

Consultation on the Split Site Arrangements for Ashton Community Science College, Preston



October/November 2012

A consultation event in connection with this proposal will be held on 8th November 2012 at the school. Further information is provided inside.

Produced by the Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People, Lancashire County Council

Consultation Document

A summary of what we are we proposing to do

This consultation document is about the split site arrangements at Ashton Community Science College, Preston.

Since January 2010 Ashton Community Science College has operated on split sites at the Ashton Campus (Aldwych Drive, Ashton-on-Ribble) and the Ribbleton Campus (Ribbleton Hall Drive, Ribbleton). The use of the Ribbleton site was approved on a temporary basis following the closure of City of Preston High School in order to accommodate pupils from that school.

The proposal is to permanently establish the split site operation of Ashton Community Science College with effect from 1 September 2013 in the following accommodation:

The Ashton Campus, which will remain the main site for pupils;

The Ribbleton Campus, which will be the main site for pupils aged 14 – 19 undertaking vocational education and training.

The county council is seeking your views on this proposal.



Foreword

Lancashire is a large, diverse authority served by some superb schools and we are committed to improving this excellence by continuing to raise standards and opportunities.

Lancashire, like many other authorities, faces challenges. Changing demographic factors mean that we must constantly review the number and location of the school places we provide. We must also respond to national policy change and to the voices of our communities.

The county council and its schools work together with parents and other service providers to help our children to be safe, to enjoy and achieve, to be listened to, to belong to the community, and to achieve economic well-being.

We want all children and their parents to have pride in their local school and cultivate an appetite for lifelong learning.

We aim to provide schools that meet the needs of our communities and, at times, this involves increasing the number of school places in a particular school. At the same time we must also ensure that those members of the community with special educational needs are provided with the best opportunities to learn within our communities

I hope that you will take a little time during this consultation period to let us know your views on what we are proposing to do.

We will not make a decision until we have carefully considered all responses to this consultation.

Please help us to improve educational provision for Lancashire children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Charles". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

County Councillor Susie Charles

Cabinet Member for Children and Schools

PART ONE

Our vision and what we would like to achieve

Education is a powerful means of transforming and enriching lives and communities. Future success and well-being depends on strong creative partnerships, new ways of working, high expectations and a belief that we all have a part to play and can make a difference together.

Lancashire County Council is committed to improving the quality of educational provision to help raise standards for all learners.

Our vision also sees schools operating at the centre of their immediate and often extended communities.

Background Information

In July 2009 the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools approved the temporary operation of Ashton Community Science College on split sites from both the original Ashton Campus and the former City of Preston High School site at Ribbleton Hall Drive, Ribbleton, Preston. This was to enable the school to accommodate increased pupil numbers resulting from the City of Preston High School closure.

During the 2009/10 academic year, Ashton Community Science College consulted on proposals to alter the age range of the school from 11- 16 to 11 – 18 by adding a sixth form. In March 2010, the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools approved these proposals to take effect from 1 September 2010.

Over recent years the college has continued to develop by establishing a new vocational centre – the 'Renaissance Centre' on the Ribbleton Campus and improving accommodation for the delivery of hair and beauty and creative media studies courses. However, when the existing arrangements for the split site operation expires the college could potentially not have the accommodation to maintain the current level of provision or to further develop its vocational offer to the community.

In addition to the courses in hair and beauty and creative media studies the college is also developing courses in sport, public services, administration, business and retail. These additional courses are expected to increase the demand for places at both pre 16 and post 16 level at the college.

Intended Benefits

The Ribbleton area of Preston has high unemployment and considerable socioeconomic deprivation. It is estimated that there are around 250 young people not in education, employment or training in the Preston area, including around 70 in the Ribbleton and Brookfield wards immediately surrounding the Ribbleton campus. The development of the Renaissance Centre is intended to provide vocational learning and development opportunities for local young people and to assist with their pathway into paid employment.

