

**Design & Access Statement for Outline
Application, St Michaels Catholic and Church
of England High School, Carlton Road,
Barnsley
(Revision A)**

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1. BACKGROUND and CORPORATE VISION

Full details of the Background to Building Schools for the Future and the authority's vision are included in Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Educational Vision, a copy of which is enclosed and a separate, more specific BMBC vision for St Michael's: 'The All-Through Catholic and Church of England School for Barnsley', is also enclosed.

In brief, the performance of Barnsley's secondary schools compares unfavourably with the average level throughout the UK. There is an urgent need to provide existing and future pupils with facilities and conditions that will give them the best opportunity to fulfil their potential. The authority have embraced Government policy under the Building Schools for the Future initiative and are proposing to replace all traditional secondary schools with new Advanced Learning Centres (ALC's) throughout the borough. St Michael's ALC will also be an all-through Catholic and Church of England School for Barnsley

The number and location of the new ALC's is a response to meeting educational and community needs. Each ALC will provide facilities for:

- Pupils aged 11 to 19 years to gain a wide range of qualifications and skills. (St Michael's will cater for pupils from the age of 3 – 16+ years)
- Full service provision, support for children and their families.
- Special Educational Needs
- Adult learning of vocational and non-vocational skills
- Community learning and leisure activities.

The secondary school framework in Barnsley is currently unsatisfactory; one of the reasons for this is the number of surplus places. The pupils on roll at secondary schools maintained by the Council by 2012 will be 11,499 with 2164 surplus places. This is almost 16% of the total secondary school capacity. The Council is required to manage the supply of school places so that the total level of surplus capacity does not exceed 10%. The effect of current trends for some schools is for the roll number to fall to a level well below the school capacity. The primary goal of the authority is to improve educational achievements in Barnsley. There is evidence to suggest that the current learning environments i.e. the existing school buildings may have a detrimental effect on children's education throughout the borough. In an effort to meet the authority's primary goal it is imperative that pupils are given the best opportunities to learn in a safe, comfortable and purpose built environment.

With these objectives and policies in mind, the authority have identified that there is an urgent need to replace the current school buildings at St Michael's High School with an up to date, fit for purpose building. The principle is to establish a community facility that will serve the wider community and include educational facilities for children and adults as well as include (in some cases)

related facilities such as libraries, health centres etc. This is in line with central government thinking, particularly the ability to integrate efficiently the governments income flows for various functions within the council.

The proposed distribution of ALC's throughout the borough will result in an ALC within each Area Forum, creating an opportunity to integrate other existing learning provisions into a single establishment.

Each ALC would provide each area forum with:

- A wide range of pathways to further education, training and employment and the flexibility to combine work-based training with learning in a centre of college
- An integrated Youth Service provision, allowing young people early access to personal advice and support as well as leisure activities.
- A Full Service provision, ensuring an easy access to support services for students and their families.
- A school that offers students the opportunity to specialise and collaborate closely with Barnsley College and other training providers.
- Enhanced sport and leisure facilities
- An opportunity to provide an extended provision to young people who may access some or all of their daytime learning elsewhere.

The authority is proposing to create nine ALC's to replace the remaining thirteen secondary schools after Elmhirst has been replaced by a new academy. St Michael's ALC will not only replace the existing St Michael's high school but will replace the existing St Dominic's Catholic Primary and Holy Cross Deanery CE VA Primary schools. There will be three new sites accommodating the three new ALC's that are replacing six of the existing schools and six ALC's on existing school sites, of which St Michaels is one. In addition there will be a new Special School, formerly The Springwell Centre and major refurbishment to the remaining Special school, Greenacre.

The majority of the schools pupils reside within a one mile radius of the current High School. Predominantly the transferring primary schools for St Michaels are: Holy Rood Catholic, St Dominics, Royston St Johns CE, Holy Cross and Burton Road, although the figures for 2005/6 include those from 20 other schools. *These factors have influenced the decision for the ALC to occupy the existing school site and are critical in terms of ensuring the most sustainable location for transport access and to ensure the social and community links are not lost through the re-location of the school to an area outside that the population perceives as their local area.*

The school roll for the new ALC is expected to be 1100 by the time it opens. This includes 93 sixth form pupils.

A critical element of the ALC is its size the reasoning behind this and the rationale is explained in the next two sections of this report.

