

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday, 27th October, 2006

at 3.00 pm

in Training Room 2, Belle Vue Community Sports & Youth Centre,
Kendal Road, Hartlepool

Councillor Hargreaves, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. **KEY DECISIONS**
None

2. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 2.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Children's Services*
- 2.2 Children's Centres Capital Works 2006-08 – *Director of Children's Services*
- 2.3 Manor College: Consideration of Foundation Status – *Director of Children's Services*

3. **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**
None

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder

27th October 2006



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

SUMMARY

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors, to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

2 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

It is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to decide the appointment of Local Authority representative school governors following advice from the General Purposes Sub Committee.

4 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision.

5 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder's meeting on 27th October 2006.

6 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Approval by the Portfolio Holder of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies exist.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

2. BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire or have expired who are interested in serving or wish to continue serving as a Local Authority representative governor on school governing bodies.

The following criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of Local Education Authority representative governors in 2000. Local Authority governors should be able to show :

- demonstrable interest in and commitment to education;
- a desire to support the school concerned;
- a commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body (and committees as appropriate) and school functions generally;
- good communication/interpersonal skills;
- ability to work as part of a team;
- a clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.

A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies was considered by members of the General Purposes Sub Committee at their meeting held on 29th September 2006 (**Appendix 1**).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approve recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies. A schedule outlining recommendations of the General Purposes Sub Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.



**VACANCIES FOR
LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES
SEPTEMBER, 2006**

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
Tel. 523766**

Children's Services in Hartlepool

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Barnard Grove Primary School	Vacancy	No interest expressed	Defer
Mr. J. M. Kay			
Mrs D. Stonehouse			
Vacancy (Since September, 2004)			
Brougham Primary School			
Mrs J. Thompson	Mr. R. Atkinson	No interest expressed	Defer
Mr. A. Walker	Term of office expired 31.8.06		
Catcote School			
Dr. M. Banim	Mr. J. Proud	No interest expressed	Defer
	Term of office expired 31.8.06		
	Mrs. I. Hodgson resigned		
English Martyrs School & 6th Form College			
	Mr. F. Rogers	Councillor R. Cook	Councillor R. Cook
	Deceased	Mrs. J. Ganzerela	
Grange Primary School			
Mrs J. Hamilton	Mrs. Hamilton term of office expired	No interest expressed	Defer
Mr. H. D. Smith	31.8.06		
Mr. R. Flintoff			
Hart Primary School			
Mrs D. Adamson	Mr. W. Knowles – term of office expired	No interest expressed	Defer
	31.8.06		
Jesmond Road Primary School			
Councillor Mrs J. Shaw	Vacancy Vice	Mr. K. Gardner	Mr. K. Gardner
Mrs D. Adamson	Mr. R. Addison	Councillor S. Wallace	
Mr. M. H. Ward		(no form received)	
Vacancy			

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Manor College of Technology			
Councillor A. Preece	Mrs. J. Hamilton – term of office	Councillor Mrs. M. Waller	Councillor Mrs. M. Waller
Mrs E. Blakey	expired 31.8.06	Mr. H.D. Smith	
Mr. F. Reid			
Rift House Primary School			
Mrs M. Coser	Mrs M Coser and Mr J Proud	No interest expressed	Defer
Councillor D. Young	terms of office expired 31.8.06		
Rossmere Primary School			
Mrs D. Stonehouse	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Defer
Mrs M. Smith	Mrs. L. Hodgson		
Vacancy			
Springwell School			
Mrs E. Parkinson	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Defer
Vacancy	Mr. C. Rowntree		
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School			
	Mrs. J. Ganzerla – term of office expired	Mrs. J. Ganzerla	Mrs. J. Ganzerla
	31.8.06		
Throston Primary School			
Councillor H. Clouth	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Defer
Miss J. Norman	Councillor P. Jackson		
	Removed non-attendance		

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
27th October 2006



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S CENTRE CAPITAL WORKS 2006-08

