**Consultation for a new Secondary School in the Central Manchester area**

**Education and Skills
Directorate for Children and Families
January 2017**

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF MANCHESTER BY SEPTEMBER 2018**

**This document is designed to:**

* **Notify you of Manchester City Council’s proposal to establish a new secondary school**
* **Explain why this is necessary**
* **Explain the process and timeline**
* **Invite your comments on the proposal**

**THE PROPOSAL**

From September 2018, the Local Authority is seeking to provide additional permanent capacity in central Manchester. The proposed secondary school will be a 12 form of entry (1,800 pupils) co-educational school and is planned to open on 1 September 2018.

The Manchester Strategy 2016 “Our Manchester” provides the following key commitments to children and young people:

* Ensure that all children and young people have access to high quality learning, suited to their individual needs. All children should attend and be ready to learn and have the opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and abilities. It is our ambition that all schools in Manchester are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.
* Celebrate the diversity and talent of Manchester’s children and young people. We value the range of backgrounds, heritage, and experiences of our children and young people and will strive to ensure that this is recognised and that they are supported to achieve their aspirations, however diverse.
* Ensure that all children and young people are prepared for life and citizenship and have the necessary skills for employment. To support this priority we will ensure that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have opportunities for training and employment.
* Build children and young people’s confidence, resilience, social skills, communication skills and social capital to support success from the earliest years of a child’s life.

Ensuring that residents have access to high quality schools within their local area is central to achieving this strategy. Achieving a sufficiency of high quality school places to meet need continues to require considerable investment, strategic planning and partnership with schools and school providers across the City, as the primary, secondary and special school pupil populations continue to increase year on year and, increasingly, throughout each year.

**WHY IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER NECESSARY?**

Manchester City Council (the Local Authority) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet demand.

The new secondary school is being proposed as a response to the projected need for additional secondary school places in the city specifically in central district as the increased primary cohorts that have grown since 2008 move towards secondary school age. There are ongoing challenges, as the primary, secondary and special school pupil populations continue to increase year on year and throughout each year.

**WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHOOL?**

Academies and free schools are schools not maintained by the Local Authority. However, it remains the Local Authority’s role to plan and secure sufficient school places.

The Education Act 2011 (and subsequent DFE guidance) changed the arrangements for establishing new schools which means that where a local authority identifies a need for a new school in its area, it must seek proposals to establish the new school as a free school. Provided at Appendix A is the process that Manchester will follow.

The process begins with the Local Authority carrying out a consultation exercise. This is not prescribed and up to the Local Authority to decide how to consult on the proposed new school and with whom. The feedback from the consultation will inform the school specification that the Local Authority develops. Once the specification is developed the Council will then invite interested parties to submit their expression of interest in becoming the sponsor of the new school.

**WHO MAKES THE FINAL DECISION AND WHEN?**

The Local Authority will assess all proposals received from potential providers of schools. Within their proposals, all potential providers will have to clearly state how they would meet the specification for the school which has been developed by the Local Authority. The Local Authority will then assess these and make a recommendation on its preferred provider for the new school. A submission will be made to the Regional Schools Commissioner who will further scrutinize each proposal and make the final decision.

The Local Authority is aiming to have its submission to the Regional Schools Commissioner by 12 April 2017.

Please note there will be also be further opportunities for consultation on the planning of this site and the design of the school building once more detailed information is available as part of the planning process. This consultation process is to inform development of a specification for the proposed new secondary school.

**YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL**

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to gather views on the plans to develop a new 12 form of entry (1,800 pupils) co-educational secondary school in the central Manchester area as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school.

At this stage we want to know if you are broadly in favour of a new secondary school in central Manchester and the size we are proposing.

**HOW DO I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN?**

The consultation period is 12 January 2017 – 13 February 2017.

You can write to:

Planning & Accommodation Support Services

(New Secondary School Consultation)

Level 4

PO Box 532

Town Hall Extension

Manchester

M60 2LA

You can submit your views online at:

<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations_and_surveys/7415/new_secondary_school_in_central_manchester>

COMMENTS SHOULD BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5PM ON MONDAY **13 FEBRUARY 2017**