numbers of pupils on any route, various entrances would be available for pupil access.

We encourage pupils, parents, staff and our local community to become involved in the current consultation process.”

Gary Page
Chair of Governors

Graham Bett
Headteacher

THE GARENDON HIGH SCHOOL

THORPE HILL . LOUGHBOROUGH . LEICS . LE11 4SQ

TEL 01509 828595 . FAX 01509 828597

HEADTEACHER : MRS. J. E. WALKER, B.A. (Hons.) M.Ed.



For the attention of Leicestershire County Council Cabinet,
12th January 2010

**Garendon's initial reaction to the Building Schools for the Future proposals.
(Our thoughts prior to the Cabinet Meeting and the next round of Consultation).**

We consider that there have to be adjustments to the BSF A & B proposals but these need early consideration.

We are all much disturbed by the proposal to demolish Garendon High School, a school which provides outstanding education and has results which place us in the top 2% of all Maintained Secondary Schools in the country.

We are not against CHANGE because it is necessary and perhaps overdue. It is the structure of the change which is completely alien to our thinking. Garendon's outstanding features must not be lost, but should be extended to provide a firm foundation by extending our remit to be an 11-16 or 11-18 school.

Our staff (which would need to be increased) are fully qualified to undertake delivery of 11-16 or 11-18 education. As with the majority of parents, we consider that the extension of Garendon to become a through school (as in the Melton High Schools), is the optimum choice. A new institution of at least 1200 students, as outlined in BSF plans A & B, could see the successes achieved at Garendon lost or diluted.

The three Loughborough High Schools which currently provide top quality 11-14 education and achieve high KS3 results, all need to continue to provide that firm footing and to offer uninterrupted education to the age of 16 or 18.

We are confident in our ability to provide a high quality education for all secondary age students. Our L.A. SIP (School Improvement Partner) has this academic year designated the school 'outstanding' in every area and Lead School in the county.

In the current plans Competition would have to occur for the new institution on our campus. This requires open tender for who should run the new school. We have no idea who would bid to run the school. This is unnecessary. Garendon High School could simply remain and run the new through school. We have outstanding

governance, leadership and staff who are all fully capable of forming the core of a new larger school. Furthermore, we have huge parent and community support for our aspirations.

Overnight by Friday 8th January we received over 225 replies from parents, indicating overwhelming support for Garendon to be a through school. They also showed that they have full confidence in the school's ability to deliver.

Parental views on Proposals for BSF (Garendon)

I have a child who will be in Yr10 when the new school opens (2013); obviously it is in our best interests that his education does not suffer from the new changes proposed.

GHS should remain as a through school and be extended – new facilities to cope with changes to help the student's progress further.

If the schools were to close where would the children be placed – would you have to reapply to another school?

Garendon is a good successful school with good specialist teaching staff. Why close a school that is producing good results where pupils seem happy?

Garendon is an excellent school and has developed the best in my daughter. I would strongly support the school in becoming a through school to Yr10 and 11. The LA should focus on schools who are achieving high standards for our children rather than wasting money developing those which underachieve.

Whatever the outcome, my main priority is continuity and quality of education for my child through this transition period, which is also a very important stage in his life-long education.

It is ludicrous, a through school is a good idea but closing the school is silly.

An excellent school with excellent staff – we support your school.

My daughter has really improved in all areas at Garendon and I am sure if the opportunity was there to stay on until 16/18 it would be to her advantage.

The building is immaterial, it's what is inside that counts and there will be a lot of teachers needing to be kept on if the school is to increase Leadership, support staff, excellent teaching.

Should you require additional governors on the governing body to help you fight this or additional parents to form a specific action group, please feel free to contact us.

It would be a tremendous shame if GHS closed, especially with the recent OFSTED report about Burleigh performance. Keep Garendon and staff and recruit the same high quality of staff and teachers and level of teaching.

I would prefer two smaller schools (Garendon & Limehurst) developed rather than a new big school, building on excellence and delivering parental choice alongside Rawlins, Woodbrook Vale, De Lisle and Humphrey Perkins.

We would like to see Garendon remain as an entity as it is a very good school. We believe that the main building, however, is in a poor condition and would like to see its redevelopment maybe on the playing fields behind as has recently happened at Shepshed High School.

I truly believe GHS has provided my daughter with a sound basis to continue moving forward. This is why GHS needs to remain but expanded to provide continuous education & stability.

I would like Garendon to become 11-18 years but do think that many of the buildings could do with a major renovation or rebuild. I don't mind if the buildings are demolished but do not want Garendon (i.e. the people) demolished!!

