APPENDIX 2

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE (CLOSE) LONGTON HIGH SCHOOL AND ARTS COLLEGE

Notice is given that Stoke-on-Trent City Council as the local authority (“the Authority”) in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 intends to discontinue Longton Community High School and Arts College (“Longton High School”), Box Lane, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 5PR on 31 August 2010.

Implementation

No new pupils will be admitted to Longton High School after 31 August 2009. The proposals will be wholly implemented on 1st September 2010.

Consultations

The Authority has complied with all statutory consultation requirements relating to this proposal. A booklet, “Transforming schools for a brighter future”, was distributed to all parents in Stoke-on-Trent and other interested parties in November 2007. The booklet contained proposals for the future of all secondary schools in the City, including a proposal that Longton High School should close. The booklet was available in all Council offices and in public libraries. It can be found on-line at www.stoke.gov.uk.

Meetings for staff and the parents at Longton High School were held on 20 November 2007. The governing body also met to consider the proposals on 20 November 2007. Notes of all these meetings are attached at Appendices A, B and C. Two individual representations with respect to the future of the school were received, one from the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. There was an acceptance that the school would close.

The views of pupils in Stoke-on-Trent schools were sought through their Schools Councils and through the Youth Parliament and Youth Congress meetings.

Other organisations which were invited to comment on the proposals included all other schools in the City, Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College and the College of Further Education, the Church of England and Catholic Diocesan Authorities, Staffordshire and Cheshire Local Authorities, and Keele University. No comments on the proposal concerning Longton High School were received from any of these organisations.

The outcome of the consultations was reported to the Council Executive on 26 February 2008. The Executive approved the recommendation to propose the closure of Longton High School.
Objectives

The objectives of the proposal are (i) to close Longton High School and to make alternative arrangements for the education of the pupils on roll at the school when it closes, and (ii) to improve educational standards in the area by ensuring that the Authority’s resources are used as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

Standards and Diversity

The attainments of pupils at Longton High School have consistently been lower than those of children across the City of Stoke-on-Trent as the following table demonstrates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stage results</th>
<th>Key Stage 3 Average points score</th>
<th>Key Stage 4 5+ A*-C inc Eng and Maths</th>
<th>CVA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School 2005</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>939.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City 2005</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England 2005</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School 2006</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>974.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City 2006</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England 2006</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>998.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School 2007</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>970.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City 2007</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England 2007</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the CVA (contextual value added score) is obtained by predicting what pupils should achieve when they arrive at the school at age 11. If they do better than predicted the school will score more than 1000; if they do worse the school will score below 1000.

Longton High School’s results have remained below the average for the City and well below the national average over the past three years. In the very near future as its pupil roll and budget decrease, the school will be increasingly unable to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for its pupils and it is very likely that the quality and standards of education will suffer as a consequence.

Provision for pupils who live in the area can be made at Sandon High School Business and Enterprise College, which will expand to become a 6 FE (form of entry, 180 pupils per year group) school, and at Edensor High School Technology College which admits 7 FE (210 pupils per year group). Both schools will be able to provide a high quality of education in terms of curriculum breadth and support. The most recent inspection report on Sandon High School (November 2005) said that it was a satisfactory school with some good and many outstanding features. It provided good value for money, had a strong work ethos and worked very effectively within its
community. The most recent report on Edensor High School (October 2006) said that the school provided a satisfactory quality of education. Standards and achievement were satisfactory and specialist school status was making an adequate impact on raising standards.

Other options for children who live in the area are provided by St Thomas More College (a Catholic comprehensive school which admits non-Catholic pupils), St Joseph’s College (a Catholic grammar school which admits non-Catholic pupils from across the City), and St Peter’s CE High School (a Church of England school which admits pupils from across the City).

Need for Places

The Authority expects the secondary school population across the City to decline from 14,777 in 2003 to just under 12,000 by 2014. The Authority’s view is that over that period four secondary schools will need to close. The south east area of the city is currently served by four high schools (Longton High School, Sandon High School, Edensor High School and St Thomas More Catholic College) although a number of children transfer at the age of 11 to secondary schools in Staffordshire.

The number of places needed in community schools in the south east of the City is expected to decline from 2219 in 2008 to 2061 in 2010 and 1940 in 2012. This number of places can be provided in Sandon and Edensor High Schools.

Current School Information

Longton High School has a capacity for 900 pupils. The total school roll over the past 6 years has fallen as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOR</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 448 surplus places at Longton High School in January 2008.

The number on roll (NOR) in January 2008 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOR</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>452*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes 2 in Year 12

9.5% of the pupils have special educational needs with Statements or at School Action Plus.

It is expected that fewer than 50 pupils will be admitted into Year 7 in September 2008 and that the total roll will therefore fall to around 350. On current trends it would fall further in future years.
Displaced Pupils

Pupils who on roll at Longton High School on 31 August 2010 will transfer to the roll of Sandon High School unless their parents have expressed a preference for another school where the Authority is able to allocate a place. Arrangements will be made for pupils who transfer to the roll of Sandon High School to complete their education at the site of Longton High School.

The admission number for Sandon High School will be increased from 150 to 180 with effect from 1st September 2009. There will be no other increases in the admission numbers of any other school as a consequence of this proposal. Appendix 3 contains further details of the proposal to expand Sandon High School.

Longton High School’s catchment area will be re-zoned between Sandon High School Business & Enterprise College and Edensor High School & Technology College. The arrangements for admission to secondary schools in Stoke-on-Trent in 2009 will be described in the Secondary Schools information booklet for 2009-10.

Impact upon the Community

The Authority has divided Stoke-on-Trent into four areas for the purpose of promoting local collaboration between primary, secondary and special schools, colleges, Children’s Centres and other partners. Through these clusters arrangements are made for extended services to be provided and for local priorities to be identified and addressed. Longton High School and Sandon High School are part of the same cluster. The Authority will ensure that there will be continuity in the services provided to the community through extended schools and through the cluster arrangements.

Travel

The distances from Longton High School to Sandon High School and Edensor High School are 0.86 and 1.95 miles respectively. Pupils living in the area of Longton High School already travel to Sandon High School and Edensor High School, many on foot. It is anticipated that any increase in car use will be slight. Applications for free travel to school will be considered in accordance with the Authority’s school transport policy published in the information booklet.

Related Proposals

This proposal is related to a proposal to expand Sandon High School Business and Enterprise College. The Authority will in due course publish proposals to close Edensor High School and, with the agreement of the Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families, proposes to open an Academy to replace that school on the Park Hall site.

Ged Rowney, Director of Children and Young People’s Services, Civic Centre, Glebe Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 1HH.

10 June 2008