The Department for Education and Skills have provided Building Bulletin 98: A Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects; as a design guide for 11 to 19 year olds. Reference to this document has allowed for an accurate

prediction of the overall size required by pupils in Secondary education. Primary and Nursery Education requirements have also been included in the whole Building and site area calculations. These have been ascertained with reference to Building Bulletin 99 (2nd Edition): Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects, incorporating Primary School revision to Building Bulletin Building Bulletin 82: Area Guidelines for Schools. Within the figures given in section 3 there is an inclusion of 10% above the standard secondary school size to allow for the additional facilities expected in an ALC. These facilities are not given an allowance within Building Bulletin 98 & Building Bulletin 99 but are an all important factor of these new community schools.

2. DETAILS OF THE EXISTING SITE

St Michaels occupies a site which is to the north east of Barnsley, between Athersley and Carlton. It currently shares the site with Edward Sheerien High School and St Dominics Primary School. It is adjacent to open countryside to its southern boundary, authority housing to its western boundary, Edward Sheerien School and St Dominics School buildings to its north and north east boundaries.

The existing school site includes school buildings, playing fields and a hard surfaced games court area. The main vehicular and pedestrian entrance is off Carlton Road via a private road. The whole site measures 107,668M2 which is 23,853m2 (after Edward Sheerien & St Dominic's have vacated the site) above the size required under BB98 & BB99.

The number of pupils currently on roll at St Michaels is 703. The anticipated roll number of the ALC forecasted at the opening date in 2012 will be 1100 (including 93 sixth form). The majority of the schools pupils reside in the Carlton area. Because of the geographical location of St Michaels in relation to other proposed ALC's the catchment area is unlikely to alter.

General Condition

The existing school is comprised of three blocks with the main block having been considerably extended in the 1990's which has resulted in poor circulation via narrow steep ramps. The school has poor access roads, no separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and insufficient car parking. The suitability survey identifies the following issues:

- The school has severe storage problems
- The corridors are generally too narrow
- The technology block is described as grim
- There is concern about the lack of fire escapes

- The Hall and dining areas are located at the far end of long narrow corridors causing major circulation problems
- Of the 47 teaching bases 17 are too small and only 7 have no suitability issues
- Staff accommodation is poor, small and inappropriate
- Drama provision is poor located in a divided room with no acoustics
- Temperature and ventilation control effects the entire school adversely

OfSTED comment:

St Michael's Storage space is inadequate in some classrooms and some corridors in the newer part of the building are too narrow. The school has overcome the severe congestion to some degree by introducing one-way systems and by carefully monitoring pupil movement at lesson changes. There is a general shortage of social areas for pupils and the front of the school, including the main entrance area.

Curriculum Analysis

The school has a surplus of general teaching spaces (5), Science (1) but has a shortfall of specialist teaching areas PE (2) Art (1) and resource areas (8). In addition there is a shortfall of pupil changing facilities, teaching storage and circulation.

Condition

St Michael's is in a poor condition requiring £1.3 expenditure at 2003 prices to rectify condition issues.

3. PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

The proposal is to build a new secondary school on the existing site for 1100 3 to 16 year olds, 93 post 16 pupils and 8 PRU pupils. This will be funded via Partnership For Schools from the DFES. The funding is based on the area requirements for secondary schools in Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects and Building Bulletin 99 (2nd Edition): Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects, incorporating Primary School revision to Building Bulletin Building Bulletin 82: Area Guidelines for Schools. There are formulae within BB98 & BB99 to calculate the amount of building and other areas required for a secondary school using the roll number. Using these formulae the likely gross floor area of the building will be 9,535m². The overall size of the site required is 85,525M²

and the existing site is 107,669M2 (when Edward Sheerien & St Dominic's have vacated the site), therefore the site will be in excess of the requirements.

Rationale behind the positioning of the new school building:

- In an attempt to reduce any disruption to education it is the authority's intention to construct the new building before any demolition of the existing. Allowing the school to operate as normally as possible during the construction phase.
- It is anticipated that the new Royston/Edward Sheerien ALC will be constructed and occupied before the commencement of this ALC. This will allow the demolition of the current Edward Sheerien School and St Dominic's Catholic Primary School to develop the new ALC.
- The existing topography of the site restricts the actual positioning of the new building in terms of accessibility. A more considered position for the new building in terms of vehicular and pedestrian access is proposed.
- The position of the new building uses the existing vehicular access from Carlton Road, which is acceptable by Highways.
- The position indicated for the new building is a result of intensive ground investigation work, stakeholder design workshops with the school and careful consideration of the existing site constraints.