It would be a shame if the good results at Garendon were lost or diluted.

Could you explain to me why Garendon High School always plays second fiddle to Burleigh College? GHS is a much better school using traditional values which show respect for the school and the community behind it.

Children are not adults until they have grown up, way beyond the age of 18.

It is nonsensical to think of closing GHS down. BSF offers a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on what GHS is already doing so well. "If it ain't broken, don't fix it" - extend it !! (we would not support either of the proposed options).

The combined Burleigh/Garendon option could only be in any way acceptable if the Garendon Leadership Team was in charge of it.

All 4 high schools should become 11-16, leaving Burleigh and Rawlins as post 16 centres. This would minimize disruption and retain the expertise the current schools have with the younger pupils.

As parents, we think that the Garendon Parent Forum, Governors and staff know what is best for the school and pupils. We will continue to give our support in whatever decision the school takes for the best interest of the students.

It would be fantastic if our daughter could continue her education to 18 at Garendon in a settled environment and with the existing high standards of teaching.

Strongly against the closure of Garendon which provides excellent education for pupils. Also against 'Super Schools' - to my mind, a school catering for 1200 pupils needs far more thought, planning and consultation prior to being 'rail-roaded' in.

The standard of teaching at Garendon is excellent and I wouldn't want it to drop due to changes.

Three generations of both sides of the family have attended and done extremely well at Garendon. Going back to when it first opened it would be an outright disaster if Garendon was shut and its identity lost forever.

I do not want Garendon to close or change, as it is serving the community very well with high results regularly.

I feel my child would continue to develop his educational abilities at Garendon in either an 11-16 or 11-18 school. I would be very disappointed if a school with such high results should be demolished for a so called super school. I would love my son to be taught at Garendon until he is 18 rather than have to go to Burleigh which in my opinion should close. GHS should not be demolished for a super NOT school.

Garendon is a successful school, why close a school producing good results??

Garendon is an excellent school; we support you all the way.

Having recently heard that Burleigh failed its Ofsted inspection, I am particularly worried about my son continuing his education at Burleigh. I would much rather him have his education at Garendon as this school has consistently received excellent reports. I don't feel Burleigh is in a position to provide my gifted son with the education he deserves.

Why should GHS who provide excellent education for our children have to change when Burleigh is the failing school? Surely we should build on GHS for them to continue to do this.

It would be a real shame if Garendon was to close/be demolished. We need to do the best for students today and in the future.

I fully agree that Garendon should be extended to a through school. Why close an outstanding school with fantastic management and teaching staff? Have the LA gone mad?? You certainly have my 100% backing.

I agree GHS is an excellent school. But note the proposals say both Garendon & Burleigh would close and a new school open on the site using mainly Burleigh buildings. It would appear to be an open competition to run the new school. I think you are best accepting that Garendon will close, but compete strongly to run the new school. Given your track record, you would be in a strong position to do this, perhaps retaining some staff & 6th form capacity from Burleigh.

I do not believe that GHS, a school that is placed in the top 5% nationally for performance over the last 3 years, should be closed.

Standard of teaching at Garendon are excellent and we wouldn't want them to drop due to changes.

A sensible strategy would seem to be to support the development of the successful GHS to accommodate more students for more years of study rather than unnecessarily merge it into a larger entity in combination with schools doing less well.

We send this on behalf of The Garendon Parent Forum, Governors and Staff.

Dear Cabinet Member

I am aware you are have received a report that is to be debated at Cabinet on 12th January in relation to approving a consultation process on 2 options for transforming education in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow area of the county using Building Schools for the Future (BSF) monies.

I am currently Chair of Governors at Burleigh Community College and therefore am fortunate to understand some of the detail behind the proposed options you have been asked to approve for consultation. I would like to make it clear that I have thought long and hard about writing to you and in doing so am acting independently of the Governing Body and as a constituent of Loughborough, something which I believe I am entitled to do. To clarify the position; Governors are yet to meet to discuss the options and will not be doing so until such time that the consultation process is approved and they have been fully briefed by the project team. The views expressed in this e-mail are entirely my own and in no way should be attributed to the Governing Body of Burleigh, clearly when the time comes we will debate the options as a Body and respond based on the majority view. I am happy for my views to be made public at the meeting but these should be in the context of coming from a member of the public who has read the report and not from the Chair of Governors nor on behalf of the Governing Body of the school.

Firstly I would like to say I am fully supportive of the need to transform education in the area, the current structure has served the area well but the time is right to change the system. The Vision for Learning in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow as set out in the report is, in my opinion, exactly the right way to go. The young people of the area deserve to have opportunities, which account for individual needs and to ensure that the Every Child Matters Agenda is met. There is no question that the vision meets these needs.

