

## BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Children's and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel

**DATE:** 16 April 2009

**RE: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE**

### Purpose

As resolved at the last scrutiny meeting on the 5 March 2009:

"The Panel will receive a further update on BSF on 16 April 2009 to include the provision of a breakdown of each criteria and how the scores were determined and a full written report on the process along with supporting spreadsheets to be provided with the agenda papers to enable full consideration of the item"

### Schools Selection Process

The process for allocation of schools to a particular wave has proven to be a complex process with selection based on a pre determined set of criteria in order to minimise any subjectivity from the decision making process. The programme team has analysed numerous school combinations before making a final recommendation to cabinet. Officers were authorised to inform head teachers of the wave by wave allocation during January and a communication was issued to heads on 16 January 2009.

A presentation to all head teachers covering the rationale for selection was undertaken on the 28 January 2009 and a further follow up presentation was undertaken on the 23 March. Generally the explanations and the rationale are now understood by head teachers.

Attached is a schools selection matrix together with the details of how the scoring has been assessed. This matrix ranks the schools in order of investment need and uses a scoring system against the following criteria (not listed in any particular order or priority):

- Condition of Building Fabric and building services
- Schools suitability
- Education standards in each school - Making National Challenge schools a priority
- Links to other facilities and organisations
- Links to Regeneration opportunities
- Sufficiency Needs
- Deprivation
- Wider regeneration opportunities.

When undertaking the assessment, the Council has separately applied an overarching affordability test to ensure that within each wave, the selection falls within the 50:35:15 funding cap. In selecting the first five schools in Wave 6a Walsall Council has kept within this cap, thereby providing a best value solution for Council tax payers of Walsall.

Scrutiny has requested further details behind the scoring matrix and this is also attached to this paper.

Walsall currently has eight National Challenge schools with the three highest priority National Challenge schools in wave 6a – details below:

Wave 6a

SCHOOL	WAVE	NEW BUILD	MAJOR REFURB	MINOR REFURB	PROPOSED CONTRACT	NATIONAL CHALLENGE SCHOOL
Pool Hayes	6	100%	0%	0%	PFI – SAMPLE SCHOOL	YES
Joseph Leckie	6	65%	20%	15%	D & B – SAMPLE SCHOOL	YES
Alumwell	6	40%	50%	10%		YES
Shire Oak	6	25%	50%	25%		
Streetly	6	25%	45%	30%		

Since the date of the last scrutiny the Council now has agreement in principle to include a further new build National Challenge School into wave 6a. Funding for this has been approved in principle at 100% and will sit outside the 50:35:15 funding cap for wave 6a. The choice of school has not yet been made and is subject to further discussions with OSC and PFS and then a decision of cabinet.

Walsall has also submitted an Expression of Interest for Wave 7 outlining proposals for three further funding waves. Wave 7 includes a further 4 National Challenge Schools with the last National Challenge School – Blue Coat included in wave 8. Blue Coat school is a large new build PFI scheme and has been placed in Wave 8 as it is ranked last in the analysis of complete new build National challenge schools. Willenhall which is also a large new build PFI scheme school is included in wave 7. To place both Willenhall and Blue Coat schools in wave 7 would make the wave unaffordable. However as an additional school has now been included in wave 6a this will enable one of the wave 7 schools to be elevated to wave 6a which in turn will allow Blue coat to be included in wave 7.

Subsequent to the Expression of Interest for wave 7 the Council has successfully been ranked priority number 4 out of 85 Councils follow on Councils. The depth of Government funding for wave 7 will be announced by Government on the 22 April. Should this be favourable it will enable the Council to address all of its National Challenge schools in its first two BSF waves.

**Recommendation**

That scrutiny endorse the selection process undertaken by officers and recognise the funding constraints on the schools selection process.

