

**Local Authority expression of interest for inclusion in the
Building Schools for the Future programme
November 2008**

Calderdale Council (381)

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1. Introduction

Calderdale's secondary provision can be summarised as follows:

<i>Type of School</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Further information</i>
Foundation selective, 11-19	2	Strong history of collaboration with non-selective schools
Foundation comprehensive, 11-19	5	One re-built through PFI One received TCF
Community comprehensive, 11-19	4	One rebuilt through PFI One (The Ridings) to close in 2009
Community comprehensive, 11-16	2	Both rebuilt through PFI
Church of England faith, 11-19	1	Due to be replaced by an Academy in 2010, with a new build from 2012
Roman Catholic faith, 11-19	1	
Secondary special, 11-19	1	
Secondary PRU, 11-16	1	

Our provision is diverse, yet all of our schools, along with Calderdale College, participate in collaborative 14-19 provision, organised into three clusters. These clusters, referred to in more detail below, form the core of our strategy for transforming learning and are shown on the attached map. 63% of our schools have been graded good or outstanding by Ofsted.

2. Strategic education plans

Calderdale's vision for Building Schools for the Future is transformative, inclusive and builds on success. Through it, we will continue the transformation process which has already begun through the development of the successful *Campus Calderdale* collaborative and a five school (four secondary) PFI project completed in 2005. We have a strong vision for developing our schools, rooted within the *Calderdale Challenge* programme and we are well placed to deliver it.

In a nutshell, BSF in Calderdale will accelerate our programme to:

- Prioritise improved provision within areas of deprivation
- Address issues of standards and equity
- Strengthen and rationalise the cluster approach to 14-19 education, through providing transformation in proportion to community need

- Strengthen the contribution of the borough's two selective schools to partnership working and integrate their post-sixteen provision within genuine open access arrangements
- Integrate the work of our FE provider, Calderdale College, which has its own £55 million building programme, within partnership provision
- Co-locate extended services, special school provision and enrichment facilities alongside mainstream schools
- Work with all relevant sources of funding, including: 14-19 capital; Diploma exemplar; schools' devolved capital; second specialism funding for a potentially high performing 11-16 school; LSC funding which Calderdale College will draw down; primary capital strategy; partnership contributions from the PCT

Most significantly of all, it is embedded within our aspirations for all of the people of our borough, particularly when, because of the crucial importance of HBOS to jobs in the area, Calderdale has been identified as the authority likely to be sixth most badly hit by the economic downturn. (*Oxford Economics*)

Calderdale Council's **ambition** is to be "a place where we value everyone being different and through our actions we demonstrate that everyone matters". Indeed, the Council initiated the **Calderdale Challenge** programme with its partners precisely to this effect. Drawing on the impetus of the big city challenges, the Calderdale Challenge seeks a broader focus on young people, whilst ensuring that outcome targets are met. Thus one of the outcomes of the Calderdale Challenge will be that no school will be below its floor targets, but of greater significance is the notion of an experience to which every child should be entitled. Likewise, a key theme of the Challenge is to develop schools for the future, not merely as rebuilt facilities, but as centres of learning for life for all. Through, for example, the co-location of inclusive provision and extended services and the investment which can be contributed by our partners in Health, Building Schools for the Future will assist in, and be integrated within, the realization of these ambitions.

Our programme builds on a **strong vision** for Calderdale's schools of the future developed in partnership with all secondary headteachers in Calderdale, who have been fully involved in the development of this expression of interest, which describes a consensus around the key themes of: learning; entitlement and equity; partnership working; environment; community; leadership; meeting individual need.

It builds on the **successful 14-19 collaborative**: *Campus Calderdale*, an absolute key to 14-19 success in a borough whose geography makes a tertiary system improbable, which has already brought traditionally autonomous schools together in exciting partnership work. Building Schools for the Future will take that further.

Furthermore, BSF will build on the **three clusters** within our collaborative: *North Halifax, the Valley* and *the District*. These clusters, geographically coherent area improvement partnerships, balanced in terms of the strengths of their schools and integrating the work of successful selective schools within the whole, will be the basis of the transformation which BSF will bring. In a nutshell, this will be in direct proportion to the needs – in terms of standards and deprivation – of each cluster.