I am keen that County Councils bid for funding is successful, however knowing what I do I feel that I have a responsibility before the consultation is approved to express some concerns over the clarity of information that will be available to stakeholders during the consultation. My particular concern relates to point 3 in reasons for recommendations in the report in that the option we go with must clearly underpin the vision. At the moment I do not think sufficient clarity exists to allow to stakeholders to understand how the 2 options being recommended for consultation will deliver the vision and therefore could put the process at risk. To help I have set out a few examples that I believe need to be addressed:

- Part of ECM is to be healthy; the vision states that schools will provide a pervasive culture of a healthy school. Option A proposes a post 16 centre on the Limehurst site for 800 places, due to the available space I understand there will be very little or indeed no recreational facilities at the site. I am unsure how this option could deliver the vision of ECM for these students other than for them to travel to other facilities. I am minded to ask if this really is the best use of public money when building new facilities in a Town which is clearly renowned for its links to sport. However putting my views aside I do think that the consultation needs to establish if this would be acceptable to stakeholders, the fact the report does not highlight this causes doubts that they will be asked the question.
- The vision states that schools will provide and be organised to deliver a number of key elements. The concept behind the Loughborough Learning Town (LLT), with a number of providers working in close partnership, will in my mind deliver these. The report recommends that 2 catchment areas are set up with at least 2 schools in each area. Whilst this provides choice it also results in competition, which in my experience can restrict collaboration not increase it and therefore could restrict success of the LLT, Something not discussed in the paper. I already know from the work we have done in setting up the Loughborough Learning Partnership Trust there is a reluctance within some schools to work more closely, not sure this will change if we keep the same structure that we have now.

- Looking at some of the specific areas of the vision, by creating 2 catchment areas you are already reducing the numbers of students aged 11-16 required to make the vision a success. Consultation needs to set out how the options will address these points at the moment this is not clear from the report, for example:
 - By having different schools you will by definition have different governing bodies & leadership teams. These two factors alone present a significant risk to schools not being able to develop a broad and diverse curriculum, teaching and learning and timetables will probably end up being structured differently across each school.
 - Smaller catchment areas and separate schools would restrict the opportunities for students and teachers to move between schools to make best use of resources and specialisms.
 - It will limit the number of students available in the same catchment area with similar interests and or talents to work together.
 - The flexibility of teams of teachers and other adults will be restricted preventing them from working effectively with large groups or supporting individuals and small groups.
 - Systematic approaches to development of staff, leadership and management of change across schools will be difficult
 - Commonly agreed approaches to core behaviours, ways of working and expectations that enable students to move and work across all schools with ease may not get approved.
- The Vision places a lot of importance on community involvement, relationships and cohesion with systematic involvement of parents in student learning and in the school self evaluation process. With this in mind it is important that schools have some sort of presence in the local community and do not leave residents feeling alienated. How well connected will residents of Quorn and Barrow feel with a single post 16 centre based in Loughborough? Likewise how engaged are residents of the east side of Loughborough going to be with no facility. Not easy problems to solve when economies need to be taken into account, however if teachers are flexible and able to move around sites along with students then it would be feasible to consider annexes in local communities, again something that does not seem to have been considered within the options. We need to ensure all schools in the area are comprehensive and inclusive, that provide a good mix of students from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and not produce a range of schools where in some the majority of students could be from white middle class backgrounds.
- In terms of the LLT there is a conference arranged for 21st January with the aim of setting up a steering group to develop how the concept will work in practice. If this group should decide that separate catchment areas and schools is a barrier to the success of the initiative, and there is not a separate option as part of the consultation, what would this mean for the bid?
- Whilst the report and vision concentrates on transforming education it does not discuss the impacts on communities in terms of the actual construction work that would need to take place. In particular where numbers of places are going to be substantially increased at existing sites. This will obviously lead to increased vehicle movements, in particular with cut backs being proposed to school bus services. Whilst costs have been taken into account for development work on the site it is not clear if this includes improvements to infrastructure around the sites and if local tax payers are going to be left picking up a large bill from the

inclusion in the capital plan of the Highways Department. This is will be of great importance to residents in areas of high residential occupancy such, as the Woodbrook Vale site, where no doubt there will have to be improvements to infrastructure in order to ensure the safety of students travelling to these sites and for local residents and road users. The consultation process should raise these points, objections at a later date will surely impact delivery timescales?