The floor area of the existing school buildings is 5,063m2 in a mixture of single and two storey blocks. It is below the size required under BB98 & BB99 for the anticipated pupil roll number. The existing school predominantly consists of a two storey main block constructed in brick around 1960 and a number of remote single storey brick buildings located close to the main building, built in the 1990's. The blocks are separated by an external paved route and various hard surfaced play areas. There are some access and level change issues in the current layout and although some work has been done to facilitate access there is still areas that are problematic and could only be resolved with considerable new build.

The purpose built Advance Learning Centre (ALC) will consist of two and three storey blocks working with the existing contours to facilitate access to all areas of the site. The buildings footprint will be limited to the amount of floor area required under BB98 & BB99. There is scope to keep the footprint to a minimum dependant on the number of storeys included in the detailed design which will be submitted with the full plans submission.

The specification of the existing playing field and sports pitches are below Sport England standards, details of the enhanced provision are dealt with later in this report.

The new ALC will provide state of the art facilities for learners beyond eleven years of age. It will also provide facilities for:

- Learners aged sixteen to nineteen years.
- Adults to learn basic skills, gain qualifications and participate in non-vocational activities.
- Youth services, and
- Full service provision.

The school currently has 703 students on roll. The projected number on roll at the anticipated opening date of the new ALC is expected to be 1100.

Although the roll number that was used to generate the size of buildings and site using BB98 & BB99 was 1100, within BB98 & BB99 this covers a range of approximately plus or minus 75 students. The authority is proposing to introduce a sixth form to the new ALC and the number of pupils anticipated is 93 (included in the roll number). The space allocation worked out with BB98 formulae is sufficient to accommodate these pupils.

It is intended that there will be some element of the facilities open to adult usage during the normal school day, but this will be minimal. The majority of adult and community use will be out of school hours.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

One of the major considerations for using the existing site is that St. Michaels has operated on this existing site since the 1950's, and has an established relationship with the local community. It is well placed in terms of its catchment area which covers: Monk Bretton, Royston and Athersley. Other factors in favour of using the same site are:

- It is suitable for its purpose.
- There are no other sites available outside the Greenbelt that would facilitate the ALC in terms of physical and/or operational aspects.
- The authority owns existing site.

Consideration of alternative sites was undertaken in the overall Re-making Learning strategy for education in Barnsley. An alternative site for The St Michaels would be problematic in terms of:

- Finding a large enough site outside the Greenbelt.
- Land acquisition in terms of CPO issues, i.e. legislation suggests that if there is an option that reduces the risk of CPO's then that should be given priority above one that does.
- A high percentage of students reside within a one mile radius of the existing school and within walking distance. The possibilities of finding a suitable local site are minimal therefore there would be transportation issues and highways issues to consider on another site.
- The existing school has links to the existing community and its facilities; these are at risk of being severed if the school were to move from that site to another more remote location.
- The new ALC will be providing community facilities therefore its existing relationship with the community will be strengthened. It is doubtful a different site would offer this ability.

(Please see Option Appraisal Enclosed)

No alternative site was identified.

Site Selection Criteria

A study of the existing asset base was undertaken in order to inform the decision making process. This involved providing a high level assessment of the Asset Management Plan data held by the Council. Each block in each school was categorised in terms of the necessary investment work, not only to achieve a good standard of repair but to meet a consistent level of suitability. This study was also used to construct a high level refurbishment scheme for consideration during our level options appraisal exercise. Appendix 40 of the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Educational Vision contains the summary outputs for this assessment

The Authority recognised the need to develop a strategy for reducing the capacity of those schools which showed a developing surplus above 25%.

The 2005 update to the School Organisation Plan 2003 shows that in September 2006, following the establishment of the Academy the number of pupils on roll at secondary schools maintained by the Authority will be 13,131 with 482 surplus places which is 3.5% of capacity. By 2012 the number on roll will have declined to 11,449 a reduction of 1,682 pupils creating a surplus capacity of 2,164 places which is 15.9% of the Authority's total secondary school capacity.