**Author**

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BSF - SCHOOLS SELECTION MATRIX

SCHOOLS LISTED IN INVESTMENT PRIORITY (WITHOUT FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION)

OWNER	K KENDALL	K KENDALL	S LUPTON	J WILLIAMS	K KENDALL	P NICHOLSON	S LUPTON	D HARMAN							
CRITERION	CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC	CONDITION OF BUILDING SERVICES	SUITABILITY	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT NEEDS	LINKS TO OTHER FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS	LINKS TO REGENERATION	SUFFICIENCY NEEDS	DEPRIVATION	TOTAL SCORE	PROPOSED WAVE	NEW BUILD	MAJOR REFURB	MINOR REFURB	School Name	
RANGE	POOR (0 -20) ADEQUATE (21-40) GOOD (41-60)	POOR (0 -20) ADEQUATE (21-40) GOOD (41-60)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	HIGH (0 -30) MEDIUM (31-60) LOW (61-90)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	POOR (21-30) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (0-10)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	HIGH (0 -10) MEDIUM (11-20) LOW (21-30)				%	%	%	School Name
Joseph Leckie	5	5	5	24	18	9	5	3	74	6	65%	20%	15%	Joseph Leckie	
Pool Hayes	5	10	5	18	15	10	10	20	93	6	100%	0%	0%	Pool Hayes	
Frank F Harrison	15	10	10	9	25	15	10	2	96	7	100%	0%	0%	Frank F Harrison	
Alumwell	25	25	15	12	20	8	10	0	115	6	40%	50%	10%	Alumwell	
Willenhall	15	15	10	19	20	12	30	14	135	7	100%	0%	0%	Willenhall	
Blue Coat	30	30	10	26	12	12	10	6	136	8	100%	0%	0%	Blue Coat	
Brownhills	45	35	15	21	20	6	10	17	169	7	40%	40%	20%	Brownhills	
Sneyd	45	50	20	12	17	23	5	11	183	7	10%	70%	20%	Sneyd	
Barr Beacon	30	30	20	43	15	22	10	30	200	9	65%	25%	10%	Barr Beacon	
Aldridge	40	20	15	48	11	25	30	30	219	8	60%	40%	0%	Aldridge	
Shire Oak	45	40	20	40	18	7	30	26	226	6	25%	50%	25%	Shire Oak	
Streetly	35	50	25	44	19	23	10	30	236	6	25%	45%	30%	Streetly	
St Thomas More	60	60	28	28	20	21	30	9	256	9	0%	0%	0%	St Thomas More	
St Francis of Assisi	45	50	25	53	15	25	30	29	272	9	20%	40%	40%	St Francis of Assisi	
Queen Mary's Grammar	35	40	20	88	15	17	30	28	273	9	25%	50%	25%	Queen Mary's	
Queen Mary's High	45	40	15	88	15	23	30	26	282	9	25%	50%	25%	Queen Mary's High	

SCHOOLS LISTED IN WAVE ORDER (WITH FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION APPLIED)