Whilst this may come as a surprise to Members I am not sure the proposals are radical enough to deliver the vision. In creating a new school from Limehurst, Garendon and Burleigh the options go in part somewhat to delivering the vision, where they fail is in not doing the same across the entire group of schools. It would have been nice to see an option that considered closing all secondary and high schools, with the exception of De Lisle, and opening up a new federated area school operating across a single catchment area and across a number of sites. I understand that this idea is not as radical as you may think, some areas of the country are already doing this under Trust Status with success. This new school would then be put out to competition in terms of who ran it with hopefully a strong local partnership organisation coming forward, who could operate in the best interests of the area and not a single school. This could address some of the points raised above I believe will provide stakeholders with real choice, at the moment the options are too restricted.

Whilst I have not had the opportunity to see any consultation documents, I understand these are already printed and broadly in line with the report you have received. Obviously there will be opportunities to address some of the points at public meetings and people will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification. As Cabinet Members I know you could ask Officers to ensure that these meetings, and thus the consultation, poses sufficient questions to ensure stakeholders agree with the Vision and Options. No doubt there will be also be the opportunity for debate in the local and possibly national press, one of the key elements will be on how to spark the interest of stakeholders to generate a meaningful consultation that shows stakeholder support for whatever option is put forward in the Readiness To Deliver (RTD) submission.

As I stated earlier I am in full support of the aims of the transformation programme and in particular the vision, I appreciate the tight timescales the County is up against to be able to be in a position to submit the RTD. For this to happen the consultation has to be successful and stakeholders have to be provided with sufficient opportunities to consider all options, at the moment I am unsure if this is the case and options have been restricted in order to prepare the bid. Whatever system we end up with has to serve the young people of Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow for the next 50 years and facilitate the LLT concept. As Cabinet Members you have a duty to ensure we get it right and not simply allow something to be rushed through. Whilst no doubt there will be a lot of opposition to changes in particular in being seen to close schools, the County have to be brave and not balk at making difficult and brave decisions. I fear the options on offer at the moment have not been developed to meet the needs of the whole community, but in order to meet a timeline and the needs of a small fraction who have been seeking a one through school experience.

I hope my points can be considered and you ensure the process acts in the best interests of both the bid and the whole community.

Regards

Andy Martin

Email: andy.martin@uk.ngrid.com

STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNING BODY OF LIMEHURST HIGH SCHOOL

We are naturally extremely disappointed that both Options A and B of the proposals recommend the closure of Limehurst High School.

We are extremely proud of Limehurst's status as an 'Outstanding' school – the only such school in the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow area. The staff and pupils worked extremely hard to achieve this rating from Ofsted, and the school has continued to improve since that June 2007 inspection, which found:

- high-quality teaching and learning
- a curriculum that meets the needs of all students
- a high level of student achievement
- strong leadership
- a pastoral care system that supports and nurtures all members of the school community

Ofsted also found that, "students' attitudes to learning and behaviour in lessons and around the school are excellent."

Since that inspection, Limehurst has gained Specialist Sports College status. The additional funding that this brings is already allowing pupils and the community further sporting opportunities, but will also have a positive impact on teaching and learning in all areas of the school.

Limehurst has continued to put creativity at the heart of its improvement plan, and has secured Creative Partnerships Change School status. This is allowing the school to further develop its curriculum, allowing pupils access to exciting and creative opportunities. These opportunities complement the more 'traditional' curriculum, where students continue to prosper.

The range of out-of-hours activities and clubs continues to grow. Around half of Limehurst pupils already take part in activities and the number is growing. There are clubs in sport, design, computing, music and study support to name but a few. Limehurst also runs a number of trips and educational visits, both in the UK and abroad – Limehurst has recently been confirmed as an International School, which will give even more opportunities for pupils and staff to experience different cultures.

"Achievement in a Caring Environment" is the school's motto. The academic progress of its pupils is supported by a focus on pupils' personal development in a wider sense. The needs of individual pupils are identified, which enables the school to develop intervention programmes that address these needs.

Limehurst is very proud of the strong links it has with parents and the local community. Parents are regularly consulted on their views, and a recent survey showed that almost all parents agreed that their children were happy at Limehurst and that the school provided a good standard of education for their children.

As governors, we are fully supportive of the Council's attempts to secure BSF funding to transform education for young people in Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow. However, we are extremely concerned that the proposals mean that there will be no secondary school in the heart of the community on the Eastern side of Loughborough, a community that we are currently very proud to serve. We strongly urge the Council to consider adding a third Option, which retains a medium-sized secondary school, for 11-16 year olds, in this area. Clearly, our

preference for this would be for Limehurst High School to continue, and to build on its previous successes.