It must be emphasised that we have consistently addressed **standards** and **social need** when framing our priorities. The most needy school in the borough, The Ridings, received priority investment in the early years of the century and, improvement having proved difficult to sustain, is to be closed, new provision being developed within Trinity Academy Halifax, which will replace a nearby faith school.

The two other schools which, at one time, were consistently below all floor targets have been rebuilt through **PFI**. The transformation of one of these, Halifax High at Wellesley Park, has been remarkable. (59% 5A*-C, 42% including English and maths.) The other, Park Lane High, is well on the way (51%, 24%). Our initial BSF project therefore builds on this success. The success which Calderdale, as a smaller authority, has had with the five-school PFI scheme, indicates much about our **readiness to deliver**.

Furthermore, our bid includes a radical transformation, in **partnership with Kirklees Council and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds**, for St Catherine's, the only other school in the borough close to the current floor target and All Saints, in Kirklees. Relocated and amalgamated, the new school will be in a better position to attract a comprehensive intake, and one with a critical mass of students of Catholic faith. Support now will help us to build on the momentum of change in Calderdale and enable us to collaborate with Kirklees in line with their project timelines.

3. Rationale for prioritisation

Our BSF submission aims to be transformative in proportion to the need of the three clusters (North, Valley and District) and to sequence that transformation logically and consequentially through the two proposed projects.

Prior to our initial project we will:

- Prepare the way for the transformation of education in the North Halifax cluster, Calderdale's most deprived locality, by using 14-19 funding to enable the development of shared provision which, alongside the Academy, will begin the process of creating a North Halifax Learning Village

The **initial project** has the overarching objective of:

- Transforming provision within the Valley cluster by completing the necessary rebuilding of secondary provision which began with the PFI programme and strengthening post-16 arrangements

During this project we will also:

- Carry out the relocation of St Catherine's in order to enable the subsequent developments within North Halifax

The **follow-on project** then has two main objectives:

- Completing the transformation of secondary provision within the North Halifax Cluster through fully establishing the North Halifax Learning Village
- Developing provision within the District cluster to enable effective collaborative delivery of the 14-19 curriculum by already strong schools, largely through remodelling

Within the above strategy there will be sensible prioritisation to reflect the criteria for initial projects.

4. Transformation described

In the **north of Halifax**, where deprivation is high and standards have proved difficult to ratchet up, preparing the way for a learning village, within which the Academy will be included, and through which we will enable its collaboration with others, particularly in post-16 provision, is a key objective of our proposed initial project.

Prior to the receipt of BSF funding, we will already have begun to develop post-16 provision shared by the Academy, a selective school which shares the same site and a former secondary modern rebuilt elsewhere through PFI, which we will look to integrate within the North Halifax cluster through a formal arrangement.

Within our initial project we will amalgamate and relocate the St Catherine's and All Saints schools, in partnership with Kirklees Council. This will enable us to complete the transformation of education in North Halifax in the follow-on project.

Within the learning village, where secondary education in the northern part of the town will be rebuilt, we will co-locate: a skills centre, managed by Calderdale College; a special school, which will extend provision into adulthood; social, emotional and behavioural provision; and, through funding drawn down by the PCT, a new GP's practice. We will examine the possibility of co-locating a primary school from the effective North Halifax Federation within which the North Halifax secondary schools are key partners. Space will be allocated across these capital projects for broader multi-agency work. These developments clearly target the regeneration and health needs of the community and tie in with the Academy's specialism in Health Science.

In the **Valley cluster**, stretching from western Halifax to Todmorden, BSF will address issues of standards and equity post-16, and provide for the significant increase in numbers which will occur as a result of a population increase in western Halifax, where there are high numbers of potentially vulnerable children.

Firstly, we will rebuild the Todmorden High and Calder High schools. Issues of post-16 standards and adequacy at the former will be addressed through a combined sixth form, concentrating the majority of academic study at Calder High and co-locating a college skills centre, along with health provision, at Todmorden.