The decline in the secondary school population will continue beyond 2012 and will impact on all secondary schools to the extent that the projected number on roll at some schools will fall to a level which suggests that they may not be sustainable in the long term. It is also proposed that the size range of the new Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs) be between a minimum of 900 places to a maximum of around 2000 places. In developing proposals for the number of ALCs required by 2012, their size and location the following factors were taken into consideration:

- the projected number on roll at each secondary school
- the size range of the new Advanced Learning Centres to be between 900 and 2000 pupils
- long term sustainability taking account of planned housing developments within the current Unitary Development Plan and the proposed Local Development Framework
- location of existing school sites, availability of new sites and location within the existing public transport network
- distribution of Advanced Learning Centres across the Borough
- service to the community beyond the statutory school age
- deliverability within the funding provided through Building Schools for the Future

The Authority considered and discussed with Members the circumstances of each school against the above criteria. The results are tabulated in Table 8 below

Table 8 Option Appraisal Matrix

School	Sustainable NOR	Optimum Size (900 – 2000 places)	Long term sustainability (Link to housing developments in UDP)	Location in community and access to transport links	Distribution fit within LA area	Ability to serve the community	Retain or Replace?
Darton High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
Kirk Balk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
Penistone Grammar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
The Dearne High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site
The Kingstone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Consider Amalgamation wi Holgate
Holgate	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	Consider Amalgamation wi Kingstone
St Michael's Catholic and COE High	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	Retain on existing site and in size to 900
Edward Sheerien	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation wi Royston High
Wombwell High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation wi Foulstone
Royston High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation wi Edward Sheerien
Priory School and Sports College	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation wi Willowgarth High
Willowgarth High	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgamation wi
The Foulstone	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consider Amalgation with Wombwell High

The above assessment established the fixed points in terms of the institutions that have a long term sustainable future. The Schools where the long term future is in doubt were further reviewed in the context of the Authority's vision to establish a network of Advanced Learning Centres.

The resulting secondary provision in Barnsley would comprise of:

School	Proposal	Planned NOR
Darton High	ALC on existing site	1200
Kirk Balk	ALC on existing site	1200
Penistone Grammar	ALC on existing site	1700
The Deame High	ALC on existing site	1200
St Michael's Catholic and Church of England High	ALC on existing site	1100
Edward Sheerien and Royston High	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1100
Priory and Willowgarth	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1500
The Foulstone and Wombwell	Combine Schools to form ALC on new site	1800
The Kingstone and Holgate	Combined Schools to form ALC using all or part of existing sites	2200

The Authority has therefore initiated formal proposals which have been the subject of Statutory Consultation, for St. Michaels the resolution was: Provide an ALC to match the forecasted capacity.

5. PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the determination of an application for planning permission or an appeal must be made in accordance with the plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Conversely, applications which are not in accordance with relevant policies in the plan should not be allowed unless material considerations justify a grant of planning permission.

Under Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act, the development plan is the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Statutory Development Plan is the adopted Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (UDP), dated December 2000.

6. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT CONSIDERATIONS

The pupil roll to this particular site is likely to change significantly, as a result of the proposed development as Edward Sheerien & St Dominic's Catholic Primary will be moving off the site. The application seeks to improve the existing site entrances, provide adequate on-site staff parking, off-highway parent's drop-off point and an on-site bus drop-off point.

Consultation has taken place between School Transport Officers, Highways Officers and the Education Service to discuss existing transport arrangements, potential improvements and future provision. No Transport Assessment is necessary to consider the existing and future highway conditions of the site or the local highway network. The design and layout of the site will comply with the aims of national policy guidance in PPG13, which encourage sustainable development with good access to public transport to reduce reliance on private vehicles. Specific school bus services will serve the site, thus providing sustainable convenient and a safe way for pupils to travel to school.

There is currently no Travel Plan in place for St. Michaels. A Travel Plan will be prepared for the school and will be submitted with the full planning application.

7. EXISTING TREES AND LANDSCAPING

The site includes a number of trees and hedges, of some amenity value, which contribute to the character of the area. These have been surveyed and are indicated on the submitted Topographical Survey. Existing trees and other soft landscaping features will be fully considered in the design and layout of the new development. Every effort will be made to retain as many of the existing trees and hedges as possible in the proposed development. The position of the new building will take into account the important existing trees on site as identified by the authority's specialist advisor. Further details will be provided with the Reserved Matters application.