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the planned programme of capital works for children's centres as part of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides a background summary of Children's Centre development and details the proposal programme for capital works for 2006-08.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Children's Services issues.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting 27th October 2006.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To approve the planned programme of Children's Centres Capital works.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S CENTRE CAPITAL WORKS
2006-08

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the planned programme of capital works for children's centres as part of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

Cabinet approved a 'Strategic Proposal for Children's Centres and New Childcare Place Development' in September 2003, to be submitted to the Surestart unit in the Department for Education and Skills. In line with government guidance on where centres should be located, it identified the location of the first 5 children's centres in Hartlepool (Brus, Jackson, Headland (St Hilda), Dyke House and Rossmere). Centres were focused on areas of high disadvantage. The strategy identified the capital funding which would be allocated from the Surestart unit to support the development of the centres. It also outlined suggested options for the second tranche of centres to be created by 2010 but identified that further consultation would be needed.

In December 2004 the government published its 10 Year Childcare Strategy. This requires the authority to develop children's centres across the borough by 2010. Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support and outreach to parents, and child and family health services. The Council is expected to develop a further two children's centres by 2008 ensuring that the 38% most disadvantaged areas are reached.

In addition, the local authority is required to ensure that an extended schools core offer is in place for pupils by 2010. The core offer consists of study support activities, childcare available 8 am – 6 pm, parenting support and swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils.

A 'Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy' document was developed which set out the process of ensuring that these two requirements are met in Hartlepool and brought together in one coherent strategy. There was an extensive period of consultation following which it was agreed that children's centres and extended

schools activities would be focused around 5 localities across the town.

Cabinet approved the final Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy on 19th June 2006 and authorised officers to begin implementing changes required for service delivery. The strategy included information on funding. Central government funding for 2006-08 for children's centres capital works for Hartlepool is £718,190. The strategy indicated that capital would contribute to building two new children's centres, thus achieving the local authority's target of 7 children's centres by March 2008.

3. PROPOSALS

The proposed timetable for 2006-08 for children's centres capital works is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The model for the development of children's centres is based on delivery across 5 localities as agreed in response to consultation on the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy. The range of services in each locality will depend on local need and choice and services offered will not be the same everywhere because needs of communities vary greatly. **Appendix 2** outlines the localities and identifies the sites delivering services within them.

The proposed capital works contribute to the further enhancement of children's centres in areas where they are already established as well as identifying substantial projects to develop new children's centres activities to both meet the target of 7 children's centres across the town and to ensure that services are available in the most disadvantaged areas.

The proposed timetable includes some ongoing as well as proposed work to complete children's centre facilities in Brus, Jackson, Headland (St Hilda) and Dyke House. The Surestart centre at Rossmere (one of the original 5 children's centres) is fully complete and no additional work is required.

New projects identified in the localities agreed during consultation in the development of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy are also identified, ensuring that the target of 7 children's centres across the town is met and will, in fact, be exceeded.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

Capital works carry a risk that projects may go over budget if building work encounters unforeseen problems. The estimated cost in the current proposals is £600,955 from a total budget available of

£718,190, to mitigate the risk of any overspends. Project costs are estimates and any grant underspend will be used towards furniture and resources for the settings.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding to support this capital works programme is provided entirely through the central government grant for children's centres capital (£718,190 over 2 years).

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

All capital works must be undertaken in line with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements to ensure that all children's centres are fully accessible with special needs and disabilities.

