

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**The Future Pattern of Secondary Education – Academies
PROPOSAL TO TRANSFORM TAMARSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INTO
AN ACADEMY**

On the 1 September 2010, Plymouth City Council (PCC, “the City Council”) proposes to replace Tamarside Community College with a University of Plymouth sponsored Academy, on the same site. Under this proposal, Tamarside would close on 31 August 2010 to enable the Academy to open, and this decision was subject to consultation which opened on 18 June 2009 and closed on 24 July.

The City Council considered the views submitted in this first stage of the consultation and decided to proceed with the closure of Tamarside and the opening of the Academy. The next step is to issue a closure notice. This will be withdrawn if, for any reason, it is not possible to proceed with the Academy.

All of the proposals are subject to the Secretary of State signing an agreement to enable the Academy to be opened, should this not go ahead then the proposal will not proceed.

The attached document - *Matters to be Specified In Section 15 Proposals To Discontinue A School* - is the ‘prescribed information’ specified by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) that sets out the information that the proposer - Plymouth City Council - must provide about a proposal if and when a closure notice is issued. A closure notice was published on Wednesday 16 September 2009.

Please take time to read the papers. Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Director of Services for Children and Young People (ref JEG), Plymouth City Council PL1 2AA

JEG/16 September 2009

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

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

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.*

Local Authority:	Plymouth City Council
Proposals Published by:	Plymouth City Council
Contact Address:	Director of Services for Children and Young People (ref. JEG) Plymouth City Council PLYMOUTH PL1 2AA
Proposed School Closure:	<u>Tamarside Community College</u>
DCSF No:	879/4189

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.*

31 August 2010

Consultation

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

The City Council published material to explain the proposal, including a summary of and timeline for the statutory procedures, and allow interested parties to respond to and express a view on the proposal. The proposal is also conditional on the Secretary of State making an agreement for an Academy to be opened on the existing site of the Community College with a planned implementation date of 1 September 2010.

The consultation opened on 18 June 2009 and closed on 24 July 2009 and Council officers/Senior School Staff held an informal drop-in question and answer session at Tamarside Community College on Tuesday 7 July 2009 to provide the opportunity for interested persons or organisations to ask questions about any aspect of the proposal.

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) The following individuals and organisations were consulted:
- Headteachers, staff, governors, families, pupils of John Kitto and Tamarside Community Colleges
 - Headteacher and Chair of Governors of all linked primary schools
 - Headteachers, staff, governors and families of all other schools (via School Room and PCC website)
 - CE and RC Diocese
 - Residents local to the two schools
 - All City Councillors
 - Plymouth Members of Parliament - Linda Gilroy MP, Allison Seabeck MP and Gary Streeter MP
 - Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Children and Young People's Directorate
 - Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust
 - Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
 - Plymouth Children's and Young People's Trust
 - Learning and Skills Council for England
 - Plymouth Association of Primary Heads (PAPH)
 - Plymouth Association of Secondary Heads (PASH)
 - Special School Heads in Plymouth (SHAP)
 - Parent Partnership Service (Parent Family Forum)
 - Plymouth Association of Governors
 - Trade Unions
 - Neighbouring Local Authorities
 - City College Plymouth
 - Plymouth College of Art
 - The University College of Plymouth St Mark & St John
 - University of Plymouth
 - Saltash College
 - Torpoint College
 - Any other interested parties (via PCC website)
- b) It was decided not to hold public consultation meetings, however an informal drop-in session was held at Tamarside Community College on 7 July 2009 and the comments received were incorporated in the summary of responses. A meeting was also held at Tamarside Community College on 2 July to provide staff, parents and governors with an opportunity to meet the sponsors and understand more about the proposed Academy.
- c) Eighty-eight responses were received to the consultation on proposals relating to the closure of both John Kitto Community College and Tamarside Community College with 40 in support, 25 not in support and 23 undecided. Of these 37 responses related to Tamarside Community College with 11 in support, 14 not in support and 12 undecided. Comments from those in support of the proposals pointed to the benefits of providing a high class environment for the children to learn and achieve, helping to regenerate the local community, bringing innovation and investment into the City, and encouraging parents and future students to choose a local school rather than travelling across the City. The response from the groups of Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils at Tamarside Community College during the drop-in session

was very positive with students expressing the desire to feel part of the school's new identity and be involved in choosing the name, logo and uniform, and in discussions about the building plans.

Comments from those that do not support the proposals included the lack of proof that academy status is an effective strategy to improve student achievement, that the process is disruptive and will undermine staff morale, that giving money to a school will not improve exam results, that the negative side of the proposal has not been fully explained to enable an informed choice to be made, and that there is no security for staff.

Comments from those who are undecided relate to concerns about the lack of information available to staff about future staffing structures, terms and conditions and union representation, the track record of academies, the smoothness of transition and disruption to students from building work, what would happen if sponsors pulled out, and how academy status would raise standards.

- d) All consultation documents are published on the Council website at www.plymouth.gov.uk/academies and available in paper form from the School Organisation Team, tel: Plymouth (01752) 307505.

Objectives

5. *The objectives of the proposal.*

By replacing Tamarside Community College with an Academy, the City Council's objectives will be:

- to regenerate the communities served by the College;
- to accelerate the improvement and raising of standards that have taken place in the College in recent years;
- to provide outstanding facilities for community use throughout the year.

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.*

At the same time as the Council has been considering the Strategy for Change, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has identified five schools in the Local Authority which are achieving at or below 30% in both English and Maths at KS4 as National Challenge Schools.

The National Challenge programme requires Local Authorities to consider transformational change programmes as a means of securing rapid academic progress in GCSE results.

Tamarside Community College faces significant challenges both in terms of buildings that can provide 21st Century education and in terms of delivering high levels of attainment whilst serving areas of high levels of social economic disadvantage. In order to address both factors officers have been in discussion with school governors and potential sponsors about the viability of securing transformational change at both schools through the National Academies programme.

The Council expects that a BSF programme for Plymouth will:

- create more choice and diversity in the pattern of secondary school

provision through introducing academies, foundation schools and federations;

- provide a pattern of viable schools with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and learning;
- present significant opportunities to maximise the benefits of extended services for children, parents and local communities.

The range of secondary schools available in Plymouth – comprehensive (including Trust Schools), selective and faith schools – will continue to provide a truly comprehensive mix of abilities and social backgrounds.

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.

All pupils on roll will continue their schooling at the newly opened Academy and the full range of education and training opportunities will be maintained, in order that the continued acceleration of improvement and raising of standards that have taken place in the College in recent years continues into the future.

Need for places

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

Plymouth is served by a diverse range of 16 secondary schools, including 9 Community Comprehensive, 2 Secondary Trusts, 3 selective and 2 voluntary aided schools, but the number of secondary-age pupils across the City is falling. The numbers in Years 7-11 are forecast to fall by 10% over the next 5 years, a drop of almost 1,500 pupils – roughly equivalent to an average-size comprehensive school. As a result Parkside Community Technology College closed in August 2008.

It is envisaged that all pupils on roll will continue their schooling at the newly opened Academy.

10. *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.*

N/A

Current School Information

11. *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.*

Tamarside Community College is an 11-18 Technology Specialist College. The number of students on roll, including those with educational needs – listed separately is shown below

Tamarside Community College – (January 2009 Census)

Students on Roll				Students with Special Educational Needs			
Age (as at 31 Aug 08)	Male	Female	Total	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	Total
11	98	88	186	2	6	7	15
12	94	79	173	18	7	3	28
13	91	83	174	42	19	4	65
14	109	104	213	70	9	5	84
15	98	117	215	50	21	4	75
17	43	67	110	0	0	2	2
18	25	27	52	6	0	0	6
Total	558	565	1123	188	62	25	275

Displaced Pupils

12. *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—*

- (d) any interim arrangements;*
- (e) 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*
- (f) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.*

- a) All pupils on roll will continue their schooling at the newly opened Academy.
- b) Tamarside has no provision that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for children with special educational needs.
- c) Tamarside is not a special school.

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 no anticipated need as the school is being replaced on the site. However where a parent or carer seeks a place at another school, the application will be successful if there is a vacancy in the relevant year group

and, in the case of a selective school, the child qualifies for admission.

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.*

The proposal for an Academy to replace Tamarside Community College will address the imbalances in achievement between different parts of the City and will ensure that investment will be targeted so that benefits address these imbalances. The proposal also addresses the link between education and the community; in particular it supports the link between school environments and the promotion of high class sporting facilities for the City. The Academy Programme will include capital investment through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) to dramatically improve the school's learning environment and is focussed on raising attainment and continuous improvement hence improving life chances.

The proposal is targeted to ensure that all communities have outstanding opportunities. There will be no need to travel long distances for school places and parental choice will be upheld.

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

The new Governing Body of the proposed Academy will deliver the full range of extended services.

Travel

15. *Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.*

All Schools/Colleges are within easy reach of each other and a comprehensive public transport system helps to ensure that a number of schools are accessible.

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

We anticipate that there will not be any displaced pupils. All pupils on roll will continue their education at the newly opened Academy on the school site. The new Academy will develop a School Travel Plan aimed at reducing car usage.

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.*

N/A

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—

- (g) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;*
- (h) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;*
- (i) 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*
- (j) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,*

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

N/A

Maintained nursery schools

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

- (k) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;*
- (l) 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*
- (m) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.*

N/A

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.*

Tamarside Community College is not a special school and has no provision that is recognised by the Local Authority (Plymouth City Council) as reserved for children with special educational needs.