Landscaping is reserved for future consideration. However, the future development will include substantial planting and a full scheme of soft and hard landscaping will be provided for in all parts of the site. This will be designed to complement the architectural treatment of new buildings and make a positive contribution to the local environment. The landscaping treatment will ensure that the new development blends effectively with the environment and assist with ensuring the openness of the Green Belt is suitably protected.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Prior to the submission of the outline planning application for this site, public consultation was undertaken. The LEA has been in consultation with these groups:

- Heads of school
- School governors
- Parents of secondary children and parents of children attending primary feeder schools
- Staff employed at secondary and primary schools
- School forums

Consultation meetings have been held at the school and the above groups were all invited. Additional invitations were sent to all Councillors, the Diocese, Trade Unions and MP's. Notices were also displayed in Nurseries (both private and voluntary) and in playgroups.

2009 List of meetings:

Proposal for establishment of St Michael's Voluntary Aided School Through School

Consultation Meetings – Statutory Consultation

Date	Time	Venue	
12 January 2009	6.15	St Michael's	Combined meeting of the three Governing Bodies to explain Statutory process and proposed governance arrangements
22 January	4.00pm 6.00pm	St Michaels	Meeting for employees at three schools
27 January	6.00pm	Holy Cross	Meeting for parents of pupils at Holy Cross
29 January	5.30pm	St Dominic's	Meeting for parents of pupils at St Dominic's
29 January	7.30pm	St Michaels	Meeting for parents of pupils at St Michaels + parents of pupils at two feeder primary schools (Holy Rood and Royston St John's)
3 February	6.15pm	St Michaels	Combined meeting for three Governing Bodies

Consultation Meetings – Representation Period

Date	Time	Venue	
12 May 2009	4.30pm	St Michael's	Meeting for employees at three schools
12 May	5.30pm	St Michael's	Meeting for three Governing Bodies
12 May	6.30pm	St Michael's	Meeting for parents of pupils at the three existing schools plus the parents of pupils at Holy Rood Catholic Primary and Royston St John Baptist CE Primary.

The BSF project has a page on the BMBC web site, which all stakeholders have access to. The proposals are updated on a regular basis.

The consultation has taken place in the form of organised meetings attended by invitation and or individual meetings. Feedback from these meetings has informed the design process to date as has the consultation with statutory authorities. A Community and Voluntary Reference group is being set up as a result of the consultations as a means of keeping community group stakeholders informed and to encourage involvement in the design.

This represents a wide range of groups that may have an interest in the site, however it is not conclusive and if there are any particular groups it is believed we should consult with we are more than willing to do so.

9. ACCESS & DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995

The new building and facilities at St. Michael's will be situated on site giving due consideration to the ease of access for all. A holistic design approach will be adopted that does not discriminate between users of the site and its buildings in terms of their physical abilities.

Level access and alighting points from the boundary of the site to all areas of the site will be an inclusive part of the hard and soft landscaping scheme.

We will be seeking the approval of Building Control and ensuring that all Building Regulations are met in terms of Access and the DDA.

10. SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The new Advanced Learning Centre will be designed and developed in accordance with sustainable principles. The UK's Sustainable Development Strategy (1999) defines sustainable development in terms of four objectives:

1. Social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone
2. Effective protection of the environment
3. Prudent use of natural resources
4. Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

In terms of Building Schools for the Future one of the major drivers of the program is the present condition of secondary education and its effects on the community and economics of the region. Re-making learning in Barnsley is an opportunity to develop the skills of the whole community. The sustainability of the

economy, the environment and indeed the region is a major priority of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The principles we intend to adopt are:

- To promote walking and cycling to schools by careful consideration of the position of new buildings, enhancement of existing footpaths and cycle paths, provide new footpaths and cycle paths where possible. Provide cycle sheds on all secondary school sites and adequate changing facilities. These will be informed by consultation with Highways, school transport providers, public footpaths/rights of way, the LA and other interested parties.
- Promote 'car-sharing' for staff and pupils.
- For those having to use vehicles to travel to school we will encourage the use of public transport and provide turning points and drop-off points within the school boundaries.
- Aim to locate development within 400m of a bus stop.
- Energy efficiency will be a major driver for the design of the new building. Sustainable heating, ventilation and cooling systems will be employed.
- Adopt the Energy Hierarchy as set out in the Regional Planning Guidance (2002 revised 2004).
- Maximise the use of natural light without the negative effects of solar gain.
- Ensure an airtight construction and adequately controlled ventilation.
- Provide beyond adequate insulation.
- Include unheated buffer spaces to the main building to store solar heat and reduce exposure to cold.
- Utilise advanced glazing systems.
- Adhere to BMBC's policy of using 'Biomass' boiler systems.
- Careful orientation of the new building/s in order to harness and best use the existing landscape and renewable natural resources will be of up most importance.
- Create maximum opportunity and accessibility for current and future generations whilst minimising the loss of natural resources.
- The new development will contribute to establishing healthy environments and diverse communities.
- New buildings will be designed and constructed using the most up-to-date information and guidance from the BRE. Sustainability will be the deciding factor in the choice of materials and construction methods as will the embodied energy associated with the materials and the maintenance of the new building.
- Endeavour to re-use materials and topsoil already on site and give priority to low energy materials.
- Source materials locally, reducing delivery journeys and supporting the local economy. Ensure contractors do likewise by examining their supply chains.

- Use reclaimed materials where possible.
- Incorporate durable materials and products that have low impact in terms of environmental damage.
- Ensure stability of existing ground and suitability to withstand new foundations and development.
- Ensure any building management company understands our commitment to sustainability and puts measures in place to monitor environmental performance and guarantee action is taken if targets are not met.
- Design in features that protect the building and its inhabitants from extreme weather conditions and use average weather conditions to the advantage of the running of the building/s.
- Ensure service installations are easily accessible and flexible.
- Any negative impact on the existing environment by the new buildings and any re-configuration of the existing will be kept to an absolute minimum. Land previously developed will be maximised for the new development to restrict the loss of Greenfield area.
- Sustainable drainage techniques (SUDS) will be used where possible.
- Install water meters.
- Encourage the installation of: low-flush WC's, waterless urinals, low water use fittings and water efficient appliances.
- Encourage re-cycling (grey water) systems.
- Considered soft landscaping i.e. avoid plants/shrubs/trees requiring large amounts of water, water planting with recycled water, avoidance of mains supplies and sprinklers.
- Keep hard surfaced areas to a minimum in favour of porous surfaces thus slowing the rate of run-off to existing watercourses.
- Encourage natural alternatives to traditional sewage treatment.
- The design will aim to meet and improve on standards set by Building Regulations.

11. FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT/DRAINAGE STRATEGY

A consultant was appointed to carry out a full ground conditions survey. A copy of the report is included with this application. Please see page 13 section 17.0 Soakaway Assessment and 18.0 Conclusions and Recommendations, which suggests soakaways can be used although the ground does have poor drainage characteristics and that the soakaways be sized accordingly.

An earlier desktop study of the ground conditions was commissioned, refer to separate report prepared by Soil Mechanics, A6022/2 dated February 2006. The study includes a Flood Map from 'Envirocheck' that indicates areas at risk of flooding. There appears to be little or no risk. The full implications of this will be assessed as part of the full ground investigation survey and due consideration will be given to the layout and design of new buildings on site and to the design of the surface water drainage system.

The authority have also consulted with Yorkshire Water who have assessed the impact of the whole BSF programme on their infrastructure for the area, please see appendix A for their response.

The authority will be procuring the new ALC by the PFI method, funded partly via Partnerships For Schools (PFS). One of the criteria for this funding is that the new ALC's obtain a BREAM rating of 'Very Good'. It is understood that there are various means by which a developer can achieve this rating that may not necessarily improve drainage conditions. However, as part of the selection criteria they will be required show evidence of how they intend to fulfil the authority's obligations in terms of sustainability and drainage, particularly surface water drainage being a key issue. The successful design will include a drainage strategy which will:

- Encourage the installation of: low-flush WC's, waterless urinals, low water use fittings and water efficient appliances.
- Adopt Sustainable drainage techniques (SUDS)
- Keep hard surfaced areas to a minimum in favour of porous surfaces thus slowing the rate of run-off to existing watercourses, and encourage natural alternatives to traditional sewage treatment.