7. SECTION 17

The development of children's centres supports early intervention to those families who are disadvantaged and in need in order to support them in parenting and supporting successful outcomes for their children.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The portfolio holder is asked to approve the planned programme of capital works for children's centres for 2006-08, in line with the approval given by Cabinet on 19th June 2006 for the progression of the Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Sue Johnson, Assistant Director (Planning & Integrating Services), telephone 523773.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES CAPITAL WORKS SUMMARY**PROPOSED TIMETABLE 2006/2008 (SUBJECT TO TENDERS/PLANNING PERMISSION/BUILDING REGULATIONS)**

Children's Centre Name	Location	Summary of Works	Estimate Cost	Current Position	Start Date/ Completion date
Brus	St John Vianney RC Primary School	? Under 5's outside nature garden	£6,132	? Garden now complete	Complete - August 2006
	West View Primary School	? Refurbishment of 2 x classrooms, corridor link to nursery and improved community facilities and nursery garden	£80,000 (contribution) as part of a wider school project	? Feasibility study complete, draft plans and costs to be drawn up	Start – early 2007
Jackson	Lynnfield CLC	? Minor modifications to kitchen	£800	? Awaiting tenders	Start - October 2006
Headland	St Helen's Primary School	? Soft surface outside play area to children's centre and foundation stage	£20,000 (contribution) as part of a wider school project	? Contractors appointed	Start - October 2006
	Sure Start North Main Centre	? Landscaping to outside area	£6,000	? Awaiting tenders	Start - October 2006

Children's Centre Name	Location	Summary of Works	Estimate Cost	Current Position	Start Date
Dyke House	Brougham Centre	? Improvements to kitchen, outside courtyard	£3,000	? Neighbourhood services engaged	Start - October 2006
	Sure Start Central Chatham House	? Refurbishment of daycare suite	£18,000	? Awaiting draft plans	Start - January 2007
Stranton – NEW CHILDREN'S CENTRE WARD	Stranton Primary School	? Outside play and learning area for foundation stage area	£67,023	? Contractor appointed	Start - October 2006
	Stranton Centre	? Modifications to centre and new outside play area	£80,000	? Awaiting draft plans and costs	Start - October 2006
Rift House – NEW CHILDREN'S CENTRE WARD	Rift House Primary School	? Relocation of nursery to foundation stage unit, refurbishment of nursery into children's centre	£30,000 (contribution) as part of a wider school project	? Feasibility study underway, toilets complete	October 2006
	Kingsley Primary School	? Multi purpose extension to school to provide children's centre and outside play area	£250,000	? Feasibility study underway	Start - March 2007

Children's Centre Name	Location	Summary of Works	Estimate Cost	Current Position	Start Date
Owton Manor	Owton Manor Primary School	? Refurbishment of nursery to foundation stage unit and creation of parents room	£20,000 (contribution)	? Feasibility study underway	January 2007
	Owton Manor Space Sports and Arts Centre	? Modifications to improve facilities for children's centre	£20,000	? Feasibility study underway	January 2007

Total budget available 2006-08: £718,190

Total estimated cost 2006-08: £600,955

Nb: project costs are estimates, any grant underspend will be used towards furniture and resources for the settings.

Localities	Ward	Sites delivering services	Status
NORTH 1	St Hilda	St Helen's Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		St Bega's Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery	Daycare provider
	Brus	Sure Start North (Hindpool Close)	Children's centre services on site
		St John Vianney Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		West View Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Miers Avenue	Children's centre services on site
		Rainbow NHS Nursery	Daycare provider
		St Hild's CE Secondary School	Extended School
		Barnard Grove Primary School	Extended School
	Hart	Clavering Primary School	Extended School
		Hart Primary School	Extended School
NORTH 2	Dyke House	Brougham Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Dyke House School	Children's centre services on site
		Chatham House Neighbourhood Nursery	Children's centre services on site
	Throston	Jesmond Road Primary School	Extended School
		Throston Primary School	Extended School
		Sacred Heart Primary School	Extended School
		Springwell School	Extended School
CENTRAL 1	Grange	Lynnfield Primary School and CLC	Children's centre services on site
		Playmates Neighbourhood Nursery	Daycare provider
		Lowthian Road – Sure Start Central	Children's centre services on site
		Eldon Grove	Extended School
	Park	High Tunstall Secondary School	Extended School
		West Park	Extended School
	Elwick	Elwick Hall CE Primary School	Extended School
	Stranton	Stranton Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Ward Jackson Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		St Joseph's Primary School	Extended School
CENTRAL 2	Foggy Furze	St Cuthbert's Primary School	Extended School
		St Aidan's Primary School	Extended School
	Rift House	Rift House Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Kingsley Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Masefield Road Neighbourhood Nursery (NDNA)	Daycare provider
		English Martyrs RC School	Extended School
		Catcote School	Extended School
		Brierton Secondary School	Extended School
		A2L	Extended School

