



FUTURE SCHOOLING IN KNOWSLEY 2006-2008: TOWARDS 21ST CENTURY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JULY 2006

At the turn of the new century Knowsley set out on a journey to create a world class education system with 21st Century Learning Environments at the heart of local communities. This journey has been characterised by a determination and a sense of ambition by all key stakeholders and has been marked by the key reports of the *Schools' Commission (2002)*, the *Statement of Intent (2003)* and the *Statement of Implementation (2004)*.

Throughout this period, Knowsley has met the challenging task of maintaining improvements in performance alongside facing the challenges of transformation and reform in the context of Every Child Matters and Building Schools for the Future. This is testimony to the quality of partnership working in the borough.

Knowsley's Building Schools for the Future plans are central to this transformation and were singled out for praise in the recent Schools White Paper: *Higher Standards: Better Schools for All (October 2005)* as a model of best practice in linking transformation to investment.



Knowsley is acutely aware that our Primary and Special Schools are in need of investment and we have lobbied Government on this matter. The signs are encouraging. We have already secured funding for a new build for Holy Angels RC Primary school which is expected to open in September 2007. We have also been awarded £6million by Government for new Primary and Special provision on the site of the Kirkby Campus in Northwood and we are in the process of securing up to £17m to invest in facilities for those with special educational needs as part of Building Schools for the Future. We also hope to agree investment in a new Primary facility in the North Huyton area in the very near future.





Government has recently announced its intention to invest £7billion in primary schools across England in the next 15 years. We want to make sure Knowsley is well placed to benefit from this investment. Whilst this investment is not expected to be on the scale of Building Schools for the Future we do expect it to have a significant impact on primary schools across the borough.

It is clear that the Government is keen to ensure that this investment supports transformation, placing schools at heart of communities delivering a broad range of services for children and families.

We are now entering a transition period in our journey to create a world class education system in Knowsley. Building Schools for the Future provided a vehicle for transformation in the secondary sector. It is hoped that the onset of the Primary Capital Programme will act as a catalyst for transformation in our primary phase as it ushers in a period of sustained investment.

Some difficult decisions have been made over the last 4 years, particularly around the closure of schools, and we will continue to have to make difficult decisions as a result of continued falling pupil numbers. On this, we have and will work in close partnership with our colleagues in the Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool.

Knowsley has surprised many with its ambition and willingness to face head on the challenges of the

21st century. The challenge is to hold our nerve as we remain true to the scale of our ambition. In *Future Schooling in Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments* we again look to anticipate change, particularly around areas such as governance and leadership of our schools.



The road ahead will continue to be challenging as we begin to manage the change which is required to achieve 21st Century Learning Environments. Experience thus far has confirmed that we remain on the right track and we are now recognised as a trail blazer for national reform at the local level.

In the coming years Knowsley will deliver brand new schools for the 21st Century: Schools for communities, at the heart of communities to give all the opportunity to achieve and have life chances equal to those across the country.

SCHOOL RE-ORGANISATION 2004-2006

Since the *Statement of Implementation* in 2004 Knowsley has taken to the School Organisation Committee (SOC) a number of proposals for school re-organisation. The following sets out the outcomes of these proposals:

Proposal	Outcome
Closure of Beechwood Community Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 28 November 2005. School to close with effect from 31 August 2006. Longview Community Primary School is designated to receive pupils from Beechwood School.
Closure of Mackets Community Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 7 December 2005. School to close with effect from 31 August 2006. Halewood Holy Family Catholic Primary School is designated to receive pupils from Mackets School.
Amalgamation of New Hutte Community Primary School and Roseheath Community Primary School and the establishment of Greengates Community Primary School on the site of Roseheath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 28 November 2005. Schools to close with effect from 31 August 2006 and Greengates Community Primary to be established with effect from 1 September 2006. Greengates Primary is designated to receive pupils from both New Hutte and Roseheath Schools.
Closure of St Thomas Becket Catholic School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 29 June 2005. School to close with effect from 31 August 2006. Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 to continue their education on the St Thomas Becket site until the end of Year 11. Pupils in Year 8 will continue on the St Thomas Becket site until the end of Year 9 and will then transfer in 2007 to St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School.
Closure of Southmead Community Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Notice proposing closure published on 24 April 2006. The 6-week representation period ended on 11 June 2006. Cabinet will be asked to ratify this proposal on the 12 July 2006 and designate St Leo's Catholic Primary School to receive Southmead pupils.
<p>Closure of the following existing secondary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higherside School Halewood College Prescot School St Edmund Arrowsmith RC School Bowring Community Sports College Knowsley Hey School All Saints RC School Ruffwood School Brookfield School <p>To establish 7 new learning centres under Building Schools for the Future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 27 March 2006 subject to the condition that funding is secured through the Building Schools for the Future programme to implement the proposals. Schools to close with effect from the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higherside School: 31 August 2008 Prescot School: 31 August 2008 Bowring Community Sports College: 31 August 2008 Knowsley Key School: 31 August 2008 Ruffwood School: 31 August 2008 Brookfield School 31 August 2009 Halewood College: 31 August 2009 St Edmund Arrowsmith RC School: 31 August 2009 All Saints RC School: 31 August 2009 New learning centres will be established prior to closure of existing secondary schools. Pupils will then transfer into the new learning centres upon closure.
Closure of St Edmund of Canterbury Catholic High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved on 27 March 2006 subject to the conditions that funding is secured and that the Secretary for State of Education and Skills approves the establishment of the North Huyton Joint Catholic /Anglican Academy to replace St Edmund of Canterbury Catholic High School.

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS: PROPOSITIONS FOR REFORM

In 2004, the Council set out a number of propositions for reform and reorganisation of our schools. We have now updated these propositions to reflect our continued journey of transformation and to achieve our vision of 21st Century learning environments. In *Future Schooling for Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments* we have set out the following updated propositions for reform:

Proposal	What does this mean?
School places, school performance and school viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and viable schools which are high performing in all communities. In reorganising schools decisions will be based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of surplus places Condition of the building Performance
Learning Environments for the 21st Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the art Learning Environments which are fit for purpose to deliver a modern curriculum and extended services for schools. These environments will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable with low environmental impact Flexible for a range of uses Accessible for all Safe and secure We believe that the role of the community in the design and operation of our new learning centres is crucial.
Choice and Diversity in the School System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility and diversity for parents and pupils and a real choice for the type of schools they attend. We will maintain community and denominational schools and look to explore new joining arrangements between schools where there is demand from the community or parents. We will also promote equity and accessibility with regard to admissions to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to attend their local school.
Pupil Choice: Transforming the Curriculum to Meet Learning Preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A curriculum experience which offers opportunities for students to develop personal, learning and thinking skills in order for all children and young people to become successful and confident learners.
Retention of Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An education system which meets the needs of all learners which people can be proud of and which attracts learners. We will do this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a programme of modernisation of school buildings and investing in inclusive environments Developing pupil preference at 14 Supporting primary - secondary transition Promoting partnership, collaboration and federation between schools
Concept Knowsley: Schools and Extended Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools offering neighbourhood and extended services for children, families and the community including: childcare, recreational activities, health and social care; and adult education
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools are inclusive and investment should promote presence, participation and achievement of all. All schools should cater for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and support services should be integrated. Specialist facilities will provide outreach support for neighbouring schools offering professional development for staff along with services for pupils with SEN and support for their families. Dedicated special provision will provide for more complex needs.
Governance for 21st Century Learning Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance structures for 21st Century Learning Environments which co-lead the system not just with the local authority but also with wider partners. In doing this we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a scale of governance consistent with the size and geography of Knowsley and its communities Establish a new form of governance for our Learning Centres Continue to develop and formalise collaboration and federations Review the role of the local authority
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will transform our leadership and management arrangements to respond to the challenges of 21st Century Learning Environments by exploring new leadership and management models and developing new structures, roles and responsibilities.