On the 27th September 2012 the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools approved the proposal for Sir Tom Finney Community High School to be co-located with The Renaissance Centre on the Ribbleton Campus. In addition to providing improved accommodation for Sir Tom Finney High School, the co-location with Ashton Community Science College will provide inclusive educational and vocational opportunities to the special school pupils and assist with their transition to adulthood and independence.

A continued educational presence on the Ribbleton Campus will be a major asset for the community, in addition to providing benefits for the children and young people attending the college.

Proposal

On the 27th September 2012 the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools approved the stage 1 consultation on the permanent split site operation of Ashton Community Science College, with effect from 1 September 2013. In order to implement the proposals, further remodelling and refurbishment works will be required to provide appropriate accommodation at the Ribbleton Campus.

The Proposal

This document proposes that the operation of Ashton Community Science College on split sites at Ashton Campus (Aldwych Drive, Ashton-on-Ribble) and the Ribbleton Campus (Ribbleton Hall Drive, Ribbleton) be made permanent with effect from 1 September 2013.

If the proposal is approved there will be some remodelling and refurbishment to the Ribbleton Campus to ensure that the accommodation is suitable for the delivery of the intended vocational offer.

The county council wants to hear your views on these important proposals. If you have difficulty in accessing this information, please contact the Provision Planning Team:

Telephone **01772 536289**

Email cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk



School Organisation and Governance Regulations

The guidelines for making prescribed alterations to schools do not place a requirement on proposers to consult in order to establish an existing school on split sites. However, the local authority is conducting statutory consultation on the proposals for the following reasons:

- there are no specific exemptions from The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007;
- the authority has previously published statutory notices containing an explanatory note that the existing split site arrangements would be temporary in nature; and
- the distance between the sites is significant at almost 4 miles.

There are 5 stages to the statutory process which must be followed:

Consultation

The issue of this document marks a period of consultation during which the views of any interested parties are sought and which will be considered before any move to the more formal stages of the process.

Publication

Dependent upon the outcome of the consultation, a decision to proceed to issue a statutory notice must be made by the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools.

Representation

Statutory notices for a prescribed alteration allow a 4 week period for anyone to submit their comments on the proposals. This enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposals.

