

**SECOND STAGE OF CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR  
CHANGE TO SCHOOLS IN MELTON MOWBRAY AND  
THE VALE OF BELVOIR**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Introduction**

1. The review of the organisation of secondary and primary school places in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir was agreed by the County Council's Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005.
2. The Review has three specific aims:-
  - To identify through research, consultation and evaluation the most innovative solution to the organisation of secondary schools within Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir as a means of raising pupil attainment and achievement.
  - To investigate, secure and develop a suitable funding strategy to support the re-organisation.
  - To establish good practice and criteria to inform the development of a strategy for the future review of secondary provision across the rest of Leicestershire.
3. A first stage of consultation began in May based on four options, established from previous research and discussions with stakeholders, but in the process others options emerged. The results of the consultation were presented to Cabinet in September 2006. The results showed a strong preference for an 11-16 in the Vale of Belvoir; however, there was no consensus as to the preferred schools model for Melton Mowbray; but a strong desire for change to the current system (of two 11-14 schools and one 11-19 school) was evident.
4. Analysis of the reasons influencing the choice of option in the first round of consultation showed that keeping schools local, offering a good breadth of curriculum, avoiding transfer at age 14, and a preference for smaller schools, were all key issues for respondents.

**The Options**

5. Based on the above findings the Cabinet agreed a second stage of consultation to seek views on the three options of:

- **Option A**
  - One 11-16 school in the Vale of Belvoir (600 places)
  - Two 11-16 in Melton Mowbray (1200 places each)
  - Separate post 16 provision on an existing school site (600 places)
  
- **Option B**
  - One 11-16 school in the Vale of Belvoir (600 places)
  - Three 11-19 schools in Melton Mowbray (800 places each)
  - A jointly managed post 16 provision (600 places)
  
- **Option C**
  - One 11-16 school in the Vale of Belvoir (600 places)
  - One 11-19 school in Melton Mowbray, based on the existing three school sites (1000 places each) and incorporating post 16 provision, having one governing body and Headteacher (this was the option suggested by the DfES and Partnership for Schools)

### **Consultation Process**

6. The Second stage of consultation began on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The consultation has involved:
- the distribution of over 9000 consultation booklets to all stakeholders in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir area
  - consultation meetings held at each of the four secondary schools, involving governors, school staff, parents and the public, attended by 450 people
  - a number of discussion groups with pupils in primary and secondary schools attended by 220 individuals
  - meetings with headteachers and chairs of governors from all primary schools and the special school within the area
  - discussions with the Learning and Skills Council, Brooksby Melton College, and Teachers Consultative Committee
  - the consideration of options by Children and Young People's Service Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> October, a briefing of local elected members, and circulation of a Members Information Service item providing detailed information through the dedicated web site for the Review [www.leics.gov.uk/meltonvob](http://www.leics.gov.uk/meltonvob)

### **Analysis of Responses**

7. The second stage of consultation ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006. By this date 737 people had submitted their comments online or through the post, representing a 8% return. Provisional analysis of these responses indicate an overwhelming majority of respondents (74%) in favour of Option B, with most of the remainder (9%) choosing Option A, and a small number comprising 1% Option C. Of the remainder, 6% equally favour one or more options and the final 10% comprises of those whom have not expressed any option preference, or who have put forward an alternative option – see paragraph 12. A summary of the consultation returns is provided at Appendices A and B

### **Reasons for Choices**

8. Appendix C to this report provides an analysis of the reasons given by respondents for their choice of option. This shows that for those that have given their reasons (approximately half of the respondents didn't), the benefits of 11-16 schools generally, opportunities for the development of post 16 provision, a preference for small schools, their ethos and ability to better provide personalised learning, and avoidance of disruption (whether this be at transfer at age 14, excessive travel etc), are all key issues for consideration. These will form key priorities to address in determining a suitable outcome.

### **Issues for Consideration**

#### **Key Questions**

9. The consultation presentations and meetings have been well received with positive feedback. Once again a number of key considerations have emerged during the consultation process which appear to confirm the earlier concerns expressed in the first round of consultation, as outlined in paragraph 4.
10. Some key questions have also been raised during the consultation presentations/discussion groups, mainly focussed around transitional planning, and including;
  - the need for effective collaboration to achieve success
  - the financial viability of the schools in each option
  - the adequacy of the DfES capital allocation (to meet local expectations)
  - how will curriculum delivery be managed, particularly in the context of the proposed vocational diplomas for the new 14-19 curriculum?

- how to bring about change whilst sustaining good practice/expertise, particularly for post 16 provision?
- issues concerning school admissions, catchment areas and transport.

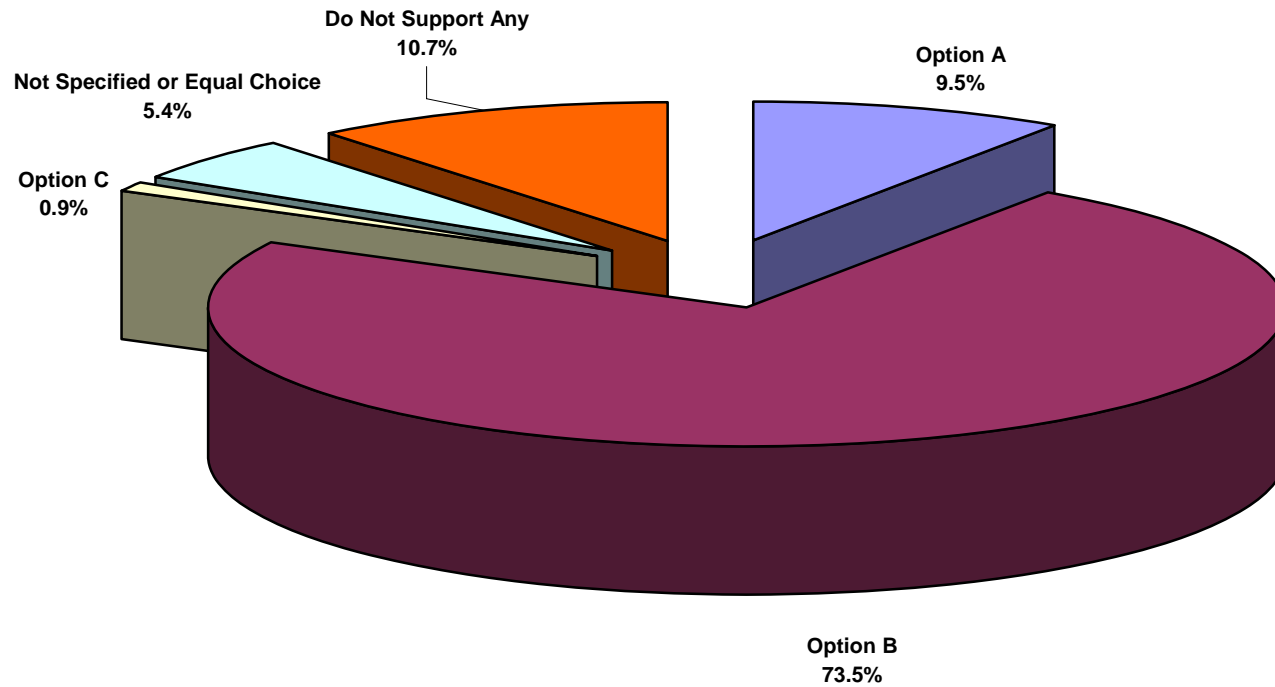
### Other Options






11. The Governing body of King Edward VII school has put forward during the consultation three broadly similar options, relative to the Melton schools. These are all predicated on one 11-18 school with separate but onsite post 16 provision based on the existing KEVII site, supported by a second 11-16 or 11-18 school in the town. Both schools would work in close partnership. The Governors have suggested as an alternative that the post 16 provision could otherwise be located, under a collaborative arrangement, on the existing Brooksby Melton College site in the centre of town.
12. Broadly similar options were considered during the first stage of consultation and not taken forward; as they did not adequately address the objectives for the review. Subject to the Cabinet's agreement, the proposals will be examined again to re-determine their degree of suitability.

### Conclusions/Next Steps

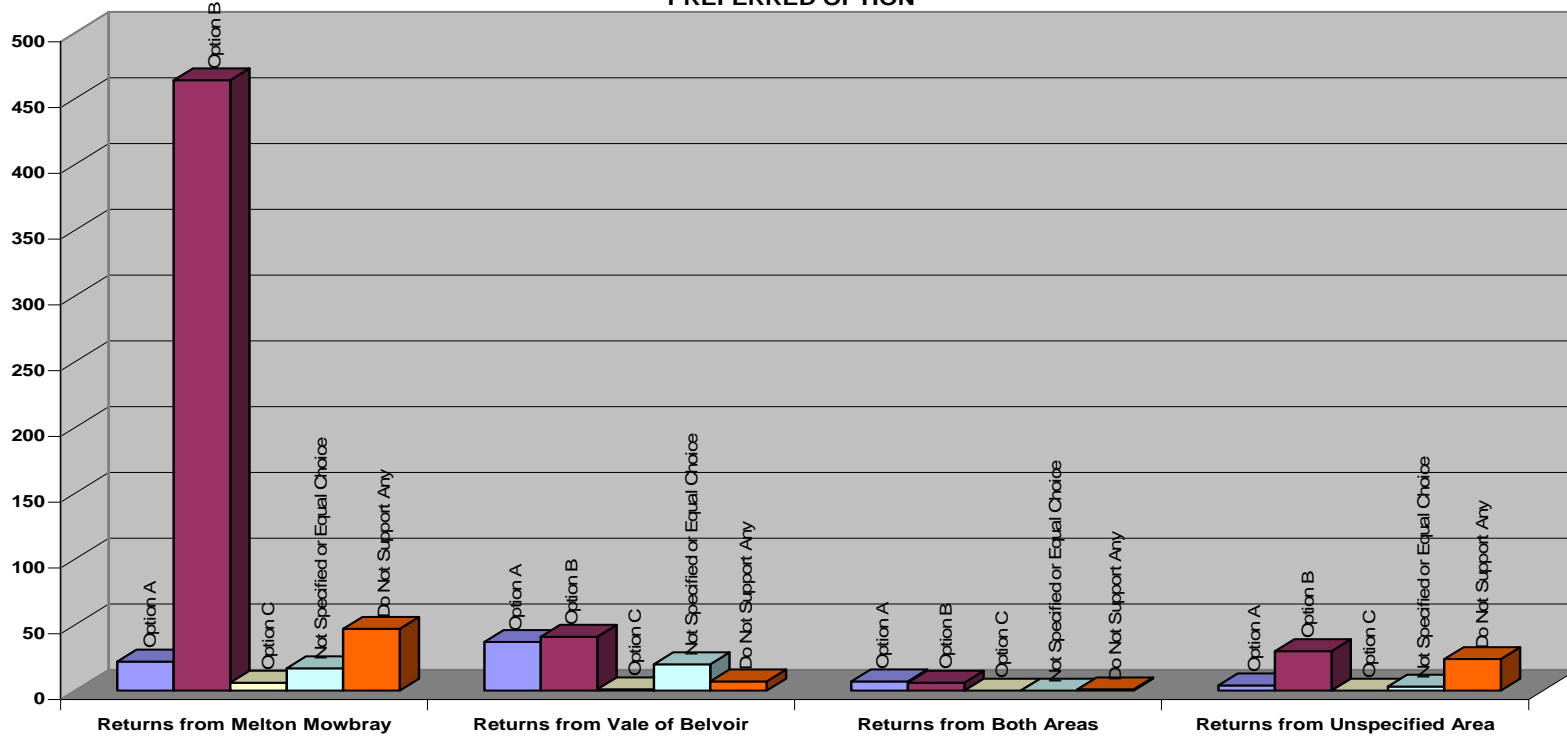
13. The consultation process has reaffirmed that there is a strong desire for change in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir, to address concerns expressed by stakeholders about the current organisational pattern of secondary schools. A consensus has emerged from the second stage of consultation as to how such change might be achieved.
14. Based upon the results of the consultation and further detailed evaluation by officers, the Cabinet will be asked to agree on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 a third (and final) round of consultation based upon all options, but with Option B, as described in paragraph 5, as the preferred way forward. This option directly takes account of public preferences expressed during the consultation, and offers a viable and sustainable organisational model to deliver the curriculum.
15. The third round of consultation to commence in early December will consider the specific implications of this preferred option in terms of transitional arrangements, staff, curriculum delivery, accommodation and organisational issues likely to arise from the proposed change.






**OPTIONS FOR CHANGE TO SCHOOLS IN MELTON MOWBRAY & THE VALE OF BELVOIR  
CONSULTATION RESULTS NOVEMBER 2006  
PREFERRED OPTION**



-  Option A Secondary education in the Vale of Belvoir to become 11 to 16 and in Melton to become two 11 to 16 high schools; separate post 16 provision.
-  Option B Secondary education in the Vale of Belvoir to become 11 to 16 and in Melton to become three 11 to 19 schools; jointly managed post 16 provision.
-  Option C Secondary education in the Vale of Belvoir to become 11 to 16 and in Melton to become one 11 to 19 school based on the existing three school sites and incorporating post 16 provision.
-  Not Specified or Equal Choice.
-  Do not support any.

**OPTIONS FOR CHANGE TO SCHOOLS IN MELTON MOWBRAY & THE VALE OF BELVOIR  
CONSULTATION RESULTS NOVEMBER 2006  
PREFERRED OPTION**



	Returns from Melton Mowbray	Returns from Vale of Belvoir	Returns from Both Areas	Returns from Unspecified Area	Totals	% Returns for Each Option
 Option A	22	37	7	4	70	9.5%
 Option B	464	41	6	30	541	73.5%
 Option C	6	1	0	0	7	0.9%
 Not Specified or Equal Choice	17	20	0	3	40	5.4%
 Do Not Support Any	47	7	1	24	79	10.7%
	<b>556</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>100%</b>

**OPTIONS FOR CHANGE TO SCHOOLS IN MELTON MOWBRAY &  
THE VALE OF BELVOIR  
CONSULTATION RESULTS NOVEMBER 2006  
REASONS FOR PREFERRED OPTION**

	<b>Melton Mowbray</b>	<b>Vale of Belvoir</b>	<b>Both Areas</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Non Specified</b>	284	31	5	44	364	49.39%
<b>Benefits of small schools i.e. personalised learning, ethos, etc.</b>	56	2		9	67	9.09%
<b>Locality/accessibility of schools important</b>	15			1	16	2.17%
<b>Dislike of large schools</b>	17	1			18	2.44%
<b>Prefer current post 16 provision (at KEVII)</b>	25			13	38	5.16%
<b>Equality of opportunity/offers greater curriculum choice</b>	14	7		4	25	3.39%
<b>Concerns about excessive travel</b>	9				9	1.22%
<b>Offers potential for economies of scale</b>				1	1	0.14%
<b>Opportunity for collaboration</b>	4			1	5	0.68%
<b>Benefits of 11-16 school in Vale of Belvoir</b>		30	3		33	4.48%
<b>Benefits of 11-16 schools generally/opportunities for new post 16 provision</b>	79	19	1	10	109	14.79%
<b>Multiple comments (combination of above)</b>	9	2	2	1	14	1.90%
<b>Other i.e. avoidance of disruption</b>	28	6	1	3	38	5.16%
	<b>540</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>100.00%</b>