

Hameldon Community College**Key Factors for Consideration**

This appendix sets out the key factors which have been taken into consideration in relation to this proposal.

Educational Standards

The educational standards achieved by pupils at Hameldon Community College have been variable over the past 5 years with standards being above the Government's floor standard of 40% of pupils gaining 5 or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics in two of these years, namely in 2012 and 2014. In 2015, 36% of pupils gained 5 or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics. In summer 2016, this situation deteriorated further, with only 21% of pupils gaining 5 or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics. In addition, the school is well below the new 2016 'Progress 8' floor standard of -0.5, with a 2016 score of -0.85, placing the school in the bottom 3% nationally.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a high proportion of pupils at the school are from disadvantaged backgrounds, their progress is not above the Government's floor standard and does not currently compare well against other Lancashire schools with pupils of similar ability.

Inspection Outcome

The most recent inspection of Hameldon Community College was in July 2015. Overall, the school was judged to require improvement but both leadership and management and pupils' personal development were judged to be good. The inspection history of the school since 2007 has been poor, being placed in a category of concern three times and it has never been judged to be good overall. The school has not found it possible to sustain the improvements made with additional support from the local authority.

The section 8 monitoring guidance for schools that require improvement indicates that the school should be re-inspected by the end of the summer term 2017. The most recent standards achieved by the school in the summer 2016 place the school firmly in the scope of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and meets the trigger for the school's inspection to be brought forward.

Recent staffing cuts made in an attempt to curb the increase in the school's significant budget deficit mean that the school does not, in our opinion, have the capacity to make the required improvements. The school continues to struggle to recruit and retain good teachers, particularly in shortage subjects such as mathematics, and is currently reliant on a disproportionate number of supply teachers to fill staffing gaps (over half of the teaching staff are employed on a daily supply basis), with an associated negative impact upon the curriculum they are able to offer, quality of teaching, pupil behaviour and, inevitably, upon educational outcomes.

Following the retirement of the Headteacher in August 2016, it is highly unlikely that the school would be able to recruit a sufficiently capable and experienced replacement. Initially, the local authority brokered an Acting Headteacher for the autumn term and have now secured leadership from two recently retired Headteachers sharing the role and paid on a daily consultancy basis until the end of the academic year. We have also had to second support from a senior leader from Thomas Whitham Sixth Form to cover the long-term absence arising from the serious illness of the Acting Deputy Head, who is the only other substantive member of the school's senior leadership team. These colleagues have successfully managed to stabilise behaviour and engage teaching staff, but they have concerns over the quality of teaching from temporary staff and do not expect to see any improvement in the school's poor educational outcomes this summer.

It is the view of the local authority that if the school were to be re-inspected, it would be judged to require special measures.

The Department for Education's (DfE) guidance document, Schools causing concern: Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools (March 2016) states that a school that has been judged by Ofsted to be providing an inadequate education by will be issued with an academy order. If Hameldon Community College were to be inadequate at the next inspection, due by July 2017, it is unlikely that a sponsor would be found for the school because of the current financial status and longer term viability of the school. Following an academy order being issued, the RSC has the power to revoke the order. This power will only be used in very exceptional cases, for example, should the maintained school not be viable and therefore it is deemed to be most appropriate that the school should close.

With regard to the education standards across the other state-funded secondary schools in Burnley, as judged by Ofsted, four are deemed to be 'Good' and one is deemed to be 'Requires Improvement'. This is Shuttleworth College which is currently on track to be judged 'Good'. The University Technical College in Burnley is also judged to be 'Requires Improvement' but the DfE are closing the school at the end of August 2018.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Hameldon Community College has had falling numbers for some years; a 14% decline in number on roll and a 34% decrease on intake into year 7 in the last 5 years. As at May 2017, the pupil numbers at the school stood at 275.

As a consequence of the reductions in pupil numbers, the financial resources available to the school have dropped significantly in recent years. At the end of March 2015, the school had a cumulative deficit of over £1,900,000. Schools are required to set a balanced budget and this would only be achievable in this case through further significant staffing reductions and further reshaping of the curriculum offer. However, following staffing cuts made in the last financial year, we do not believe that it is possible for the school to make further cuts whilst continuing to deliver the statutory curriculum offer.