CRITERION	CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC	CONDITION OF BUILDING SERVICES	SUITABILITY	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT NEEDS	LINKS TO OTHER FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS	LINKS TO REGENERATION	SUFFICIENCY NEEDS	DEPRIVATION	TOTAL ACTUAL SCORE	PROPOSED WAVE	NEW BUILD	MAJOR REFURB	MINOR REFURB	School Name
RANGE	POOR (0 -20) ADEQUATE (21-40) GOOD (41-60)	POOR (0 -20) ADEQUATE (21-40) GOOD (41-60)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	HIGH (0 -30) MEDIUM (31-60) LOW (61-90)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	POOR (21-30) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (0-10)	POOR (0 -10) ADEQUATE (11-20) GOOD (21-30)	HIGH (0 -10) MEDIUM (11-20) LOW (21-30)						School Name
Joseph Leckie	5	5	5	24	18	9	5	3	74	6	65%	20%	15%	Joseph Leckie
Pool Hayes	5	10	5	18	15	10	10	20	93	6	100%	0%	0%	Pool Hayes
Alumwell	25	25	15	12	20	8	10	0	115	6	40%	50%	10%	Alumwell
Shire Oak	45	40	20	40	18	7	30	26	226	6	25%	50%	25%	Shire Oak
Streetly	35	50	25	44	19	23	10	30	236	6	25%	45%	30%	Streetly
Frank F Harrison	15	10	10	9	25	15	10	2	96	7	100%	0%	0%	Frank F Harrison
Willenhall	15	15	10	19	20	12	30	14	135	7	100%	0%	0%	Willenhall
Brownhills	45	35	15	21	20	6	10	17	169	7	40%	40%	20%	Brownhills
Sneyd	45	50	20	12	17	23	5	11	183	7	10%	70%	20%	Sneyd
Blue Coat	30	30	10	26	12	12	10	6	136	8	100%	0%	0%	Blue Coat
Aldridge	40	20	15	48	11	25	30	30	219	8	60%	40%	0%	Aldridge
Barr Beacon	30	30	20	43	15	22	10	30	200	9	65%	25%	10%	Barr Beacon
St Thomas More	60	60	28	28	20	21	30	9	256	9	0%	0%	0%	St Thomas More
St Francis of Assisi	45	50	25	53	15	25	30	29	272	9	20%	40%	40%	St Francis of Assisi
Queen Mary's Grammar	35	40	20	88	15	17	30	28	273	9	25%	50%	25%	Queen Mary's
Queen Mary's High	45	40	15	88	15	23	30	26	282	9	25%	50%	25%	Queen Mary's High

Notes:

Schools with lowest score will have the greatest need of investment

NATIONAL CHALLENGE SCHOOLS

School Name	Suitability		Sufficiency Needs	
	Poor (0-10) Adequate (11-20) Good (21-30)	Comments	Poor (0-10) Adequate (11-20) Good (21-30)	Comments
Joseph Leckie Community Technology College	5	Layout of building on site poor (separated by brook). Numerous general classrooms significantly undersized. Numerous specialist teaching areas also undersized. Science Prep room inadequate. Shortfall of individual study rooms and music practice rooms	5	More places than required.
Pool Hayes Arts & Community	5	Classrooms small by current standards; shortfall 4 rooms. Numerous specialist teaching areas also undersized. Small Group rooms inadequate by current standards. Shortfall of 5 Music Practice rooms	10	More places needed.
Frank F Harrison Engineering College	10	Numerous classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards. Shortfall of 2 General Classrooms and a Technology Area.	10	More places needed.
Alumwell Business and Enterprise College	15	9 Classrooms, and numerous specialist areas small by current standard. Shortfall of 1 Music Room and 5 Music Practice Rooms. There is no School Hall but there is a Theatre.	10	More places needed (at time of assessment)
Willenhall School Sports College	10	Numerous classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards. Inadequate provision of Small Group Rooms, Science Prep area, Music Practice Rooms and Private Study space. There is no School Hall.	30	Places sufficient (at time of assessment)
Blue Coat CE Performing Arts Specialist College	10	Buildings separated by road. Poor circulation within buildings. Numerous classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards. Shortfall of 4 General Classrooms, 1 Music Room, 1 Drama space, 1 Business Studies Room, 5 small group rooms and 6 Music Practice Rooms.	10	Surplus places

## Appendix A

Brownhills Community Technology College	15	7 ICT equipped rooms with inappropriate lighting and ventilation issues; Staff Room (ventilation issue); Windows don't open in 1 room; leaks affect use in Sports Hall; Problematic floor in Drama Studio	10	Surplus places
Sneyd Community - A Specialist Maths and Computing College	20	A number of classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards.	5	Large number of surplus places, more places than needed
Barr Beacon Language College	20	Numerous classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards. Music shortfall 1 teaching room and 5 practice rooms by current standard.	10	More places needed (at time of assessment)
Aldridge School - A Science School	15	Library, ICT and ICT equipped spaces in Maths, Media and Music have inappropriate lighting; Physical access issues as only one block has a lift. Small group work carried out in unsuitable areas.	30	Sufficient places
Shire Oak - A Science College	20	Inadequate provision for small group rooms, 6th Form Common room, staff room and office space;	30	Sufficient places
Streetly, The - A Specialist Sports College	25	A small number of classrooms and specialist areas small by current standards. Inadequate provision of small group rooms.	10	More places needed (at time of assessment)
St Thomas More Catholic - Business and Enterprise College	28	No major issues	30	Sufficient places
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College	25	No major issues	30	Sufficient places
Queen Mary's Grammar	20	A number of rooms small by current standards. Shortfall 1 Art, 1 Music, 6 Music Practice & 2 small group rooms; no 6th Form Study.	30	Sufficient places