SOUTH 1	Rossmere	Rossmere Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		St Teresa's Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Sure Start Rossmere Way	Children's centre services on site
		Golden Flatts Primary School	Extended School
	Seaton	Seaton Carew Nursery	Extended School
		Holy Trinity CE Primary School	Extended School
	Owton	Owton Manor Primary School	Children's centre services on site
		Manor College	Extended School
		Grange Primary School	Early Years Centre
	Fens	Fens Primary School	Extended School
	Greatham	Greatham CE Primary School	Extended School

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
27th October 2006



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: MANOR COLLEGE: CONSIDERATION OF
FOUNDATION STATUS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a process and timescale for the submission of comments to Manor College governors should they determine that they wish to investigate the possibility of seeking Foundation Status.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises the key aspects of Foundation Status and provides general information about some of the possible implications for Hartlepool.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The matter relates to the future status of Manor College and has potential impact for children and young people.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio Holder meeting on 27th October 2006.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Subject to further notification from Manor College about whether or not they wish to consider the possibility of Foundation Status, it is recommended that the Director of Children's Services be asked to provide a draft response to Manor College governors for consideration and approval by the Portfolio Holder. Depending on the governors' decision in relation to a consultation timetable, the draft response could either:

- be considered at the next appropriate Portfolio Holder meeting if the consultation timetable permits, or
- be approved by the Portfolio Holder and reported to the next meeting if the end date of any consultation period is prior to the next Portfolio Holder meeting

Should Manor Governors decide not to pursue the option of Foundation Status, then no consultation would take place and no response would be required.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: MANOR COLLEGE: CONSIDERATION OF
FOUNDATION STATUS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a process and timescale for the submission of comments to Manor College governors as part of their consideration of a possible move to Foundation Status.

2. BACKGROUND

On 6th October 2006, the Director of Children's Services received a letter from the Chair of Governors at Manor College of Technology indicating that the governors had decided to investigate the possibility of seeking Foundation Status for the College. As part of this process, they indicated that they would be seeking consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders during a four week period of consultation ending on 6th November 2006. This information has been conveyed to Council on 26th October 2006 as part of the Chief Executive's Report.

The Director of Children's Services wrote to the governing body to clarify the procedures associated with their decision to investigate this possibility. The governors subsequently wrote to the Director to clarify that the consultation had been postponed to a future date following the local authority's advice on a technicality. The governors intend to take a vote re Foundation Status at the governors' meeting on Friday 20th October and, if the governors decide to proceed, it is understood that they will send a further letter including all the details of the consultation period.

The Council has already recorded some views in relation to Foundation Status at its meeting on 13th April 2006 where the following resolution was passed: "Whereas the Council recognises and welcomes the substantial increase in funding for schools and colleges since 1997, it believes that the existence of strong and vibrant partnership at all levels within the authority has been, and is, the key to driving up standards for all learners; it considers the creation of City Academies or Foundation Schools within Hartlepool to be detrimental to the interests of the community as a whole and inappropriate for a self-contained authority having proven good provision both pre and post-16; it resolves to build upon the strong existing educational partnerships; and considers that co-operation among institutions and investments in the existing infrastructure in

delivering agreed partnership goals will be the key to the successful delivery of rising standards and the Government's reform agenda."

