

CABINET
15 JULY 2009**Wiltshire's Academy Proposals to Replace Five secondary schools****Executive Summary**

The Local Authority (LA) has been working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) since Autumn 2003 to establish its Academies programme. Academies are a type of independent state secondary school managed by sponsors through a Trust. The first three academies nationally opened in 2002. By September 2009, 200 Academies will be open and 400 are being planned in total.

Academies are designed to bring about transformational change, particularly in areas with multiple deprivation and/or where academic standards could be higher. Academies bring together partners to improve the life chances of young people. Academies have state of the art buildings with the latest technology. They focus on raising standards with a commitment to social equity and equal opportunities. Academies are open to all and committed to excellence and driving up standards.

There are five stages to developing an Academy:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Brokering | Normally takes 4 months |
| 2. Expression of Interest (EoI) | 3 months |
| 3. Feasibility | 9 months |
| 4. Implementation | 15 months |
| 5. Opening | In existing buildings for 18 – 24 months |

Brokering establishes the likely sponsors and moves towards the EoI Stage following the receipt of a Statement of Intent from the Government to proceed to explore an Academy. The EoI establishes the vision, age range and size of the Academy and Feasibility explores potential plans for the management and operation of an Academy. The LA has the responsibility to build the Academy through a National Design and Build Framework. At the end of the Feasibility Stage the LA presents the Outline Business Case (OBC) and the Funding Agreement is signed between the Academy Trust and the DCSF. During the Implementation Stage preparations are made for opening the Academy, appointing a Principal, staff and agreeing the curriculum. At the end of Implementation the LA presents the Full Business Case (FBC) after which construction of the new academy building can begin.

Nationally Academies are being accelerated because they work. GCSE results in Academies improve faster than the national average and leadership is good/outstanding in 90% of Academies inspected. Academy freedoms are continually changing. The first academies did not need to teach the National Curriculum, now all must teach at least English, mathematics, science and Information Communication Technology (ICT). They were originally given a wide ranging freedom over employing staff and pay and conditions but most now follow the Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Service. Academies are now also part of a LA's

'family of schools', in a way that was never intended at the start of the academies programme.

This is the tenth report to Cabinet and Scrutiny on the Academies programme. Previous reports and updates have been presented to:

Cabinet: 27 February 2007
25 March 2008
22 April 2008

Scrutiny: 3 July 2007
28 September 2007
13 November 2007
22 May 2008
29 January 2009
7 May 2009

There are three separate reports here as the three Academy proposals are at different stages:

1. The Wellington Academy is nearing completion and will open in September 2009 in the existing building of Castledown Secondary School, Ludgershall.
2. Salisbury High School is moving from the Brokering to the Expression of Interest (EoI) Stage with the Academy planning to be open in the existing building in September 2010.
3. The three schools on the Laverstock site in Salisbury: St. Edmund's, Wyvern and St. Joseph's, are considering becoming one academy and are also moving from the Brokering to the Expression of Interest Stage with the Academy planning to be open in the existing buildings in September 2010.

Proposal

That Cabinet:

- a) Approves the Final Business Case (FBC) for The Wellington Academy and its submission to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).
- b) Authorises the Director for Children and Education to sign the Development Agreement (as outlined in paragraph 18(i) of The Wellington Academy section).
- c) Subject to both of the above, authorises the Director for Transport, Environment and Leisure to award the Design and Build Contract (as outlined in paragraph 18(ii)).
- d) Acknowledges the risk to the authority of a Judicial Review in relation to the planning application, and the financial risks thereof.

- e) Approves the EoI to be submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for exploring Salisbury High School becoming an Academy and approves the Local Authority becoming a co-sponsor.
- f) Approves the EoI to be submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for exploring the three schools at Laverstock becoming one Academy and approves the Local Authority becoming a co-sponsor.

Permission is sought for the final points of detail in the EoIs for the above Salisbury Academies to be delegated to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Youth as there is daily contact with the sponsors and DCSF in relation to these two projects.

Reason for Proposal

To rebuild five Wiltshire secondary schools as three Academies:

- Castledown Secondary School, Ludgershall, as The Wellington Academy.
- Salisbury High School.
- Wyvern (boys) Church of England Aided College.
- St. Edmund's (girls) Church of England Voluntary Controlled School.
- St. Joseph's (co-educational) Catholic Aided School

The names of the two Salisbury Academies have not yet been chosen.

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