Appendix A

<p>Queen Mary's High</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>A number of general classrooms, 1 Science Lab, 3 ICT Rooms, 2 Art Rooms, all 6 Tech spaces and 3 of 4 Music rooms small by current standard. There is no Sports Hall and playing fields are at QMG. Shortfall of small group rooms; Sci and Tech Prep areas are inadequate.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Sufficient places</p>
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**BSF - WAVE 6A SCHOOLS SELECTION MATRIX**

**Appendix B**

CRITERION	TOTAL ACTUAL SCORE	
	DEPRIVATION HIGH (21 -30) MEDIUM (20-11) LOW (10-0)	
RANGE		
<b>School Name</b>		<b>School IDACI</b>
Alumwell	30	30 0 0.446091082
Frank F Harrison	28	28 2 0.436127479
Joseph Leckie	27	27 3 0.42527731
Ruiz PRU*	27	27 3 0.417210641
Blue Coat	26	26 4 0.416489875
Elmwood	24	24 6 0.390137951
Darlaston	23	23 7 0.382053246
St Thomas More	21	21 9 0.361803844
Castle	21	21 9 0.366341947
New Leaf PRU*	20	20 10 0.353348217
Sheffield	19	19 11 0.341232618
Sneyd	19	19 11 0.341022093
Jane Lane	17	17 13 0.320639043
Mary Elliot	16	16 14 0.310613447
Willenhall	15	15 15 0.301829584
Brownhills	13	13 17 0.28811907
Shepwell PRU*	13	13 17 0.284316339
Pool Hayes	10	10 20 0.251610304
Queen Mary's High	4	4 26 0.199892964
Shire Oak	4	4 26 0.20098806
Queen Mary's Grammar	2	2 28 0.178652834
St Francis of Assisi	1	1 29 0.165061935
Aldridge	0	0 30 0.15330225
Barr Beacon	0	0 30 0.154306267
Streetly	0	0 30 0.152919075
		0

**OWNER**

**D HARMAN**

**Notes:**

Each criterion to be marked by named owner/s

Schools with lowest score will have the greatest need of investment

## **Educational Attainment Priorities**

Brief:

Score schools on educational attainment needs based using the following criteria:

High need (scores 0-30)

Medium needs (scores 31-60)

Low needs (scores 61-90)

- 1. Take the average of the last 4 years of published %5A\*-C GCSE (Inc English and Maths)**
- 2. Take the average of the last 4 years of published total % level 5+ in English, Maths and Science at KS3**
- 3. Total 1+2 above, and scale out of 90.**

**This gave scores in the range 35 to 90. To ensure all national challenge schools were clearly shown as high need (scores below 30) a scaling factor was applied to distribute the school scores across the all three categories:**