3. THE NATURE OF FOUNDATION STATUS

The government's Five Year Strategy for children and learners which was published in July 2004 included within its 8 key reforms, the freedom for all secondary schools to own their own land and buildings, manage their assets, employ their staff, improve their governing bodies and forge partnerships with outside sponsors and educational foundations. As part of the move to implement this strategy, proposals have been put in place to make it much easier for community or voluntary controlled schools to become Foundation Schools through a fast track procedure which would enable a governing body over a period of 15 weeks to move from initial information gathering about Foundation Status to taking a final decision as to whether to become a Foundation School. There is no single, clear set of information or guidance available from the DfES on Foundation Status. The information set out below is, therefore, drawn from a number of different documents but may be subject to further change/clarification arising from discussions with the DfES. In each of the subsequent paragraphs, the different elements of Foundation Status are examined.

3.1 Land, Buildings and Asset Management

The government's intention is that Foundation Schools should have more control over the use of school buildings, lettings and the use of redundant buildings. However, the way in which the Foundation School is funded will be no different from any other maintained schools. It will have access to a devolved formula capital allocation each year, which in the case of a reasonably sized secondary school might amount to approximately £100,000 each year, depending on the timing of BSF. As a Foundation School, the governing body would be able to spend this allocation as it saw fit for the purposes of the school without consultation with the local authority. However, it would require planning permission and building regulations approval for all significant projects. For all significant capital projects, such as those requiring access to modernisation funding, school access initiative funding, targeted capital funding and Building Schools for the Future, a Foundation School, just like a voluntary aided school would remain dependent to a large extent on the role of the local authority. The local authority is expected to provide educational leadership and vision for all schools in their area and will retain responsibility for important overarching roles where local co-ordination is essential, including the development of capital strategies for their areas. This would include projects such as Building Schools for the Future. If, therefore, a Foundation School wished to exercise its autonomy in respect of significant capital projects without local authority support, it would be reliant on its delegated budget, its own fundraising capabilities and/or potential external sponsorship.

Local authorities will continue to receive formulaic and capital funding based on all their schools and will be expected to prioritise their capital funding fairly through rigorous, transparent and consultative asset management planning based on the needs of all their schools.

It must also be remembered that an employer has the ultimate responsibility for the health and safety of its premises. A Foundation School as the employer and owner of the premises could be potentially more vulnerable than a community school in the case of accident, litigation or health and safety contravention.

3.2 Employment of Staff

As a Foundation School, the governing body would employ its own staff. The opportunities presented by the actual employer status are, however, limited by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document, TUPE provisions and all relevant employment protection and disability discrimination legislation. As the actual employer of staff, the governing body of a Foundation School is probably more vulnerable than a community school if it were to be challenged in an employment tribunal and there would be potential liabilities in respect of awards including costs.

3.3 Governing Body

Foundation Schools include a new category of governors – partnership governors. For this category, the governing body has to seek nominations from parents of registered pupils at the school and from other such persons in the community covered by the school as it considers appropriate e.g. local organisations or community groups which use school premises. It then appoints the required number in accordance with the Instrument of Government from among the eligible nominees. Partnership governors may not be parents, people eligible to be staff governors at the school, elected members or people employed by the local authority in connection with its functions as a local authority. The governing body of a Foundation School is required to have not less than nine and no more than 20 governors. It needs to be constituted as follows:

- Parent governors – at least one third;
- Partnership governors – at least two, but more than one quarter; or Foundation governors – at least two but not more than one quarter (relevant when a voluntary controlled school becomes a Foundation School);
- Community governors – at least one tenth;
- Staff governors – at least two, but not more than one third including the head. Where there are three or more in this group, one must be a non-teacher;
- LEA governors – at least one, but no more than one fifth;

3.4 Ability to Forge Partnerships with Outside Sponsors and Educational Foundations

DfES information about Foundation Status makes clear that Foundation Schools can forge partnerships with outside sponsors and education foundations. It is, however, not clear how far this is something unique to Foundation Schools as all secondary schools will have the freedom to strengthen the governing body by adding to the number of sponsor governors and have the opportunity to form links with a wide range of other partners either as a group or individually.

