

Star Radcliffe Academy

Spring Lane, Radcliffe

Statement of Community Involvement



September 2023

Client: Morgan Sindall Construction

Document:	Statement of Community Involvement
Project:	Star Radcliffe Academy
Prepared By:	Chris Bradshaw
Reviewed By:	Peter Campbell
Client:	Morgan Sindall Construction
Job Number:	784-B047825
Issue:	FS1013-TT-XX-XX-T-H-1003 TT - SCI

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Relevant Policy Context.....	4
3. Pre-application Consultation Measures	6
4. Public Feedback and Applicant's Response	10
5. Summary and Conclusions	23

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Consultation Notification Letter to Neighbouring Residents

Appendix B: Public Consultation Distribution Area Receiving Notification Letter

Appendix C: Consultation Webpage

Appendix D: Consultation Feedback Form

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement ('Statement') has been prepared by Tetra Tech Planning on behalf of our client Morgan Sindall (the Applicant), who are working with Star Academies and the Department for Education (DfE) to develop a new secondary school, the Star Radcliffe Academy, off Spring Lane in Radcliffe. The full description of development is as follows:
- 1.1.2 *"Erection of new secondary school alongside supporting sports facilities, car parking, landscaping, site infrastructure, new access road and associated access infrastructure."* The application is submitted to Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (The 'Council') as Local Planning Authority.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this statement is to provide a detailed summary of the approach and measures taken regarding pre-application engagement and consultation and to summarise of any feedback received during this process. The statement will also provide the Applicant's response to public comments received during this process and will outline any design changes which have occurred as a result of the consultation.
- 1.1.4 The remainder of this statement is structured as follows:
- Section 2 establishes the relevant national and local planning policy context;
 - Section 3 provides details on the various pre-application consultation measures and exercises which have been undertaken;
 - Section 4 gives an overview of the feedback received during the public pre-application consultation and the Applicant's response; and
 - Section 5 provides a summary and concluding remarks on the pre-application consultation.

2. Relevant Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') is the overarching document which development proposals are assessed against. The NPPF places a strong emphasis on pre-application consultation and community engagement.

2.1.2 Paragraph 39 states:

"Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community."

2.1.3 Paragraph 41 emphasises that the more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, the greater the benefits which can arise as a result of the development.

2.1.4 Paragraph 42 encourages other consenting bodies to participate in pre-application discussions to enable early consideration of all fundamental issues relating to whether a development will be acceptable in principle.

2.1.5 Paragraph 43 sets out that the right information is crucial to good decision making and, to help avoid delays, it encourages applicants to discuss what information is required with the local planning authority and other bodies as early as possible.

2.1.6 Paragraph 126 notes that effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interested parties throughout the development process is a key aspect of sustainable design and helps make development more acceptable for communities.

2.1.7 Paragraph 132 states:

"Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interest. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs to take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that"

cannot”.

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1.8 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) covers numerous planning related matters, including pre-application engagement. NPPG titled ‘Before submitting an application’ encourages and promotes the benefits of early stakeholder engagement in the development process, with paragraph 001 (Ref ID:20-001-20190315) stating:

“Pre-application engagement by prospective applicants offers significant potential to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and improve the quality of planning applications and their likelihood of success. This can be achieved by:

- *providing an understanding of the relevant planning policies and other material considerations associated with a proposed development;*
- *working collaboratively and openly with interested parties at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development, including, where relevant, the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing;*
- *discussing the possible mitigation of the impact of a proposed development, including any planning conditions;*
- *identifying the information required to accompany a formal planning application, thus reducing the likelihood of delays at the validation stage. The information requested must be reasonable...*

...The approach to pre-application engagement needs to be tailored to the nature of the proposed development and the issues to be addressed.”

- 2.1.9 The same guidance also encourages pre-application engagement with the local community where it will add value to the process and outcome.

Bury Council’s Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.1.10 The Council adopted their own Statement of Community Involvement in July 2023. The document primarily focuses on how the Council will engage with the public in the preparation of local planning documents and on planning decision. It does highlight the importance of becoming involved in the planning process at an early stage.

