

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

The following sets out the information that must be contained in a complete proposal. Shaded information **must** be published in a statutory notice. See paragraphs 2.2 to 2.10

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Authority details:

Rachel Dickinson
Strategic Director, Children
Leicester City Council Local Authority
B Block
Welford Place
New Walk Centre
Leicester
LE1 6ZG

School proposed to be discontinued:

Riverside Business and Enterprise College
Lyncote Road
Leicester
LE3 2EL

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

Riverside Business and Enterprise College is proposed for closure on 31st August 2011.

The proposal is to be implemented in stages as follows:

1st September 2010

Year 7 – discontinuation of provision. No admissions on national offer date of 1st March 2010
Year 8 – continuation of provision.
Year 9 – continuation of provision.
Year 10 – discontinuation of provision. Alternative provision made at other schools.
Year 11 – continuation of provision.

1st September 2011

Year 7 – no provision.
Year 8 – no provision.
Year 9 – discontinuation of provision. Alternative provision made at other schools.
Year 10 – discontinuation of provision. Alternative provision made at other schools.
Year 11 – no provision.

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

The consultation process followed guidance issued by Department for Children, Schools and Families current at the time of consultation and all applicable statutory requirements were adhered to. The consultation period ran 1st June 2009 – 10th July 2009.

DCSF guidance extant at the time of consultation in Leicester, relevant to this Proposal, can be found at:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/riversideconsultation>

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
 - (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

(a) list of persons and/or parties who were consulted:

In accordance with the above Guidance the City Council consulted the following:

1. The Governing Body of Riverside Business and Enterprise College;
2. Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at Riverside Business and Enterprise College;
3. Leicestershire County Council;
4. The Chairs of Governing Bodies, teachers and other staff of all City schools (All Chairs of Governors were informed by letter and their governing bodies were invited to respond).
5. Families of any pupils at any other school who may be affected by the proposals including, where appropriate, families of pupils at feeder primary schools (All City school Headteachers were advised of the consultation and invited to respond; all Headteachers were asked to inform their staff and parents accordingly; parents of year 6 children in other schools expressing a preference for Riverside at secondary transfer received communications direct by Royal Mail.)
6. Trade Unions representing staff at Riverside Business and Enterprise College; and representatives of Trade Unions at all other City schools who may be affected by the proposals;
7. Learning and Skills Council;
8. MP's whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals (All City and County MPs were informed of the consultation and invited to respond);
9. Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises. (The School was asked to advise the City Council of those who let their premises in advance of consultation launch - none were notified): and
10. Such other persons as appear to the proposers to be appropriate. These were determined to include:
 - (a) Leicester Strategic Partnership
 - (b) Leicester Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
 - (c) Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
 - (d) Council of Faiths
 - (e) Schools Forum
 - (f) Admissions Forum
 - (g) Equality and Diversity Partnership
 - (h) Education Improvement Partnerships (EIP)

- (i) Diocesan Authorities
- (j) Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL)
- (k) City of Leicester Governors' Association (COLGA)
- (l) All City Councillors
- (m) School Council - Riverside Business and Enterprise College.

(b) minutes of all public consultation meetings:

Minutes of consultation meetings and all relevant consultation documents are attached to this Detailed Proposal.

- o Minutes of meeting with Staff dated 9th June 2009
- o Minutes of meeting with Governing Body dated 11th June 2009
- o Minutes of meeting with Parents dated 15th June 2009
- o Minutes of meeting with Students dated 23rd June 2009

(c) the views of the persons consulted

The majority of respondents did not agree that there were strong educational, financial and business reasons to move to close the School. The following specific concerns were raised:

1. Concerns that the Local Authority has selectively edited source materials
2. That the Business Case and its accompanying Equality Impact Assessments are inadequate
3. That there was a lack of transparency evidenced in the fact that the Local Authority did not make available minutes of the meetings during the course of the consultation itself
4. That there was a failure to compare objectively against other Local Authority schools in terms of school performance, for example, Fullhurst and New College and school places, for example, New College and Babington. That the Local Authority has already made plans to dispose of the site and make use of the land or accompanying revenues.
5. That promises to rebuild Riverside had been broken
6. That the Local Authority Admissions Service had systematically discriminated against Riverside over several years by turning away parents and stating that the school is full.
7. That the Local Authority had failed to translate materials.
8. That the closure of the school will deprive the neighbourhood of the valuable facility and neighbourhood school.
9. That residents were not informed and not provided with an opportunity to respond.
10. That no context or comparator information had been provided for financial data used in the report.
11. That other City schools performing at similar levels (Fullhurst and New College) and with places unfilled (New College and Babington) have not been used for comparative purposes.
12. That the Equality Impact Assessment presented is illegal.
13. That the facts in the Business Case were mistruths.
14. That the impact on the Local area had been overlooked.
15. That subsequent admissions allocation policies have mitigated against the School and that there is a lack of choice without travel.
16. Parents require choice and assistance with increased costs.
17. That the format of the consultation form used was difficult to understand.
18. That the Panel of Local Authority officers were unable to answer many questions by parents – that there is a lack of trust in those carrying out the process.
19. That no opportunity was provided to discuss alternative options.
20. That the Local Authority has consistently failed Riverside school.
21. That current and future turbulence (if school closure occurs) will present a far bigger problem than the Local Authority admits.
22. That lies have been told that the consultation meeting regarding Riverside remaining in the Building Schools for the Future programme.
23. That the Local Authority has a short term focus.

(d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available

The above consultation strategy was communicated to Riverside parents and staff in letters dated 18.05.09 and 19.05.09 respectively. The consultation process itself was promoted via:

- Letters to Riverside parents (and Yr 7 2009/10 Riverside intake parents) dated 07.05.09, 18.05.09 & 29.05.09
- Letters to Riverside staff dated 28.04.09, 19.05.09 & 29.05.09
- Letters to all other principal consultees and all City Councillors dated 29.05.09
- A special meeting of the City Council Schools and Settings Consultative Committee held on 21.05.09
- Press release 2nd June 2009 (attached)
- Officer interview on BBC Radio Leicester on 12.06.09 (evening drive time)
- Young persons themselves on Takeover Radio

Copies of all relevant letters to Parents and Staff are attached to this Detailed Proposal. A copy of the full Business Case is available at:

www.leicester.gov.uk/riversideconsultation

All letters and questionnaires Riverside parents and Year 7 2009/10 Riverside intake parents were sent via Royal Mail to registered home addresses.

All letters and questionnaires to Riverside staff were hand delivered to the School for distribution.

Copies of all letters to Riverside parents and Riverside staff, questionnaires and background materials were also made available at www.leicester.gov.uk/riversideconsultation.

Copies of the business case were also available in Riverside School, all City Council public libraries and for download at www.leicester.gov.uk/riversideconsultation.

Consultees were invited to respond by completing a six question questionnaire. They could do this by completing a printed questionnaire or complete an online questionnaire.

Views could also be registered via a bespoke email address

riverside.consultation@leicester.gov.uk

In addition to the above written communications meetings were arranged to provide Riverside parents (15.06.09), Riverside staff (09.06.09), Riverside governing body (11.06.09) and Riverside pupils (23.06.09) with an opportunity to learn about this matter, express their views and inform their responses. All of these meetings were held at Riverside School and the dates determined following consultation with the Acting Headteacher.

Officers also attended a Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward Meeting held on 16.06.09. The above meetings provided an opportunity to raise issues with officers in Children's Services and inform individual and collective responses to the consultation.

Riverside School also featured on the agenda of the following meetings of Leicester City Council:

- A special meeting of the City Council Schools and Settings Consultative Committee held on 21.05.09
- Children's Services Scrutiny Board 10.06.09

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

This proposal has been brought forward to address a collapse in parental preference, associated financial viability concerns, secure sustainable school improvement and open up access to improved educational opportunities for young people.