3.5 Admissions

A Foundation School governing body is the admissions authority for the school rather than the local authority. It must prepare an admissions policy and ensure that a proper consultation process is carried out before implementing the policy. It also has to establish an admission appeals process. It is, however, bound by the statutory Code of Practice for Admissions and the Admission Appeals Code of Practice, together with local authority co-ordinated admissions schemes and hard to place pupil policies. Foundation Schools are represented on the Admission Forum but it is for the LA to determine how many representatives are on the Forum, provided that this is between 1 and 3 in total. A Foundation School cannot introduce new criteria for selection by ability.

3.6 Ability to Publish Statutory Proposals for Other Changes

The extent to which the governing body would be able to publish statutory notices in relation to changes to the school's organisation is currently being assessed by officers.

3.7 Financial Implications

No new government funding is available to Foundation Schools. As part of the Local Authority family of schools, they are funded on exactly the same basis as other local authority maintained schools. Within the constitution for the Hartlepool Schools Forum, which advises the Local Authority of the allocation of resources to schools within the Dedicated Schools Grant, there is no entitlement of a place for Foundation Schools. Secondary school places are allocated on the basis of an election.

3.8 Other implications of Foundation Status

The DfES is keen to foster the view that Foundation Schools provide more independence, freedom, flexibility and autonomy to schools, but much of this is a matter of perception as can be seen from the above analysis. However, becoming a Foundation School is not the same

as “opting out”. Foundation Schools continue to be maintained schools as part of the Local Authority family of schools. They also continue to be subject to the National Curriculum, will be inspected by OfSTED like other schools and subject to the same monitoring arrangements as other schools.

Foundation Schools are very similar in status to Voluntary Aided Schools. Hartlepool currently has two secondary Voluntary Aided Schools:

- English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College (a Roman Catholic school) which was established prior to Hartlepool becoming a unitary authority;
- St Hild's School (a voluntary aided Church of England school) which was established in September 2001 in order to access funding for a replacement school and to regenerate a school which was a cause for concern.

The Local Authority works closely with both Diocesan Authorities as well as the schools to ensure a strong collaborative approach.

4. POSSIBLE CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Should Manor College governors agree to investigate the possibility of seeking Foundation Status at their meeting on 20th October, then the Portfolio holder may wish to consider the submission of a response to the governors as part of their consultation process. Depending on the information provided by the governors, the response might be in line with the Council's previously expressed views and may include reference to the following issues:

- The Council's wish for strong collaboration between schools for Hartlepool, as expressed in its minute of 13th April 2006;
- The potential impact of the move to Foundation Status on outcomes for children, not just in Manor College, but in the Hartlepool community of schools;
- The potential risks for staff at the school in relation to Health and Safety, comparative salary levels and liabilities;
- The potential costs to Manor College in respect of undertaking its new responsibilities;
- The potential impact on the timescale for Building Schools for the Future and access to capital funding;
- The potential impact on relationships within the town;
- The need for the school to ensure that there has been a full and balanced consideration of the issues involved in moving to foundation status, a full and proper consultation process and engagement with an appropriate range of stakeholders.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to further notification from Manor College about whether or not they wish to consider the possibility of Foundation Status, it is recommended that the Director of Children's Services be asked to provide a draft response to Manor College governors for consideration and approval by the Portfolio Holder. Depending on the governors' decision in relation to a consultation timetable, the draft response could either:

- be considered at the next appropriate Portfolio Holder meeting if the consultation timetable permits, or
- be approved by the Portfolio Holder and reported to the next meeting if the end date of any consultation period is prior to the next Portfolio Holder meeting.

Should Manor Governors decide not to pursue the option of Foundation Status, then no consultation would take place and no response would be required.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Letter from Manor College;
- DfES documents: School Organisation – Making changes to maintained schools; Statutory Guidance – Issues to be considered in deciding statutory proposals; Proposer's Guidance on Statutory Proposals for Change of Category to Foundation – Streamlined process;
- FASNA document – Fast Track to Foundation.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services. (01429) 523734.