
Special Meeting of Brierley Hill Area Committee - 6 January 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Consultation on proposals to close Pensnett High School and the Crestwood School in order to establish a new Academy

Purpose of Report

1. This report informs the Brierley Hill Area Committee of a consultation on proposals to close Pensnett High School and the Crestwood School in order to establish a new Academy. The consultation started on 28 November 2008 and will run until 23 January 2009. The Directorate of Children's Services seeks the Committee's views.

Background

2. Following the publication of the consultation on 28 November 2008, the Brierley Hill Area Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2008 requested a special meeting to be called to consider the proposal to close Pensnett High School and the Crestwood School in order to establish a new Academy.
3. The Consultation proposal document is attached, the list of consultees is contained on pages two and three. Meetings with stakeholders namely; students, staff, parents/carers, governors, local residents and ward councillors for both of the schools have been arranged during the week commencing 12 January 2009.

Finance

4. There are no direct financial implications arising from the initial consultation on the proposal to close Pensnett High School and the Crestwood School. There are, however, likely to be significant financial implications involved in the actual closure programme as evidenced by the recent school closures in Dudley.

Law

5. The procedures relating to the establishment, alteration or discontinuation of schools are principally contained in Chapter 11 (sections 28-35) and schedule 6 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Equality Impact

6. The consultation directly affects students at Pensnett High School and the Crestwood School the students have been invited to take part in the consultation.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Brierley Hill Area Committee consider and give feedback to the proposal by the 23 January 2009, and make any additional representation it feels fit to the Cabinet Member as part of the consultation process.



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List of Background Papers

Consultation on proposals to close Pensnett High School and The Crestwood School in order to establish a new Academy