The proposed closure of Riverside Business and Enterprise College will help ensure more sustainable schools within this immediate part of Leicester.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The proposal to close the school will not have a negative impact on standards or quality of education in the city. The school is currently designated a National Challenge school. Although 2009 provisional GCSE results are above the National Challenge floor target, attainment at Key Stage 3 is low and maintaining standards above floor target would require significant additional resources. Due to low and decreasing numbers on roll the school is likely to require additional funding of approximately £800,000 in the current year in order to maintain an appropriate curriculum. This additional funding comes from the total dedicated schools grant available for all schools and therefore reduces disproportionately the resources available to support raising of standards in other secondary schools in the city. Students in the area will have access to all other community maintained secondary schools in the city and transition plans will be put in place to meet the needs of students required to transfer from Riverside to other schools in the city as a result of the proposals to close the school.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The forecasts for the City indicate that the total numbers of pupils of secondary age requiring provision will continue to fall until approx 2015.

There will be sufficient capacity to accommodate all displaced pupils within the City, see table on the following page

APPENDIX B

The forecasts for the City indicate that the total numbers of pupils of secondary age requiring provision will continue to fall until approx 2015.

There will be sufficient capacity to accommodate all displaced pupils within the City, see table below:

Year	Forecasted NOR - <i>Column B</i>	Capacity of schools based on PAN, inc. Riverside	Capacity of schools based on PAN, exc. Riverside - <i>Column D</i>	Difference between Forecasted NOR (<i>Col B</i>) & capacity (exc. Riverside) (<i>Col D</i>)	No of surplus places per year group across the City	
2009/10	16960	18575	17675	715	Yr 7	169
					Yr 8	97
					Yr 9	229
					Yr 10	204
					Yr 11	16
2010/11	16764	18575	17675	911	Yr 7	302
					Yr 8	151
					Yr 9	90
					Yr 10	196
					Yr 11	172
2011/12	16719	18575	17675	956	Yr 7	311
					Yr 8	286
					Yr 9	141
					Yr 10	56
					Yr 11	162
2012/13	16545	18575	17675	1130	Yr 7	428
					Yr 8	296
					Yr 9	278
					Yr 10	108
					Yr 11	20
2013/14	16424	18575	17675	1251	Yr 7	245
					Yr 8	412
					Yr 9	288
					Yr 10	244
					Yr 11	62
2014/15	16304	18575	17675	1371	Yr 7	277
					Yr 8	229
					Yr 9	403
					Yr 10	254
					Yr 11	208

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Riverside Business and Enterprise College is an 11 – 16 secondary school providing day provision (no boarding). As of 1st September 2009 there were 442 numbers of pupils on roll at the school. A number of these pupils have special educational needs. Figures for respective year groups as detailed below.

2009/10				
Year Group	Girls	Boys	Total no of pupils per year group	Special Needs
7	13	17	30	11
8	20	38	58	27
9	28	46	74	29
10	66	60	126	49
11	90	64	154	46
Total	217	225	442	162

Assuming no significant change in roll the respective figures for 2010/11 are detailed below:

2010/11				
Year Group	Girls	Boys	Total no of pupils per year group	Special Needs
7				
8	13	17	30	11
9	20	38	58	27
10	28	46	74	29
11	66	60	126	49
Total	127	161	288	116

Displaced Pupils

11 Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

The local authority has agreed that, subject to paragraph 3.32 of the School Admissions Code, all pupils for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered a place of their preference at any of the local authority community secondary schools.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

There is not a need to increase the number of school places available as a consequence of this proposal. See table in Section 8 for capacity of school places in the City.