In addition to this the successful bidder will be applying for detailed planning permission and as such will need to show how they intend to deliver the scheme in accordance with PPS 25 and all other relevant policies.

The authority believe that a reduction of at least 20% of the surface water run-off can be achieved because the site currently houses two secondary schools and the one Primary school with a total buildings footprint of 12,415M2 and the footprint of the one ALC which will remain on this site will be approximately 2,868m2 (assuming a three storey building). This represents a reduction of 76% of the total footprint of built area.

12. GROUND CONDITIONS SURVEY/CONTAMINATION APPRAISAL

The desktop study, prepared by Soil Mechanics, A6022/2 dated February 2006 assesses ground conditions in advance of a full study. Advice has been sought from South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service; refer to SYMAS Mineral Report, dated 17th November 2005.

These studies and reports will inform the general site layout. The detailed study of ground conditions may have an effect on the future layout and development of the site.

13. ASSESSMENT OF SPORT ENGLAND REQUIREMENTS

Sport England has been consulted on the proposed development prior to the submission of the outline application. Their feedback and guidance has informed the outline proposals.

a) Current facilities

- St. Michaels currently have 24,807m² of playing field area which includes their marked out pitches. Based on the projected roll number of the new ALC and BB98 & BB99 recommendations this is insufficient. With Edward Sheerien & St Dominic's vacating the site there is the opportunity to provide St. Michaels with the recommended 41,500m² of pitch area required under BB98 & BB99.
- We anticipate that groups using the existing playing fields will suffer minimum disruption. The phasing of the construction programme will take due consideration of those groups using the existing facilities in the existing buildings. We understand from Sport England that we can apply for a temporary arrangement with regard to disruption of existing facilities.

b) Impact From Development

- There will be no loss of sports facilities. There will be an increase in Hard Surfaced Games Courts from 915m² to 3,320M². In addition to these external facilities a four court sports hall and an activity studio (this could be dance studio, gym etc.) will be incorporated in the new ALC design, to Sport England design standards.
- In terms of the Playing Pitch Strategy: the school have provided us with details of community and out of school usage of their sports facilities and pitches which it would seem, is minimal.
- It is the intention of the LA in conjunction with Leisure Services and Neighbourhood Services to encourage community use of the new ALC's facilities. This will be in accordance with the current Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport and Leisure Strategies.
- Changing facilities for community users and school users will be available; the details of these, marked out pitches and full sports provision will be submitted with the Full Plans Submission.
- Maintenance and management arrangements will be agreed before the Full Plans Submission. It is the intention of the LA to develop the site using a PFI contract, or a similar contract in terms of site maintenance and management which will be an essential part of the construction contract and likely to cover the next twenty five years.
- Details of primary sports to be accommodated will be submitted with The Full Plans Submission after further consultations with the school and community user groups.

c) Discussion with Leisure Department

- Consultation has taken place with BMBC's Sport & Active Recreation section and with Strategic Leisure, the agency charged with developing the authorities Sport and Leisure Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy. This has been undertaken in an effort to inform and interlink all the relevant strategies and ensure coherence between them.
- Please see the list of consultees below as evidence of public/community consultation:
 - Heads of school
 - School governors
 - Parents of secondary children and parents of children attending primary feeder schools
 - Staff employed at secondary and primary schools
 - School forums
 - Association of Community Partnerships
 - Local area partnerships
 - Trade unions
 - Diocese
 - LSC
 - Local elected members
 - BMBC cabinet, and
 - Senior officers BMBC.

d) Facilities Design

- The authority is in the process of facilitating design workshops with the existing schools and their stakeholders organised and run by external consultants and their specialists. The outcomes so far have informed the outline application and proposed site layout. The consultation will continue right through the design process to ensure the needs of the school and community users are met.
- All sports and leisure facilities within the site will be designed using BB98 & BB99, Sport England and other relevant guidelines. We expect to exceed any minimum requirements.
- The detail design aspects such as: circulation routes, buildings, pitches, services, flood lighting, landscaping, reception area's, heating, walls, floors, dimensions, disabled provision, changing and showering facilities etc. will be submitted with the full plans application.

From our consultations with Sport England we understand that they could support our proposals for the site.

14. CONCLUSION

The proposal for an advanced learning centre and all-through school in this location has been given thorough consideration by the Local Authority prior to submitting for an outline application. Alternatives have been carefully considered and reflected in making the decision to place an ALC on this particular site.