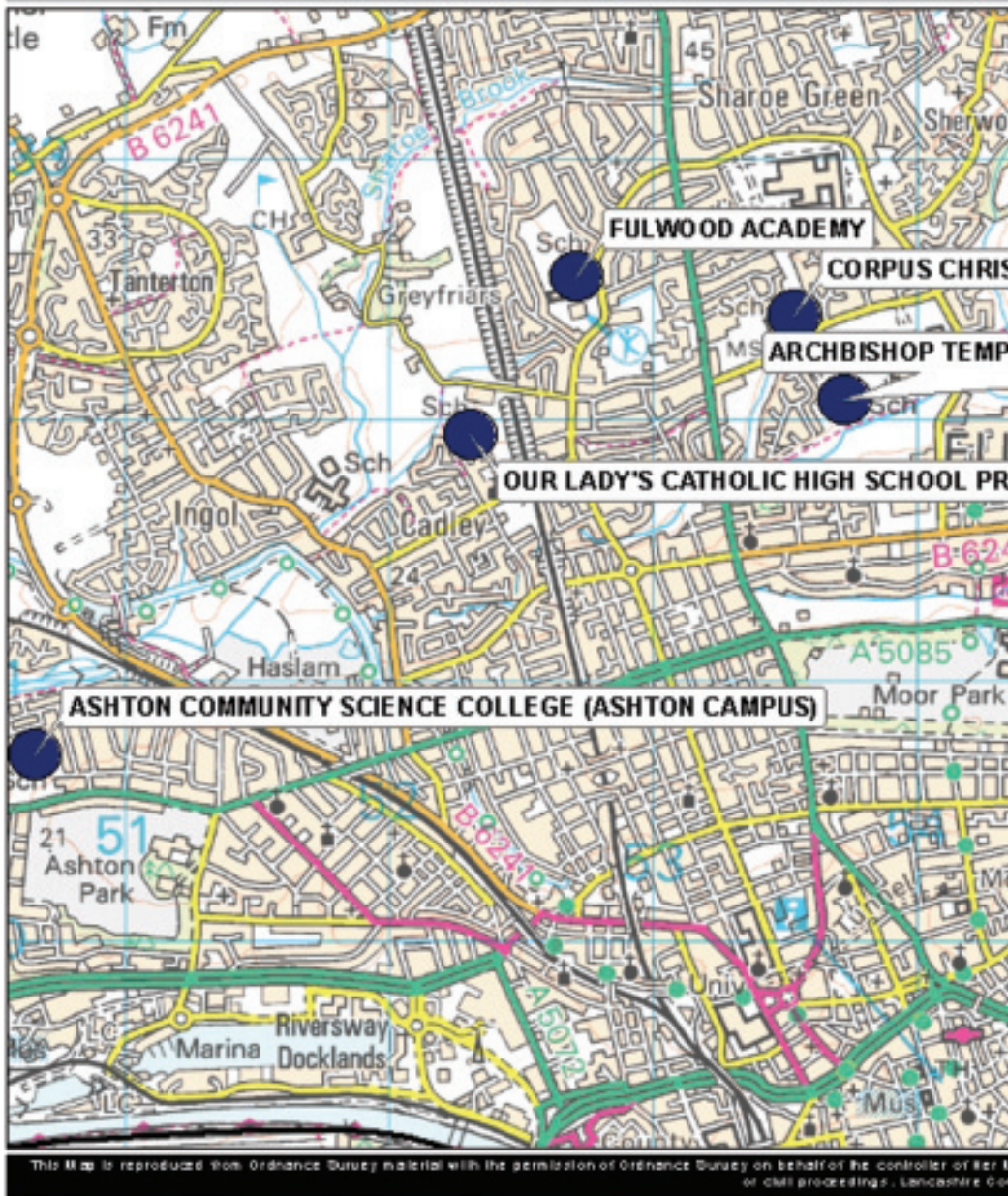
Decision

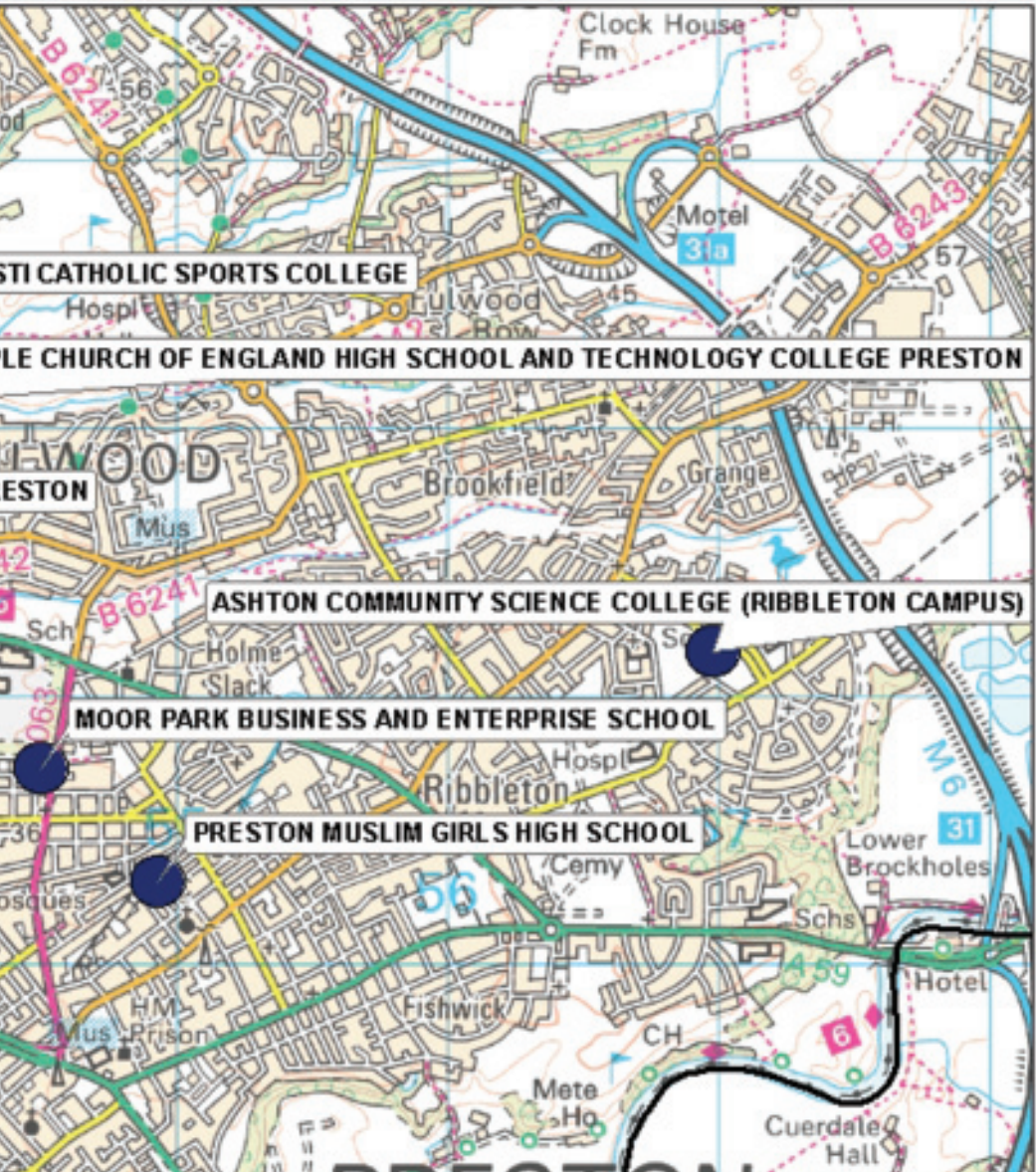
Within 2 months after the statutory notice period ends, the authority must make a decision on the proposal.

Implementation

If the proposal is approved Ashton Community Science College would operate permanently on split sites at the Ashton Campus and Ribbleton Campus with effect from 1st September 2013.

Ashton Community Science College





PART THREE

The consultation and decision making process

Timescales

22nd October 2012 to
7th December 2012

Stage 1 Consultation (6 weeks)

January 2013

Cabinet Member decision making session to consider the results of the consultation and decide whether to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal

January 2013

Publication of Statutory Notice

January/February 2013

Representation (4 weeks)

April 2013

Final decision by Cabinet Member

September 2013

Implementation

Consultation Event

You are invited to express your views on the proposal at an event organised at the school on **8th November 2012 from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.**

Please note that this will be an appointment led event, requiring interested parties to make a booking prior to the event. This will allow us to manage the process effectively, minimise waiting times and ensure that appropriate officers are available to offer advice and guidance relating to specific matters of interest.

Appointments can be made by visiting the link below and following the on-screen instructions

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=516275

Alternatively, booking can be made by telephone or email by contacting 01772 536289 or cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk.

The closing date for booking an appointment is 6th November at 5pm.

Who we will consult

This consultation document will be provided to people and organisations that may have an interest in these proposals. These include the following:

- Staff, parents/guardians/carers, governors and pupils of Ashton Community Science College (The views of the children and young people within the school will be sought through consultation with the pupils)
- Head teachers and chairs of governors of other local secondary schools
- Principals and chairs of governors of local sixth form colleges
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- Preston Local Children's Trust Partnerships
- Education Funding Agency
- Church authorities and faith groups with an interest in the area
- Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Members of Lancashire County Council for Preston
- Chief Executives and members of Preston City Council
- Local Member of Parliament
- Trade Unions and Associations
- Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies
- Ofsted: Her Majesty's Inspector for the area
- The wider community – through local libraries and County Hall. (This document is available on the Lancashire County Council website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews but we can also provide copies of the consultation document to members of the local community on request.)