The proposals for allocating school places for the Year 7 2010 displaced cohort will not result in the overfilling or adjustment of Admission Numbers of any other maintained community secondary schools. To the extent that the proposals in section 11 for displaced pupils will impact upon other maintained community secondary schools in September 2011, these will be managed in accordance with the powers conferred upon the Admission Authority by sections 1.18 to 1.21 Admissions Code 2009.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

A number of respondents have raised concerns about the impact of school closure upon the immediate school community and the broader west Leicester community. Respondents have drawn attention to the performance of neighbouring City Schools, for example, Fullhurst, Samworth Academy, New College and Babington, and expressed the view that there is a range of divisive community and school based behaviours across west Leicester.

The proposed closure and revised admissions arrangements detailed within this Proposal will help open up access to improved educational opportunities for young people – something that parents within the current priority area who are expressing preference for alternate are clearly trying to achieve. In the last 2 years less than 10% of the possible pupils who could have applied for Riverside School within the priority area have sought and taken a place at the School. The proposed closure of this School contributes not only to improved individual outcomes but greater social mobility, inclusion and ultimately therefore improved community cohesion itself.

The proposed closure of Riverside School will also help ensure more sustainable schools within this immediate part of Leicester.

The City Council acknowledge that school organisation decisions contribute towards community cohesion and community safety outcomes for young people and their families and that there is a need to reconcile this requirement with its duty to secure school improvement, deliver value for money and meet public law obligations. The Council is of the view that the proposed measures and transition arrangements are reasonable given current DCSF guidance and circumstance prevailing.

14.Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Riverside School is part of the south west integrated services cluster. A core offer audit of Extended Services provision at Riverside was carried out in 2008. The School advised that they offered a Breakfast Club, Food Club and a range of after school activities, including a Neighbourhood Monthly Coffee Morning and Lunch Club. In addition, the School also indicated that they provide parenting support via the Literacy Parents Group and Reading Training. There were however no specific funding applications in 2008/09 and 2009/10 relating to extended services provision at Riverside.

The City Council is currently implementing the extended service strategy and is moving towards a neighbourhood model of delivery. The City Council has recently appointed an Extended Services Co-ordinator who will be working in the locality to develop a neighbourhood needs based extended services delivery plan in consultation with key partners and stakeholders. This will enable a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of extended services across the neighbourhood that will meet the needs of families, children and young people that currently receive extended services through Riverside School.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

At year 7 at September 2009 entry, only 16 young people out of a potential 252 from the assigned Riverside priority area sought and secured a place at the school. Around 29% of pupils travelled outside the City boundary to County Schools with a further 29% preferring two nearby single sex schools. A further 13% travel to the nearby Samworth Enterprise Academy. The remaining pupils travel to a range of City schools with variable journey lengths. This pattern is consistent with that in 2008. It is therefore envisaged that a similar pattern will occur when alternate places are secured under the proposed revised admission arrangements.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

In the last 2 admission rounds, 2008 and 2009, less than 10% of the potential number of pupils within the priority area for Riverside have applied for and secured a place at this school. The impact of the change is therefore not anticipated to have a significant impact on journeys to alternative provision. The City Council will review the preferences expressed by parents of displaced children at September 2010 and will consider the provision of alternative bus transport to schools in excess of the statutory walking distances (3 miles) should this prove to be a viable option.

The City Council will also provide free transport where the distance from home to the new school is more than 2 miles and there is an entitlement to free school meals or the family gets

the maximum level of working tax credit, or where any other of the mandatory qualifying criteria under s.508B and Schedule 35B Education Act 1996 are met.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

Not applicable

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
 - (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
 - (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
 - (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,
- as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

The City Council has completed a detailed Equality Impact Assessment with regard to the proposed closure of Riverside Business and Enterprise College. A copy of this EIA is attached. The City Council recognise that there may be a particular issue and need for further consideration of the year 10 group who will commence in September 2010 at this School and will plan accordingly.

Strategies to be deployed include:

1. The preparation of special education needs plans for September 2010 year 10 cohort;
2. Meeting the needs of pupils with hearing impairment through individual education plans;
3. Meeting the needs of moderate and learning behaviour pupils through individual transition plans.