The small size of the school and the extent of the financial challenge add considerably to the difficulty in making the necessary rapid improvements in education outcomes required to meet the Government's targets.

However, the overall decline in numbers across the Burnley district has started to reverse and there have been increases in the total number on roll (NOR) across all but two schools in the area over more recent years. In addition, the 2014 opening of Burnley High School created 90 additional Year 7 places in Burnley, when intake numbers were just starting to recover from their previous levels.

Hameldon Community College is currently 60% empty and the number of pupils expressing a first preference has been falling, from a high of 91 pupils in 2013.

Whilst the number of pupils expressing a first preference for September 2017 admission to the school was just 35, the current situation shows that the school has made actual offers to 66 pupils. If this proposal to consult upon the closure of Hameldon Community College is approved, all parents who have expressed a preference for a place for their child at the school from September 2017 would be asked to put forward a further preference for another school, with the authority providing support for pupils and parents in making the transition to another school.

Although it is anticipated that a number of these pupils may appeal for alternative schools, the only places actually available within Burnley, without over-admission, are at Shuttleworth College, which currently has 90 spare places for September 2017. In total, the number of Year 7 places across all the Burnley schools, excluding Hameldon Community College, is lower than the number of offers made for September. Therefore, additional places would need to be made available for these additional pupils.

Actual offers for the 2017 intake currently stand at 1,033 pupils overall for Burnley. This exceeds the anticipated forecast intake. If this number are actually admitted to Burnley schools, this will increase the projected position going forward. Further information regarding the projected numbers for the Burnley schools is given in the table below and also in Appendix 'B'.

In summary, this information shows that, if the school were to close, additional spaces in some year groups within existing capacity would be required from immediate effect to accommodate existing pupils. However, the shortfall in 5 years, with the impact of planned housing and current levels of migration, without the capacity at the school is 600 places. This could rise further to approximately 620 places in the following two years. Additional physical capacity is required to accommodate these pupils, either in the existing school building, which is a Public Finance Initiative (PFI) building, or by the expansion of other schools. This capacity starts to be required from September 2018, when the total number on roll exceeds the net capacity of all other secondary schools in Burnley.

If additional places were to be provided on alternative sites, an initial assessment of current records show that only Shuttleworth College and Unity College have sufficient site area to support any physical expansion going forward in compliance with Section 77 (Regulations relating to the protection of school playing fields).

Table 1: Burnley Pupil Numbers

School	NOR 11-16 January 2017	Published Admission Number (Capacity)	Expected NOR 11-16 October 2017 with September offers	First Preferences for 2017
Hameldon Community College	296	150 (750)	344	35
Sir John Thursby Community College	1,064	210 (1,050)	1,084	177
Burnley High School	227	90 (450)	318 (Y7-Y9 only)	126
Unity College	1,053	240 (1,200)	1,118	266
Blessed Trinity RC College	1,272	250 (1,000)	1,286	347
Shuttleworth College	673	210 (1,050)	648	87
Total	4585	1150 (5500)	4798	1038

Financial Viability

The school has been running a large deficit for a number of years and a significant amount of time and professional resources have been allocated to this by the local authority. The table below sets out both the cumulative and annual deficit position. It is the conclusion of the School Finance function that this deficit is not recoverable and that the school is no longer financially viable.

Table 2: Financial Position of Hameldon Community College

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
NOR	305	321	269	281
Annual Deficit Position	-£0.53M	£0.02M	-£0.28M	-£0.33M
Cumulative Outturn Balances	-£1.95M	-£1.93M	-£2.21M*	-£2.54M**

*estimate, **forecast

In addition to the table above, based on information supplied by the school, the School Finance function has forecast further annual deficit positions of -£0.56M for 2018/19 and -£0.74M for 2019/2020 and cumulative deficit positions of -£3.1M for 2018/19 and -£3.84M for 2019/2020.

As Hameldon Community College was opened as a part of the Building Schools for the Future Initiative, a contract exists with the PFI partner which would leave the authority with an ongoing financial commitment in the order of £1.7 million per annum towards the total annual cost over the next 19 years if the school were to be closed. This would total £40 million.

Bearing in mind the need for future secondary places, were the school to close, it would be necessary to identify a continued use for the site, including educational use which is of high quality, such as allowing another local school to take ownership of and expand onto the site.