SCHOOL REORGANISATION 2006-2008



Future Schooling in Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments brings forward a number of proposals for further school re-organisation for 2006-2008. Proposals have been developed on the basis of pupil places, condition of buildings and performance and support our propositions for reform set out above. Proposals are summarised below:

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Kirkby

- **Cherryfield School and Park Brow Schools**

Option 1: The two schools are amalgamated as a 2 form entry community primary school on the Cherryfield site subject to a detailed analysis of the site.

If this is the preferred option we will bring forward proposals to SOC in 2006-2007 academic year with implementation in 2008.

Option 2: The two schools agree to hard federate on condition that formal amalgamation will take place at the time of investment in a new build 2 form entry school on the Cherryfield site.

If option 2 is preferred federation will be enacted by August 2007.

North Huyton

- **St Brigid's and St Albert's Catholic Primary**

The schools are amalgamated as a 1.5 form entry Catholic Primary School on the site of the existing St Albert's school subject to an appraisal of the site's suitability. We will bring forward proposals to SOC in the 2006-2007 academic year with amalgamation effective from August 2008.

- **Brookside and Nine Tree Community Primary Schools**

The schools are amalgamated as a 1.5 form of entry community primary school. Subject to the outcome of the proposal to amalgamate St Brigid's and St Albert's schools on the St Albert's site. The amalgamated community primary school is located on the existing St Brigid's site. We will bring forward proposals to SOC in the 2006-2007 academic year with amalgamation effective from August 2008.

- **St Dominic's Infants and Juniors Schools**

The establishment of a new two form entry Joint Catholic and Anglican Primary School on the site of the North Huyton joint Catholic and Anglican Learning Centre as part of the learning and community campus, subject to consistency with the Building Schools for the Future programme, the terms and conditions of funding and the wider New Deal for Communities Programme. We will bring forward proposals to SOC in the 2006-2007 academic year subject to secure funding. New build is hoped to take place in 2008/2009.

South Huyton

- **St Agnes' Catholic Primary**

The closure of St Agnes' School and re-designation of pupils to St Anne's Catholic Primary. Consideration is given to parents who would prefer to have their children educated in their local community and nearby schools are consulted on this. We will bring forward proposals to SOC in the 2006/2007 academic year with closure effective from August 2007.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In the *Statement of Implementation (2004)* Knowsley set out its plans to replace all 11 existing secondary schools with 8 new learning centres. These are being carried forward through Building Schools for the Future. We have continued to analyse pupil population trends in respect of secondary age pupils. In light of this and policy changes from Government we have assessed our proposals and make a number of recommendations. These are set out below:



Kirkby

The Business Case for Building Schools for the Future anticipated 15 forms of entry for the secondary phase in Kirkby in 2010. Our 2012 predictions maintain overall demand at the same level. However, there has been a lack of growth and distribution of pupil numbers reflects the underlying fall in birth rates over the last 10 years. It is recommended that a further review of the viability of the current proposals under Building Schools for the Future is undertaken in the context of a wider review of the area's needs before the final stages of Building Schools of the Future procurement are completed to ensure that issues of affordability are fully addressed in the context of pupil number trends.

Central Knowsley

The predictions for pupil populations are consistent with the case made as part of the Building Schools of the Future programme. No further revision is considered necessary to the existing Building Schools for the Future proposals in respect of the number or designation.

In 2005 Knowsley agreed to undertake a feasibility study to establish whether an Academy in the North Huyton part of the Borough should be established. The agreed sponsors would be the Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese and the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool.

An expression of Interest was submitted to Government in March 2005, signed by the Catholic Archdiocese, Anglican Diocese, Knowsley Council and the Governors of St Edmund of Canterbury school, with approval to move to feasibility approved by Ministers in July 2005.

The Knowsley Academy was anticipated to be the first Academy procured as part of the Building School for the Future process. The feasibility study revealed a number of issues and difficulties with the proposed Academy and Knowsley will no longer be taking this forward.

It is recommended that proposals are submitted to the School Organisation Committee establishing a Joint Catholic and Anglican Learning Centre in North Huyton consistent with the initial proposals in the Building Schools for the Future Strategic and Outline Business Cases. It is also recommended that this is undertaken in time to support the appointment of preferred Bidder under the Building Schools for the Future Programme.