3. Pre-application Consultation Measures

3.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a number of pre-application consultation exercise to inform the public and stakeholders of the of the proposed scheme and invite feedback on its design. This includes the following measures:

3.1.2 Pre-application Advice

- Pre-application engagement with Bury Council, specifically the local planning authority, local highways authority and education teams;
- Section 10 Consultation;
- Engagement meeting with locally elected members;
- Letter distributed to neighbouring residents informing them of the proposed school development and design proposals; and
- Public Consultation website created with opportunity for feedback to be provided.

Pre-application Advice

3.1.3 The DfE approached Bury Council for pre-application advice in mid-2022 about the potential for a secondary school on the site, receiving a formal written response in September 2022. The request for pre-application advice was supported by information on the required development parameters for the new school and a proposed “control option” design for the site, to establish the key principles for the design.

3.1.4 In brief, the advice confirmed that the principle of developing a secondary on the school was acceptable and provided a comprehensive validation requirements list. It also provided high-level guidance on the layout.

3.1.5 The Council’s written advice was supported by individual responses from statutory consultees, including Transport for Greater Manchester, Sport England, the Canal & Rivers Trust and internal Council departments, who also provided specific guidance to help shape any future planning application.

3.1.6 The Council were approached again for further pre-application advice in June 2023. A revised and further detailed scheme was presented to the Council along with proposals to submit a separate application for a temporary school to be sited on the site whilst the main, permanent school is being constructed. The rationale for providing the

temporary school is to allow for secondary education to be provided sooner in the local area, in time for the start of the 2024-25 academic year. The request was supported by a suite of plans and elevational drawings. The Council have subsequently engaged in providing ongoing advice relating to the progression of the design proposals including with respect to:

- The emerging design and layout of the site;
- The planning application validation requirements;
- Pre-application consultation arrangements, including key consultees and public consultation area;
- The highway and access proposals; and
- Arrangements around the temporary school in terms of timings, layout and siting.

Section 10 Consultation

- 3.1.7 As required under Section 10 of the Academies Act, a consultation is required to be undertaken to determine if there is any support for a qualifying body to enter into a funding arrangement with the Secretary of State for Education to open a new education establishment. It was recognised that Radcliffe required a secondary school and Star Academies were subsequently announced as the operator for the new premises.

Meeting with Elected Members

- 3.1.8 A meeting and presentation was held for elected members on the 8th August 2023. Invitees included the Local MP, the Council Leader, and Ward Councillors from the three district wards which comprise Radcliffe (Radcliffe North & Ainsworth, Radcliffe East and Radcliffe West). The presentation introduced members of the project team, provided details of the proposed scheme and the timescales for the project delivery, including further public and pre-application engagement exercises.
- 3.1.9 Following the meeting, additional information was provided to members relating to the further Pre-admissions consultation (relating to the pupil intake) which is scheduled to take place in Autumn 2023.
- 3.1.10 The consultation period for the community consultation on the design proposals was extended on request from the local members to allow more time for the public to

provide feedback on the proposed scheme.

- 3.1.11 The weblink to the public consultation webpage (outlined further in this statement) and feedback survey were also shared with elected members following the meeting.

Letter to Residents

- 3.1.12 A letter was sent to residents in the area surrounding the application site on the 9th August, a copy of this letter can be found at Appendix A. The letter provided information on the proposed scheme, including opening dates and the delivery timetable. The letter also provided residents with a link to the consultation webpage and invited feedback on the proposals to be returned by the 29th August 2023.
- 3.1.13 The distribution area of the letters was decided in consultation with the local planning authority. The distribution area is provided at Appendix B.

Consultation Website and Online Feedback form

- 3.1.14 A consultation webpage was hosted by Tetra Tech which included background information on Star Academies, details of the proposals including the timescales for the development and the school's opening, plans and CGI's of scheme (of both the permanent and temporary school), a link to the online feedback form and contact details should people have any further questions or wish to provide more bespoke feedback on the scheme. Screenshots of the website are included at Appendix C. Screenshots of the feedback form are included at Appendix D.
- 3.1.15 The webpage specified that the consultation closing date was the 29th August 2023 and that all comments would be taken into account in the final scheme. A total of 41 responses were received via the online feedback form and an additional six responses were received via email.