Your Response

As stated earlier in this document, we welcome your views on this proposal and all observations and objections will be considered very carefully before any decision is made to progress any further with this proposal.

The consultation runs until 7th December 2012 and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document or writing separately:

Post to (no stamp required):

Provision Planning Team
Directorate for Children and Young People
FREEPOST PR503
Preston,
PR1 8RJ

Email to:

cyp.schoolreviews@lancashire.gov.uk

Fax to:

01772 533971

On-Line at:

(Use the link below to complete the questionnaire contained in this document on-line)

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=516193

This document can also be accessed through:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has issued new regulations with effect from 10th September 2012 relating to how notifications of forthcoming decisions are made and how decisions are subsequently recorded.

As a result of this, Lancashire County Council may be required to publish consultation responses as part of the background papers to future Cabinet Member decision reports. Please be aware that your response to this consultation may be made available as part of this process.

The consultation is stage 1 of the process required in order to permanently establish split site arrangement at the college. The information provided in this booklet and at the consultation sessions is intended to be sufficient in order for people to form a view on the proposal. The council will consider views and concerns arising from the consultation exercise to contribute to the detailed proposal supplied later in the consultation process.

This consultation is primarily concerned with the educational elements of the proposal. If the proposals require alterations to the premises that require planning consent, residents and members of the community will be consulted as part of the planning application process, scheduled for a later date, and their views will be reported back to the council.

We are sorry that due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period. It is important to attend the relevant consultation event if you require clarification or more information on the proposal. We will post any relevant frequently asked questions (FAQs) with answers on the council website at:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolorganisationreviews

Thank you

Parental representations about school provision

Lancashire County Council is committed to working with the people of Lancashire to plan and ensure the delivery of local services.

The council is responsible for ensuring the supply of sufficient and suitable school places and promoting high standards. The council aims to educate pupils in accordance with their parents' wishes, subject to providing an appropriate education and avoiding unreasonable expenditure.

The county council has a duty to seek and consider the views of parents and guardians about the pattern of school provision. If you would like to give your views about future school provision in Lancashire, you can get information on how to do this from the Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People, PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston PR1 8RJ.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Who should complete this questionnaire?

- Staff, governors, current or prospective parents/guardians of pupils at Ashton Community Science College
- Any other interested member of the community

NB: Please complete just one form per person

I support the proposal to permanently establish the split site operation of Ashton Community Science College at the Ashton Campus and the Ribbleton Campus.

I strongly agree ☐ I neither agree nor disagree ☐ I disagree ☐

I agree ☐ I strongly disagree ☐

You may wish to give reasons overleaf

Please state your interest in the review below (as appropriate):

Please state the area where you live:

.....

Please state which school(s) you have an interest in:

As:

A parent/guardian of a pupil currently at school

A parent/guardian of a future pupil of school

A member of staff at school

A school governor at school

Other

An interested member of the local community (tick if appropriate) ☐

Signed..... Date.....

Comments and views can also be expressed overleaf or by separate letter.

You can complete and submit your questionnaire online by following the link provided on page 12.

Alternatively send written responses (no stamp required) to:

Provision Planning Team, Directorate for Children and Young People,
FREEPOST PR503, Preston PR1 8RJ

To arrive no later than 7th December 2012

Additional Comments to be Considered for the Consultation

Important Information

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As a result of this, Lancashire County Council may be required to publish consultation responses as part of the background papers to future Cabinet Member decision reports. Please be aware that your response to this consultation may be made available as part of this process.