

THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS RE THE OPTIONS OF A ONE/TWO CAMPUS MODEL FOR THE POTENTIAL ACADEMY FOR BARROW

Points to emerge for consideration by Mouchel / The Lead Sponsors

General threads running through all/most meetings

- There was a general desire expressed for more information on a range of detailed issues regarding how the Academy will operate and how individual students, families and staff are likely to be affected.
- Linked to this were pleas for meaningful engagement with Mouchel / the sponsors to begin to occur as soon as possible

Meetings for Primary and Secondary School Students

- Requests were made for both primary and secondary phase student involvement in:-
 - o the design of accommodation
 - o the new uniform
 - o the name for the Academy
- The importance of addressing the issue of bullying and having a robust anti-bullying policy was stressed.
- There was a suggestion that the Academy should consider the purchase of a bus/minibus to transport students between the sites where such movement was necessary (assuming the adoption of the two campus option).
- There were concerns that a reduction in the number of schools would lead to less competitive sport and a feeling that steps should be taken to ameliorate the effect of reorganisation in this respect.

Meetings of School Staff

- Information requested on staffing structure, appointments processes and timescales, management of two sites, allocation to sites / they want choice. There was a wish to be included in developing the education brief.
- In a two campus model, how to avoid elitism between sites, need for each to be an equal part of the same school.
- Details of assimilation of Alfred Barrow staff – getting message across that all staff and students will be treated equally and not just ‘absorbed’.
- A wish that Teachers Associations and other Trade Unions be recognised.
- Want better communications. Suggestion for one point of contact in each school with the same message going to each school at the same time and before the press get it.

Meetings of Governors

- Main concern is for clear information as soon as possible on the integration policies for students and staff, with equity for all. Parents / students need reassurance through known faces / points of contact on each site.
- Timetable requested on what will happen when and by whom re further consultations on the plans for the Academy.
- Clarification on Academy revenue funding was sought (split site allowance?).
- Consideration must be given to the effects on other schools of the admissions policy for the Academy, including catchment areas and oversubscription criteria, with a request for consultation/involvement with other schools in Barrow during its development.
- The involvement of locals when planning access to the sites to be used and identifying where the Academy's new buildings are situated on these sites.

Parents/public meetings

Many of the issues raised and covered below were also raised at the school meetings and were not exclusive to them. A lot of those covered above were also asked/raised again at the public meetings.

- There was a fairly strong voice in favour of delaying the process for a year until all the questions are answered and issues resolved. Alternatively, early reassurance is necessary that an effective Academy opening in 2009 can be delivered successfully in the time available.
- There was a request for information on other Academy developments Mouchel have been involved in.
- Parents wanted to know asap which site their children would be attending next year, what criteria would be used to decide that and what the appeals process would involve.
- There was a wish to know what the admissions policy, including catchment areas and oversubscription criteria, was going to be. There was concern that it would exclude the very students Academies were designed to help ie those that were socially disadvantaged. There were also fears that it would work against those from geographically isolated parts of the catchment area for whom travel to an alternative school would involve a much longer journey than to the Academy.
- How the two sites would be organised (for just the first three years or on a permanent basis) and whether there are going to be any curriculum differences?
- Reassurance was sought that the amount of student inter site movement was to be minimal.
- Confirmation and reassurance to parents that there will be a minimal level of disruption to education and, in particular, to those in their examination years.
- Early information was requested on the composition of Board of Governors for the Academy and how parents and other local people could be involved and raise issues.