At the same time, we will develop a combined sixth form involving Crossley Heath School, which will be remodelled and provided with a new build post-16 centre, Sowerby Bridge and Halifax High at Wellesley Park. This will mirror the partnership in North Halifax (selective; 11-18 comprehensive; 11-16 former secondary modern), address issues of post-16 standards and adequacy at Sowerby Bridge and create equity for the increased numbers of level 3 qualified students from Halifax High.

Subsequently, we will significantly expand Halifax High at Wellesley Park to provide for the increase in population in the area.

In the **District cluster**, BSF funding will focus on enabling effective provision of 14-19 learning through strengthened collaboration between already strong schools, along with the integration of extended service and health provision. In partnership with the PCT, we will locate a centre for GPs and an associated pharmacy around one of the schools in this cluster.

Additionally, we will establish **centres for enterprise and creativity** within each cluster. This multi-agency provision will contribute to fulfilling one of the aspirations of

the Calderdale Challenge, that we should “create a variety of spaces in which young people can learn, develop socially and enjoy themselves.” These centres will ensure that young people in each locality have access not only to outstanding day-time facilities for creative subjects and enterprise but also to out of hours provision including youth work, positive activities, information and advice. Parent and community access will also be a feature of this provision. It will embed the concept of the extended secondary school, creating genuine community hubs for young people and their families within each cluster.

5. Impact

The impact of BSF alongside current projects on the current secondary school establishment would be as follows:

North Halifax cluster

School	Type	Age range	Project	Proposed impact of BSF alongside current projects
Holy Trinity Senior	C of E faith	11-19	-	To be replaced by an Academy in 2010; the Academy to participate in the learning village, including a shared sixth form centre
The Ridings	Comp	11-19	-	To be closed in 2009
St Catherine's	Roman Catholic faith	11-19	1	To be relocated to an alternative site in the borough and amalgamated with a school in Kirklees, in partnership with Kirklees Council and RC Diocese of Leeds
North Halifax Grammar	Selective	11-19	2	To share sixth form arrangements with the Academy and Park Lane High through the shared sixth form centre which precedes project 1; 11-16 section to be rebuilt in project 2
Park Lane High	Comp	11-16	-	Already rebuilt through PFI; to benefit from greater post-16 equity through student entitlement to post-16 learning in the learning village
Ravenscliffe High	Special	11-19	2	To be relocated to the learning village and extended to 11-25 age range; integrated health provision to be available across the village

The Valley cluster

School	Type	Age range	Project	Proposed impact of BSF alongside current projects
Crossley Heath	Selective	11-19	1	Provision for shared sixth form arrangements with Sowerby Bridge High and Halifax High at Wellesley Park to be built; 11-16 section to be fully remodelled
Todmorden High	Comp	11-19	1	To be rebuilt through BSF; to share sixth form with Calder High; FE skills centre and Health provision to be co-located
Calder High	Comp	11-19	1	To be rebuilt through BSF; to share a sixth form with Todmorden High; to host cluster creative/enterprise centre
Ryburn Valley	Comp	11-19	-	Already rebuilt through PFI; to use strengths to support 14-19 collaboration in the cluster
Sowerby Bridge	Comp	11-19	-	Already remodelled through PFI; shared sixth form

High				will address post-16 provision & standards
Halifax High at Wellesley Park	Comp	11-16	1, 2	Already rebuilt through PFI; some shared post-16 provision to be developed in project 1; school to be expanded in project 2; participation in post-16 arrangements will achieve greater equity

The District cluster

School	Type	Age range	Project	Proposed impact of BSF alongside current projects
Rastrick High	Comp	11-19	1	Enhanced 14-19 provision within collaborative arrangements; resourced provision for physical impairment; centre for GPs and pharmacy to be co-located
Brighouse High	Comp	11-19	2	Enhanced 14-19 provision within collaborative arrangements; to host cluster creative/enterprise centre
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe High	Comp	11-19	2	Enhanced 14-19 provision within collaborative arrangements
Brooksbank	Comp	11-19	2	Enhanced 14-19 provision within collaborative arrangements
-	RC faith	11-16	2	Relocated from North Halifax; amalgamated with a school in Kirklees