Should Cabinet give approval to the consultation taking place, we would use the consultation period to make our views known to the County Council, and to ascertain how the Council reached this decision.

Parents wishing to make their opinions known should be aware that the consultation period would be from January 13th to March 2nd, 2010, and that there would be a consultation event at Limehurst on Monday 25th January, which would be attended by members of the County Council and the BSF Project Team.

In the meantime, we know that the dedication and professionalism of the staff at Limehurst mean that it will be business as usual at the school, and that it will continue to strive for excellence on a daily basis.

6 January 2010

Rawlins College response

Which option do you prefer?	Option B
Other Option details	<p>1. In both options, Rawlins would be completely rebuilt. We welcome this without reservation and would work with the BSF team to ensure that an innovative, flexible and exciting new school is created which would serve the community long into this century.</p> <p>2. In both options, students would transfer to Rawlins from primary school and remain at Rawlins throughout years 7 to 11 (ages 11 to 16). We recognise that continuity throughout secondary school is advantageous and we are excited about developing a new and imaginative curriculum for students from age 11.</p> <p>3. We are strongly in favour of option B for the following reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continuity in learning is generally positive – that is why we welcome the removal of transition at age 14. For that same reason, we strongly favour continuity at age 16 and therefore advocate the 11-19 schooling option b. The 11-19 option retains choice of school post-16 provision which would not exist with a single post-16 centre c. Many Rawlins students travel quite long distances from the south of Charnwood and even beyond. The environmental and other costs of increased travel would be minimised if Rawlins were to retain a sixth form d. We are proud of Rawlins’ Media Arts College status and believe that the benefits of this specialism should continue to be available to post-16 students in the area e. We believe that the restricted Limehurst site is not suitable for 800 post-16 learners. There would be congestion, increased parking difficulties (many post-16 students use private vehicles) and no sports facilities f. Rawlins already works in partnerships with other schools and colleges to deliver the widest possible curriculum. We would continue to do so, thus ensuring extensive high quality choice and opportunity g. Rawlins staff are experts in post-16 education. Students in this area would continue

	<p>to benefit from this expertise, some of which might otherwise be lost to this area</p> <p>h. From 2013, all seventeen year olds must remain in training or education. From 2015, this will be extended to all eighteen year olds. Many more young people will stay on at school, including those more vulnerable who need a stable and nurturing environment such as that offered in the sixth form of the school which they have already attended.</p> <p>4. We recognise that under either option, the college will be faced with major organisational challenges. We look to strong support from the LA during this process.</p>
Do you agree with the establishment of a single catchment area for the secondary schools in Loughborough and another for Quorn and Barrow?	Yes
What are your views?	<p>5. We recognise the educational benefits that come from developing strong links between a secondary school and a small group of primary schools in order to help ease the transition for children at 11+ but we have no fundamental objection to a Quorn/Barrow common catchment area, co-terminus with the single catchment area that Humphrey Perkins and Rawlins already serves.</p> <p>6. We would also be ready to work within a common catchment area across the whole of the Loughborough, Quorn and Barrow area but note that establishing liaison with primary schools becomes harder to achieve the greater number of schools involved.</p> <p>7. We support the objective of opening up parental choice but our experience is that catchment area boundaries are not impervious, for the college already accommodates students from outside the catchment area. It is capacity rather than boundaries that determine how much choice is possible.</p>
Your Details	
Are You a:	Other
If Other, please specify:	Rawlins College Governing Body
Name:	Chair, Dr David Lathbury
Name of school or address:	Rawlins Community College

15 FEB 2010

Celebrating 50 years of Catholic Education
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Loughborough BSF Consultation Stage 2
Have Your Say
FREEPOST
Nat 18685
Leicester
LE3 8XR

10 February 2010

Dear Sir/ Madam

At the meeting of the full governing body on Monday 8 February it was unanimously agreed that we support **Option B**. Our principle reasons for choosing Option B are as follows:

1. In order to continue to transform learning, we would wish to build on the links and relationships established with other providers in the areas concerned in the delivery of an enhanced curriculum. This would be possible through the provision outlined in Option B
2. It was also felt that building a new sixth form centre on one site might have a destabilising effect, in terms of student choice, on provision at that level in the area.
3. The funding of an 11 - 19 college has always been an issue for de Lisle. We see the establishment of three 11 - 19 colleges as an opportunity for a more equitable funding regime to be established
4. Schools with sixth forms allow for a smoother transition from KS4 to KS5 for those wishing to remain at that establishment.

We trust that the above will inform the debate and the decision as to which option is finally agreed upon.

Yours faithfully

T.J. Murphy

Chair of Governors