The authority believes that this development will improve education for over 1100 pupils in the local community.

Appendix:

BSF Team
Education Services
Barnsley MBC
Berneslai Close
Barnsley
S70 2HS

02 July 2009

**YORKSHIRE WATER
WASTE WATER**

NEW DEVELOPMENT TEAM

**KNOSTROP WWTW
KNOWSTHORPE LANE
LEEDS
LS9 0PJ**

**T 0113 235 4251
F 01274 372 834**

E

Planning.Sewerage@yorkshirewater.co.uk

Our Ref: ND/MY

Your Ref:

Dear Sirs,

Sewage Treatment Assessment - Barnsley Building Schools for the Future

Following our recent discussions regarding the Barnsley Building Schools for the Future Programme, and with the information on the full programme which you have supplied, I have now assessed the impact of the proposals on each of the waste water catchments affected.

I am pleased to confirm that the net changes to pupil numbers at a waste water catchment level indicate that the waste water flows and loads from your proposals can be accommodated by our treatment works. Should your proposals change significantly, either in terms of the programme dates or locations for pupil numbers, please forward this information at the earliest possible opportunity as these factors may be significant at some of the treatment facilities affected. It is noted that the programme will result in a number of existing schools be closed. Should these sites subsequently be considered for re-development, the provision of additional treatment capacity may be necessary at this stage.

Looking to the feasibility and design stages of the sites, I am keen to ensure that your programme of investment enjoys the smoothest possible journey through the planning process, and in particular that any issues relating to the management of surface water are identified and resolved early. I have enclosed a summary document setting out our approach to surface water control and disposal, based upon the current legal framework, codes of practice or latest guidance. I believe that there will be significant benefits to Barnsley, Yorkshire Water, and ultimately the communities that we both serve if this guidance can be incorporated into the information provided to prospective bid teams and construction partners.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time and effort that you took in providing me with the comprehensive overview of your programme. This has undoubtedly helped us to resolve the issues previously identified, and I look forward to working with you at subsequent stages to ensure that the programme is a success.

Yours sincerely

Mark Young
New Development Manager

Building Schools for the Future: Barnsley

General Information on the disposal of Surface Water

This guidance summarises Yorkshire Water's approach to surface water control and disposal, based upon the current legal framework, codes of practice or latest guidance.

Hierarchy of Surface Water Control

Part H3 of the Building Regulations 2000 establishes a preferred hierarchy for surface water disposal. Consideration should firstly be given to discharge to soakaway, infiltration system and watercourse in that priority order. In order to facilitate the earliest possible consideration of Part H3, we draw prospective developer's attention to this requirement during the pre-planning and planning stages of a proposal.

Surface water may drain to the public sewer, subject to no other suitable means of disposal, and available capacity. Generally surface water discharges to the public sewer will be restricted to the level of run-off - i.e. same rate of discharge - to that from the existing/previous use of the site. To maintain the "status quo" in the public sewer network, any discharge of surface water from the site should take place with similar rates of flow and/or measured areas discharging to similar points of connection to that of the existing/previous use of the site. You will need to demonstrate positive drainage to the public sewer to Yorkshire Water by means of investigation and calculation.

Land and Highway Drainage

The public sewer network is for domestic sewage purposes. This generally means foul water for domestic purposes and, where a suitable surface water or combined sewer is available, surface water from the roofs of buildings together with surface water from paved areas of land appurtenant to those buildings. Land and highway drainage have no right of connection to the public sewer network. Land drainage will not be allowed into a public sewer. Please note that drainage serving sports/playing fields is generally considered to be land drainage and as such will not be allowed to drain to the public sewer network.

Drainage for Parking Areas

Surface water run-off from communal parking (40 or more parking spaces) and hardstanding must pass through an oil, petrol and grit interceptor/separator of adequate design before any discharge to the public sewer network. Roof water should not pass through the traditional 'stage' or full retention type of interceptor/separator. It is good drainage practice for any interceptor/separator to be located upstream of any on-site balancing, storage or other means of flow attenuation that may be required.

New Sewer Connections

Any new connection to an existing public sewer will require the approval of Yorkshire Water. You may obtain an application form by telephoning 0114 251 8321.