**High Need: 11 schools including all national challenge schools**

**Medium Need: 5 schools including two gaining ground schools**

**Low Need: 2 schools, both single sex grammar schools**

Appendix D

School	Score	Regeneration linkages
Joseph Leckie	9	The school is in a prominent location, visible from a main route into Walsall town centre. A co-location opportunity exists in respect of Delves library and a likely gap in youth provision could also be addressed. Outline planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of significant employment sites on Brockhurst Crescent for residential use meaning that there is likely to be an associated increase in pupil numbers in future years as these developments come forward.
Pool Hayes	10	This is a restricted campus in a residential area with poor accessibility and off-site playing fields. There is an opportunity to consider relocation as part of the statutory plan-making process which could include co-location of leisure centre and library - currently subject to Leisure Centre Review - and PCT proposal to expand facilities. An Area Action Plan is being prepared for Willenhall which could consider opportunities for relocation. This process would be appropriate for assessing whether or not to consider an alternative site for Pool Hayes school. Nevertheless, the future implementation of this AAP can be expected to benefit the wider area in the long term, and will have implications for schooling in Willenhall given the level of housing growth that is anticipated.
Frank F Harrison	15	Beechdale Community Housing Association has commissioned a masterplan for the estate and is seeking to identify residential development opportunities within their area. There is likely to be an associated increase in pupil numbers in future years if these developments come forward.
Alumwell	8	Located within the Walsall Regeneration Company area, this school is in a key strategic location being visible from the M6 and a short distance from junction 10. The former IMI site and Tempus Ten, both major development sites, are in close proximity, as is the Manor Hospital which is currently the subject of a £140m redevelopment. Any development proposal will need to be considered in this context. There is the opportunity to create high profile development and help resolve strategic access issues. Remodelling of the school could also create surplus land for development. A co-location opportunity exists in respect of Pleck library and a likely gap in youth provision could also be addressed. The school would be expected to support the Alumwell community which to date has not benefited significantly from direct regeneration activity. Furthermore, the school serves the Birchills area for which a regeneration framework will be prepared in the near future (although it should be noted that the school is located outside the proposed study area). This framework is likely to include proposals for new residential communities within Birchills that could increase pupil numbers.
Willenhall	12	The impact of proposed housing growth in this area needs to be factored in to a wider review of service provision in Willenhall. An Area Action Plan is being prepared for Willenhall although this site is located some distance from the study area boundary. Nevertheless, the future implementation of this AAP can be expected to benefit the wider area in the long term. The site is in the Green Belt and this must be considered as part of any development proposal.
Blue Coat	12	In a prominent location, just outside the boundary of Walsall town centre and the Walsall Regeneration Company area. Any development of this site would be expected to complement the significant regeneration activity that is ongoing in the town centre and reflect the site's location within Church Hill Conservation Area. A co-location opportunity exists in respect of youth provision.
Brownhills	6	This school is located in a Strategic Regeneration Framework priority

## Appendix D

		area and is within the scope of the Strategic Partnering Arrangement with WHG. The SRF is expected to deliver significant new residential development in the coming years that could increase pupil numbers. The opportunity exists to consider relocation of Oak Park as part of Leisure Centres review. Part of the site is in the Green Belt and this status must be considered as part of any future proposal.
Sneyd	23	Located adjacent to the M6 and in the Green Belt. There is very little opportunity for regeneration activity in the surrounding residential area and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation.
Barr Beacon	22	Located in the Green Belt and the Great Barr Conservation Area. There is the possibility to explore possible co-location with Possible Collingwood Community Association. The school serves the Pheasey area which is well defined as a stand alone community in the east of the borough. The nature of the Pheasey area offers very little other opportunity for regeneration activity and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation.
Aldridge	25	The school serves the Aldridge area which is well defined as a stand alone community in the east of the borough. The nature of the Aldridge area offers very little other opportunity for regeneration activity and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation.
Shire Oak	7	The school is located adjacent to the A461, a key corridor for which a Regeneration Framework study has been approved by Cabinet. Any future development proposal should reflect this context. The opportunity exists to consider relocation of Oak Park as part of Leisure Centres review.
Streetly	23	The school serves the Streetly area which is well defined as a stand alone community in the east of the borough. The nature of the Streetly area offers very little other opportunity for regeneration activity and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation.
St Thomas More	21	Located on the borough boundary. The residential development of two significant sites nearby within the last 5 years means that the opportunity for further regeneration activity is limited.
St Francis of Assisi	25	The school serves the Aldridge area which is well defined as a stand alone community in the east of the borough. The nature of the Aldridge area offers very little other opportunity for regeneration activity and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation. Part of the site is in the Green Belt and this status must be considered as part of any future proposal.
Queen Mary's	17	Occupies a prominent location on the Arboretum junction and adjoins the proposed Gigaport. Any development of this site would be expected to complement the significant regeneration activity that is ongoing in the town centre and high design standards would be required. A co-location opportunity may exist in respect of youth provision.
Queen Mary's High	23	The nature of this location offers very little other opportunity for regeneration activity and as such the proposals for the future of this school would exist largely in isolation. A co-location opportunity may exist in respect of youth provision.