Halewood

The most recent pupil predictions have suggested a reduction in anticipated intake from 8 forms of entry to 7 or 6, as this reflects the decline in Knowsley primary school admissions. However, currently Halewood College draws pupils from Liverpool, any effect this may have on admissions for the new learning centre should be investigated before any decisions are made regarding forms of entry. At this stage no revisions are necessary to the Building Schools for the Future proposals.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Knowsley aims to promote the presence, participation and achievement of all pupils by identifying and removing barriers for learners especially those who may be at risk of exclusion, marginalisation or underachievement.

In reorganising the school system we maintain inclusion as a principle that will direct investment and change to promote the presence, participation and achievement of all children. We will commission and develop appropriate and targeted services to meet the needs of all children, young people and their families.

Knowsley will look to transform the organisation and delivery of services for children with special educational needs. It is recommended, subject to consultation, the following proposals are implemented for reorganisation of services for special education needs:

Northern Primary Support Centre

The Northern Primary Support centre is to incorporate its services in the amalgamated Simonswood and Overdale school to the North Kirkby Learning Centre as part of the North Kirkby campus. Funding has been secured through Government to establish this.

Central Primary Support Centre

The Central Primary Support Centre is to be re-designated offering personalised learning, transition support and integrated outreach support to schools in central Huyton. At present it will remain on its current site. However, we will continue to explore possible alternative locations should funding become available.

Southern Primary Support Centre

The services of the Southern Primary Support Centre are to be integrated on the site of the new Greengates School and the amalgamated New Hutte and Roseheath schools, to offer personalised learning, transition support and outreach support to schools in the South. This is linked to the availability of funding.

Alt Bridge Secondary Support Centre

All Learning Centres developed under Building Schools for the Future will provide for secondary age pupils with moderate learning and behavioural difficulties on site. The services currently offered at Alt Bridge will be deployed to support the mainstream Learning Centres.

Highfield School

The school will continue to offer specialist support for secondary pupils with significant emotional, social and behavioural difficulties. It will also develop further integrated service provision and will further enhance its transition role.

Newstead Pupil Referral Unit

The unit will continue to provide for excluded pupils from year 9 onwards, developing further its transition work and offer 14-19 vocational opportunities for pupils.

The Elms and Springfield Schools

The two schools are to begin to develop closer working through federative arrangements from 2006 with a view to future amalgamation in order to develop integrated provision for those children and young people with complex physical and learning needs when a dedicated resource centre will be built.



CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Government intends that all communities will have a Children's Centre by 2010. Children's Centres offer a range of services for children and families including childcare; health and social care; information; and links with Job Centre Plus.

Knowsley has already identified 13 Children's Centres. The first centres will open in September 2006 at:

- Mackets Primary School
- Mosscroft Primary School
- Ravenscroft Primary School
- Whiston Willis Primary School
- St Mary and St Paul's CE Primary School
- Overdale Primary School
- Longview Primary School (formally at Beechwood Educare)

The Council will look to establish additional Children's Centres in the Central Area. Potential sites will be assessed for their suitability against a number of criteria. Proposals will be announced shortly.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS HEARD...

The Council is keen to know your thoughts on our principles for transformation and proposals for primary and secondary reorganisation. You can do this in a number of ways:

- By discussing the report with your local elected Councillor
- By contacting a Head Teacher of your local school, particularly if you are a parent. Your school may well be organising a special meeting of parents to discuss the proposal
- By putting your views in writing to:

Directorate of Children's Services
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, Knowsley L36 5YH

Any feedback we receive will be welcome. You will be given an opportunity to submit formally your views for specific proposals through formal consultation period through the School Organisation Committee process. Details of this will be issued when we publish formal notifications of closures and amalgamations later in the year.

If you would like to respond to our proposals for Special Schools in addition to the above we will also be holding a series of consultation meetings specifically for Special Schools in the new academic year. Schools will be notified in due course.

A full copy of Future Schooling in Knowsley: Towards 21st Century Learning Environments is available from the Directorate of Children's Services from reception or by post, by ringing 0151 443 3232

You can also get this information in other formats.
Please phone Customer Services on 0151 443 4031,
or email customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk