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Subject: Middleton Technology School: Status: For Publication  
Prescribed Alteration to remove Sixth Form  
Provision.

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Report to: Cabinet Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
Informal Cabinet 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

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Report of: Service Director Support for Email: [chris.swift@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:chris.swift@rochdale.gov.uk)  
Learning  
Contact Officer Chris Swift, School Organisation and Development Manager Tel: 01706 925016

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Cabinet Member: Councillor Martin, Portfolio Holder for Children Schools and Families

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Comments from Section 151 Officer   
Statutory Officers: Monitoring Officer

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Key Decision: Yes ~~No~~

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In September 2012 the Governing Body of Middleton Technology School asked the Local Authority to consider closing the Sixth Form at the school; with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. At its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet agreed to public consultation on the proposal. This report presents to outcome of that consultation, and asks Cabinet to consider whether to publish statutory proposals in the light of that consultation.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this report, together with the responses to the consultation and to indicate its view on whether or not statutory proposals should be published.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to consider this report, together with the responses to the consultation and to decide whether or not statutory proposals should be published for the closure of the Sixth Form at Middleton Technology School.

### 3. MAIN TEXT INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED/ CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 3.1 The Governing Body of Middleton Technology School has considered a report from the Headteacher setting out the implications for the school in continuing with sixth form provision. That report set out the background to the establishment of sixth form provision at the school, it's place in post 16 provision in Middleton Township and the Borough as a whole. The provision at Middleton Technology School was a vocational offer, consisting initially of 2 diploma courses in Engineering, Society, Health and Development and planned to be followed by other diplomas in Manufacturing and ICT. These courses were to be part of a collaborative Sixth Form offer in the Township in partnership with St.Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley High School.
- 3.2 In the past the Sixth Form has had up to 70 students in the 2 diploma courses at Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) and Level 3 (A level equivalent). However, the school has not been able to grow the provision to a viable size, and for September 2012 there were only 9 applications to the Sixth Form so it has not been possible to offer any places. There are only 17 students going forward into Year 13 in September 2012. This is not financially viable, nor is it an effective use of resources by the school.
- 3.3 If the proposal to discontinue the sixth form provision is to proceed there needs to be consideration of the implications for current and future potential students. As indicated above there has been no recruitment to Year 12 for this September. Those students continuing in to Year 13 will be able to complete their programme of study. For future students who wish to access post-16 education these can be accommodated by a range of post 16 providers- other school sixth forms, Hopwood Hall College and Rochdale Sixth Form College.
- 3.4 The arrangements for consultation on Prescribed Alterations to schools are set out in Department for Education (DfE) statutory and other guidance. Consultation was undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012. A copy of the consultation letter is attached as Appendix One, and the full consultation papers were available on the Council website.
- 3.5 The consultation letter was sent to parents, students, staff of the school; Secondary Headteachers in the Borough, Rochdale Sixth Form College, secretaries of recognised trades unions, neighbouring local authorities, the local MP, the Education Funding Agency, Diocesan Authorities and Middleton Township Councillors.
- 3.6 There have been 5 responses to the consultation and these are set out in Appendix Two. Middleton Township Committee at it's meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November noted the report. The views expressed are:

- Three parents responded- the main points being that they want the sixth form to continue, that there should be more breadth of provision to make it viable
- One school responded wanting clarification on future use of the buildings and implications for admission numbers;
- One neighbouring Local Authority responded to the effect that the proposal is unlikely to affect their residents; and
- There were no comments from the Staff meeting at Middleton Technology School;

3.7 Before taking a decision on whether to publish statutory proposals, Members must take a view on the response to the consultation- the nature of comments and concerns raised and the number of those comments. Members should also take account of the risk identified in paragraph 7 below.

3.8 Should Cabinet decide to publish statutory proposals there would be a further six week representation period, during which interested parties may make representations on the proposals. At the end of that period Cabinet would then determine the proposal in accordance with statutory guidance for decision makers.

3.9 A copy of the draft Prescribed Information, which must accompany the published proposal, is attached as Appendix Three. At the end of the representation period in making the decision, Cabinet has one of four possible outcomes: to approve the proposal; to approve the proposals with modification; to give a conditional approval to the proposals; or to reject the proposals. Further guidance will be given at the time.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Funding for sixth form provision is through the Education Funding Agency, and there are to be changes in how the whole of post-16 funding is determined and allocated. The number of students in the sixth form means that the provision is not financially viable.

4.2 Middleton Technology School applied to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for capital project support for the construction of the sixth form block. LSC approval for £7.23million was given in February 2009. The implications of this are described in section 8 below.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Local Authority is the Admission Authority for the school and is responsible for undertaking consultation, publishing any statutory proposals and determining those proposals in accordance with statutory and other guidance.

## 6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The governing body is responsible for managing any staffing changes and meeting any costs associated from their decision to seek closure that might arise following a proposed closure of the Sixth Form.

## 7. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Corporate priorities under "Aiming High" include raising educational achievement and improving skill levels across all age groups. The closure of the small vocationally oriented sixth form at the school will enable the school to prioritise resources for the 11-16 age group. The other providers in the township and the borough (Hopwood Hall, Rochdale Sixth Form College and school sixth forms) will be able to accommodate future displaced demand.

## 8. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- The sixth form accommodation at the school was funded by the Learning and Skills Council directly with the school (approval given in February 2009). A condition of the funding for the project (paragraph 17 of the Approval letter) states that "Upon completion of the Project the buildings procured must be used by the school for the principal purpose of providing education for 16-19 year old learners". Paragraph 18 of the letter goes on "In the event of a breach of any of the terms and conditions contained in this letter, the LSC may exercise all or any of the following rights:
    - a) to require the repayment, in whole or in [part, of sums paid by the LSC hereunder,
    - b) to require the payment of interest in respect of any period during which a sum due to the LSC hereunder remains unpaid; and
    - c) to withhold either in whole or in part funding that would otherwise have been payable to the school under this letter."
- The LSC has been replaced by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and is a statutory consultee. Discussion with the EFA to date indicate that provided the accommodation is used for school provision there would be no clawback. The EFA has now asked for information on the future use of the building and whether there is future demand for post 16 expansion. A response has been submitted indicating that the buildings would continue to be used for educational purposes. We now await the response from the EFA.
- The potential clawback would be the responsibility of the Local Authority, as the maintaining Authority for the school, therefore a final decision on statutory proposals would not be made until we know the position of EFA.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

### 9.1 Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

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## 9.2 Equality/Community Impact Assessments

A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix Four. The following equality/community issues arise from the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The closure of the Sixth Form at Middleton Technology school will reduce choice to a small degree. However, alternative provision is available at other school sixth forms on the township. Provision for post 16 students is also available at Rochdale Sixth Form College and Hopwood Hall College.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Making Changes to Mainstream Schools- Decision Makers Guidance	<a href="http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg/data/guidance_Documents/Other%20Changes%20Guide%202010-02-01-DM%20only.doc">http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg/data/guidance_Documents/Other%20Changes%20Guide%202010-02-01-DM%20only.doc</a>

# APPENDIX ONE - Consultation Proposal



Middleton Technology School

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING SERVICE

**Sandra Bowness**  
**Service Director**

E-mail: consultation@rochdale.gov.uk

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012

To: Governors, Parents, Pupils, Staff of Middleton Technology School, Rochdale Secondary Schools, Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions, neighbouring Local Authorities, Diocesan Authorities, Education Funding Agency, MPs for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale  
cc: Middleton Township Councillors,

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MIDDLETON TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM PROVISION IN 2013.**

*The reason for this letter is to tell you that following a request from the Governing Body of the school, the Local Authority is considering the closure of the Sixth Form at Middleton Technology School at the end of August 2013. Before it takes the decision, the Local Authority wants to hear your views about the proposed closure.*

### **What is being proposed?**

The proposal is to close the Sixth Form Provision at Middleton Technology School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. Sixth Form provision for Middleton Township will continue to be provided through a combination of provision- Rochdale Sixth Form College, Hopwood Hall College, St. Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley RC High School. There are other post-16 providers in adjacent local authority areas.

### **Why does the Local Authority want to do this?**

The Governing Body has looked at the educational and financial viability of continuing with the small sixth form provision at the school. The small numbers of students, together with changes to the funding arrangements for school sixth forms means that the school cannot afford to continue with a sixth form. The Local Authority has considered the views of the Governing Body and in the interests of the school has agreed to consult on proposals to close the sixth form.

### **What would happen and when?**

The Sixth Form would close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. The last admission to year 12 would have been September 2012, but there was insufficient demand to justify starting new courses. Those students who have started their Year 13 programme this September will be able to finish their studies at the school unaffected.

### **Is that the only change proposed by the Local Authority?**

Yes. The only change the Local Authority is consulting on is to close the Sixth Form.

### **How will the closure be managed?**

The Governing Body will plan the curriculum and staffing implications of the change in the context of managing the school budget.

### **Further information**

Further information on this proposal is available on the Council Website [www.rochdale.gov.uk/about the council/ more on about the council/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/about_the_council/more_on_about_the_council/consultations.aspx) or the School website [www.middtech.com](http://www.middtech.com) follow the link to '6th form closure consultation'

### **Consultation**

There is a 7 week consultation period starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012. This ends at midnight on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

### **Who takes the decision?**

On 17<sup>th</sup> December the Local Authority will consider all responses received within the consultation period. It will decide whether to publish statutory proposals to close the Sixth Form in 2013. If the Local Authority decides to publish proposals, at the end of a 6 week representation period the Local Authority will then make the final decision in accordance with Statutory Guidance and Regulations.

### **How can I make my views known?**

Meetings have been arranged as follows-

School Council	10.35am on 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	LE 1 in the School
School Staff	3pm on 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	Main hall in the School
Open Drop-in for Parents & carers	Starts 4pm until 6.30pm Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	School hall, Middleton Technology School

### ***The closing date for comments is midnight on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012***

Comments should be sent to [consultation@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@rochdale.gov.uk), or in writing to Dawn Jennings, School Support Officer, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Schools Service, PO Box 70, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1YD or via the consultation website [www.rochdale.gov.uk/about the council/ more on about the council/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/about_the_council/more_on_about_the_council/consultations.aspx)

Yours Faithfully



**Sandra Bowness**

Service Director

Support for Learning

# APPENDIX TWO: RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

## All received via email

- Siddal Moor Sports College– 2<sup>nd</sup> October @ 9.45am

I realise there are difficulties as to the Local Authority control in this matter, nevertheless I would like to see the consultation have an open approach to the future PAN for the School and any plans in place for future use of the buildings. Without this a consultation would have very little meaning. It appears they have already in effect closed the provision.

- Mrs W – 2<sup>nd</sup> October @ 14.09

I am contacting yourselves to express my objections to the proposed closure of the 6th Form at Middleton Technology school. My son has just begun year 7, had I have known there would not be the above provision and given that my son will be required to stay in education until he is 18 I would not have opted for the above school. The problem is around low intake, surely canvassing the existing pupils into what courses they would prefer to take then piloting this would at least give the pupils an option, it seems that there are too few courses therefore you would expect a low demand. I would like to see proactive evidence of the school and the local authority trying to improve the above situation therefore allowing existing pupils to continue with their education with the least disruptive option or is this proposal already signed and sealed as is so often the case. If I wanted my son to use the 6th form facilities at other schools I would have sent him there.

- Calderdale MBC – 4<sup>th</sup> October @ 11.05

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed closure of Middleton Technology College Sixth Form. From reading the literature on your web site I do not believe there will be any impact on Calderdale young people, parents or schools.

- DG – 6<sup>th</sup> November @ 13.06

I think it is a little unfair of the school to close the facility, my daughter is due to leave middle tech next year and she is now looking at going to Rochdale Sixth Form College, I understand that the number of children attending was low, maybe the school should look at the demand for courses?

I hope the school re considers the closure!

## Received by response form at the open evening (transcribed from the written version)

KW – 17<sup>th</sup> October @ 7pm

1. Disturbed at potential inflexibility to mix A Level and 'vocational' based subjects. 2. Middleton A Level provision is biased to faith based schools, this would limit choice for atheist pupils.

Suggest Q what subjects are covered where, throughout the RMBC would be helpful for forward planning for parents.

## Middleton Technology School - Staff Meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 @ 3pm

Consultation on proposed closure of MTS Sixth Form

Comments: None

Questions: None

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# APPENDIX THREE: DRAFT- PRESCRIBED INFORMATION

## DRAFT MIDDLETON TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SIXTH FORM

### PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

#### **Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

##### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

N/A

##### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Middleton Technology School  
Kenyon Lane, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2GT  
Community School

##### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The full proposals will be implemented by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. There was no new intake of pupils in the 6<sup>th</sup> form for the year 2012/13.

##### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and

- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Any person can make representations on the proposals by sending them in writing, by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012, to: Dawn Jennings, School Support Officer, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Schools Service, PO Box 70, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1YD or via email [consultation@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@rochdale.gov.uk) or via the RMBC website [www.rochdale.gov.uk/about\\_the\\_council/\\_more\\_on\\_about\\_the\\_council/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/about_the_council/_more_on_about_the_council/consultations.aspx)

## Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The alteration proposed is the removal of the school's 6<sup>th</sup> form provision by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013. Sixth Form provision for Middleton Township will continue to be provided through a combination of provision- Rochdale Sixth Form College, Hopwood Hall College, St. Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langlely RC High School. There are other post-16 providers in adjacent local authority areas.

## School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

(a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The new net capacity is being re-assessed to take account of both BSF re-modelling and the availability of the sixth form area for teaching purposes.

(b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school has a PAN of 210 and currently has a NOR of 1,023 11-16 (1,040 for 11-18). From September 2013 the school will have a PAN 240 and successive years, subject to Net Capacity assessment, (proposed Net capacity of 1,200) in line with the new build

(c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

N/A

(d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

There are currently 1,023 pupils on roll aged 11-16, no pupils in year 12 and 17 pupils in Year 13

## Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

### Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site will be required

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

### Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

### Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

N/A

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

N/A

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

N/A

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

N/A

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

To discontinue the sixth form provision at Middleton Technology School. This is because student demand and post 16 funding arrangements mean that it is not financially viable to continue.

## Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

The Local Authority will consult with the following prior to publication of proposals:

- Governing body of Middleton Technology School
- Parents of children currently attending Middleton Technology College,
- Pupils and students at the school
- Headteachers of Middleton primary schools
- Rochdale Borough Secondary Schools
- All staff
- The local MPs and Middleton and Hopwood elected members
- Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions
- Representatives from the Diocese
- Education Funding Agency
- All neighbouring Local Authorities

This list will be updated after the closure of the consultation.

All documents related to the consultation are available on

[www.rochdale.gov.uk/about\\_the\\_council/more\\_on\\_about\\_the\\_council/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/about_the_council/more_on_about_the_council/consultations.aspx) or the School website [www.midtech.com](http://www.midtech.com) - follow the link to '6th form closure consultation'

## Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

Removal of Sixth form provision itself does not require capital support.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A

### Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

11 - 18

### Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

### Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;  
(ii) increase participation in education or training; and  
(iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities  
for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and  
(ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Sixth Form provision for Middleton Township will continue to be provided through a combination of providers - Rochdale Sixth Form College, Hopwood Hall College, St. Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley RC High School. There are other post-16 providers in adjacent local authority areas.

**Special educational needs**

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

(a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

(d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

(i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

(a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

### Sex of pupils

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

## Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

The closure of the 6<sup>th</sup> form does not affect the provision of extended services at the school.

## Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

N/A

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

The removal of sixth form places inevitably reduces parental and student 'choice'. The Governing Body believes, however, that it is not sustainable and that it is financially unviable. Furthermore, by attempting to retain the 6<sup>th</sup> form there would be a significant negative impact upon its 11-16 provision at a time when standards have significantly risen. The evidence in Rochdale is clear: at post-16, students are increasingly choosing to attend a college rather than school-based provision. Sixth Form provision for Middleton Township will continue to be provided through a combination of provision- Rochdale Sixth Form College, Hopwood Hall College, St. Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley RC High School. There are other post-16 providers in adjacent local authority areas.

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Current students will be able to complete their study programmes. Sixth Form provision for Middleton Township will continue to be provided through a combination of provision- Rochdale Sixth Form College, Hopwood Hall College, St. Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley RC High School. There are other post-16 providers in adjacent local authority areas.

## Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

- (a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;
- (b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

N/A



# APPENDIX FOUR: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Equality Impact Proforma

### 1. State which function you are assessing and identify who should be involved in the equality impact analysis

<b>Policy/Service Area Selected</b>
MIDDLETON TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL
<b>What function, policy, procedure or practice is being assessed?</b>
Closure of school Sixth Form from 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013
<b>Who is responsible for it? Council or Other Organisation/Partnership?</b>
Rochdale Council as the Admission Authority for the school is responsible for proposals to change the range of the school. The Governing Body of the school is responsible for the day to day operation of the school and decisions about provision.
<b>What are the aims and objectives of the function, policy, procedure or practice?</b>
Closure of School Sixth Form
<b>Who are the key stakeholders?</b>
Middleton Technology School- staff, pupils and governors
<b>Lead Officer for this analysis (i.e. service manager who will co-ordinate the EIA)</b>
<b>Chris Swift</b>
<b>Others consulted and involved in the analysis (i.e. colleagues/peers/key internal and external stakeholders)</b>
Middleton Technology School Consultation arrangements on this proposal must comply with statutory guidance.

### 2. Identify the scope of the equality impact assessment

Please provide a summary of:

- What is to be included in this impact assessment/what issues will you consider? i.e. are all aspects of the policy/service to be covered or is it confined

to a limited area? Please explain. This is likely to reflect the relevance to equality of different aspects.

- Does this service/policy have link to other service areas, or other Equality Impact Assessments?

1. A key consideration for the school is the financial viability of the current sixth form provision, because of the effect that has on resources available to the rest of the school. The low numbers interested in joining the sixth form, together with changes in funding arrangements for sixth forms means that it is no longer cost effective to continue the programmes.
2. Under education legislation the school is responsible for the management of the school and the curriculum. The Local Authority is the Admission Authority for the school and is responsible for making any changes to the age range of the school- which is what this proposal entails.
3. There are no links to other service areas.

**3.State the data that you have considered for this assessment and any gaps in data identified. What action will be taken to close any data gaps?**

1. The sixth form provision at Middleton Technology School is a vocational offer, consisting initially of 2 diploma courses in Engineering, Society, Health and Development and planned to be followed by other diplomas in Manufacturing and ICT. These courses were to be part of a collaborative Sixth Form offer in the Township in partnership with St.Anne's Academy and Cardinal Langley High School.
2. In the past the Sixth Form has had up to 70 students in the 2 diploma courses at Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) and Level 3 ( A level equivalent). However, the school has not been able to grow the provision to a viable size, and for September 2012 there were only 9 applications to the Sixth Form so it has not been possible to offer any places. There are only 17 students going forward into Year 13 in September 2012. This is not financially viable, nor is it an effective use of resources by the school.
3. If the proposal to discontinue the sixth form provision is to proceed there needs to be consideration of the implications for current and future potential students. As indicated above there has been no recruitment to Year 12 for this September. Those students continuing in to Year 13 will be able to complete their programme of study. For future students who wish to access post-16 education these can be accommodated by a range of post 16 providers- other school sixth forms, Hopwood Hall College and Rochdale Sixth Form College.

**4. Assess the impact the policy/service has on equality will reference to different groups or communities. To do this, consider the questions on page 5 of the guidance, which relate to unequal outcomes or disadvantage; access barriers; unmet needs; encouraging participation; fostering good relations. The Equality Impact Assessment Checklist may also be helpful at this stage.**

<b>Race Equality</b>
n/a
<b>Disabled People</b>
n/a
<b>Carers</b>
n/a
<b>Gender</b>
n/a
<b>Older and Younger People</b>
<p>The proposal affects young people who would otherwise seek a place in the Sixth Form at the school. There is a range of post-16 and Sixth Form provision available to potential students in the Township- through school sixth forms, Hopwood Hall College or Rochdale Sixth Form College, and this therefore reduces the impact of the removal of this provision at one school.</p> <p>Students who are currently in Year 13 will be able to complete their programmes at the school without disadvantage.</p>
<b>People who are Socio-Economically Disadvantaged</b>
n/a
<b>Religion or Belief</b>
n/a
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>
n/a
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>
n/a
<b>Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave</b>
n/a
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>
n/a

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

<b>What are the main conclusions from this analysis?</b>
<p>The continuation of Sixth Form provision at the school (with low overall numbers, a narrow curriculum range and with changes to the funding regime for post 16 provision) is no longer viable. Reverting to an 11-16 age range will enable the school to focus entirely on that age range.</p>
<b>What are your recommendations?</b>
<b>Equality objectives and targets to address the unequal impact/unmet needs/barriers/low participation</b>
<p>There is sufficient alternative provision in the township and elsewhere in the borough to meet potential displaced demand. Those students who would have wanted to continue their</p>

education at the school have been supported by the school to make alternative choices. The school is also ensuring that current Year 13 students are able to complete their programmes at the school.

**Suggested actions to meet those targets**

No specific actions are required

**6. Consult your stakeholders on the main findings and conclusions of the equality impact analysis and ask for their comments. State your consultation and inclusion methodology.**

***The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used***

Consultation of the proposal must comply with statutory guidance. The consultees comprise the following:

Governors, Parents, Pupils, Staff, Middleton Technology School,  
All Rochdale Secondary Schools,  
Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions,  
neighbouring Local Authorities,  
local MPs  
Middleton Township Councillors.  
Education Funding Agency

Consultation documents will be published on the Council and school websites, there will be open drop-in sessions.

**7. Produce an impact analysis action plan for 2012/13. Details of this should be included in your service delivery plan.**

**8. Equality impact analysis sign off**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Chris Swift</b>	<b>School Organisation &amp; Development Manager</b>	<b>23-08-12</b>