## Secondary Schools Building & Building Services Condition

April 2009

The following list identifies maintenance issues at each of the Boroughs Secondary schools. This information has been identified from Condition surveys which are now nearly 5 year old in some cases and the best local technical knowledge available at the time. No statutory testing of mechanical and electrical installations has been undertaken in this review and therefore assessments have been based on non intrusive data.

The main condition issues are as follows:

1. Aldridge
  - Poor quality single glazed external curtain walling
  - Electrical issues - wiring and distribution
2. Alumwell
  - Mechanical and electrical issues further rewiring required
  - Toilet accommodation in poor condition
  - Windows and roofing condition
3. Barr Beacon
  - Window condition and roofing condition in parts
  - Heating distribution issues following boiler replacement
  - General electrical rewiring requirements
4. Blue Coat
  - Windows condition
  - Roofing condition in parts
  - Heating system concerns
  - Significant concerns with sports hall floor
5. Brownhills
  - Electrical issues - rewiring required
  - Windows and door condition in parts
6. Darlaston
  - Numerous building issues including
    - Asbestos
    - Windows
    - Roofs
    - external cladding
    - heating and electrical capacity
  - The building is considered beyond economical repair
7. Frank F Harrison
  - Roof condition in parts
  - Windows in poor condition
  - Heating and electrical concerns - rewiring required, poor distribution
  - The building is considered beyond economical repair

#### 8. Joseph Leckie

- New block to be completed in June 09 will remove some mobile accommodation but remaining buildings in poor condition with numerous building issues including:
  - Roofs have significant individual element failures
  - Concrete spalling in structure.
  - Windows
  - Toilets
  - Electrics
- The building is considered beyond economical repair -

#### 9. Pool Hayes

- Poor roofs
- Brickwork requiring significant repair
- External curtain walling in areas
- Internal condition items including doors toilets which have been badly maintained
- Heating distribution and electrical issues.

#### 10. Queen Mary's Grammer

- Roofs requiring repair in part
- Windows in parts
- Heating issues- boiler needs to be replaced

#### 11. Queen Mary's High

- Heating and electrical systems
- External walls, windows and doors

#### 12. Sheffield

- Academy opened in 2009 and urgent Health & Safety condition items being addressed at present

#### 13. Shire Oak

- Heating distribution
- Toilet refurbishments
- Some window replacement required

#### 14. Sneyd

- Overall only minor condition items requiring attention

#### 15. St Francis of Assisi

- Good overall condition

#### 16. St Thomas More

- Good overall condition

#### 17. Streetly

- Windows and roofing replacement in parts
- Swimming pool changing room refurbishmen

#### 18. Willenhall

- Serious condition issues including
  - asbestos
  - roofing
  - windows
  - drainage
- Building considered beyond economical repair,

#### 19. Castle

- Only minor condition items

#### 20. Elmwood

- Major refurbishment carried out 2008 but some condition issues such as roofs, windows and external fascias etc

#### 21. Mary Elliot

- New Build in good condition

#### 22. Jane Lane

- Only minor condition items

#### 23. Ruiz PRU

- Substantial Roof issues requiring total roof recovering
- Significant window replacement
- Heating/electrical concerns

#### 24. New Leaf PRU

- Modular build but not poor condition

#### 25. Shepwell PRU

- Substantial Roofing issue, asbestos issue , rainwater goods and structural concerns