3.1.16 Other Measures

- 3.1.17 In addition to the above, the proposed scheme and public consultation has been publicised through various other mediums and outlets, including the following:
- Bury Council set up a page on their website which included links to the consultation page;
 - Place North West article (dated 16th August 2023) which set out the key details

of the scheme and also included a link to the consultation website;

- Article in the Manchester Evening News (dated 15th August 2023) which outlined the key details and showcased CGI renderings of the design.

3.1.18 As noted above, a further pre-admissions consultation is scheduled to take place in the Autumn, which will provide prospective students and parents/carers with more information on the Academy and admissions information. However, we recognise that this will not specifically relate to the planning application proposals.

4. Public Feedback and Applicant's Response

4.1.1 This section of the statement summarises the comments and feedback received from the public, the online feedback form and other means. It will also provide a response from the Applicant as to the points raised during the consultation period.

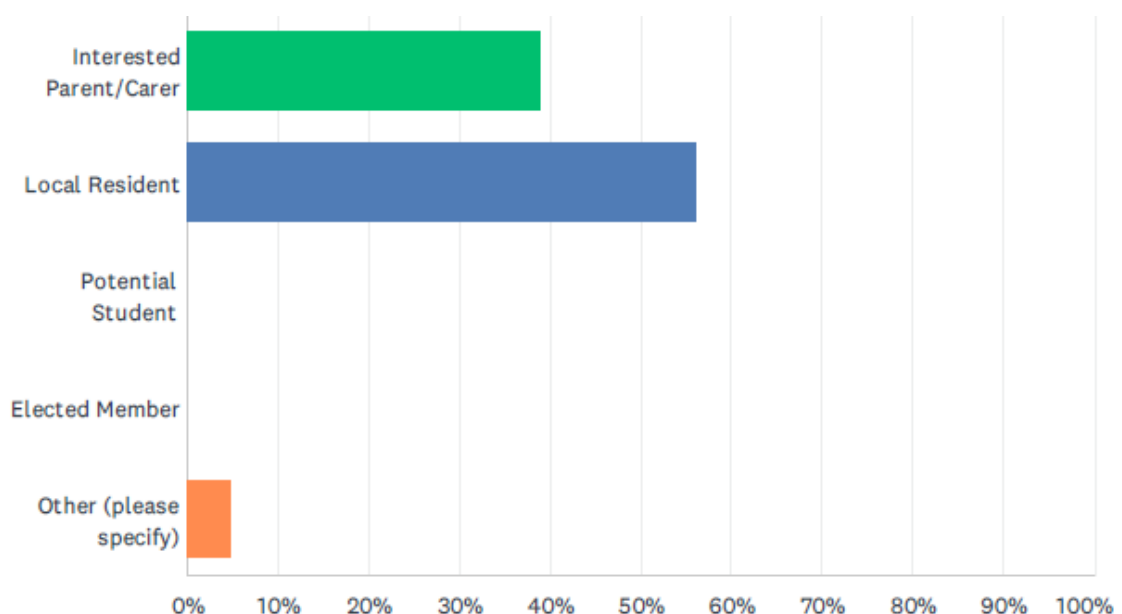
Online Feedback Form

4.1.2 A feedback form was created and hosted on the consultation webpage to collect views from the public and interested parties. None of the questions were compulsory and respondents could skip any questions they wished. A total of 41 individuals provided responses.

4.1.3 Question 1 asked for the personal details of respondents and is not discussed further in this statement.

4.1.4 Question 2 asked respondents to identify their interest from a pre-selected list. 41 responses were received to the question; the breakdown of answers are as follows:

- Interested Parent / Carer: 39.0%
- Local Resident: 56.1%
- Potential Student: 0.0%
- Elected Member: 0.0%
- Other: 4.9%

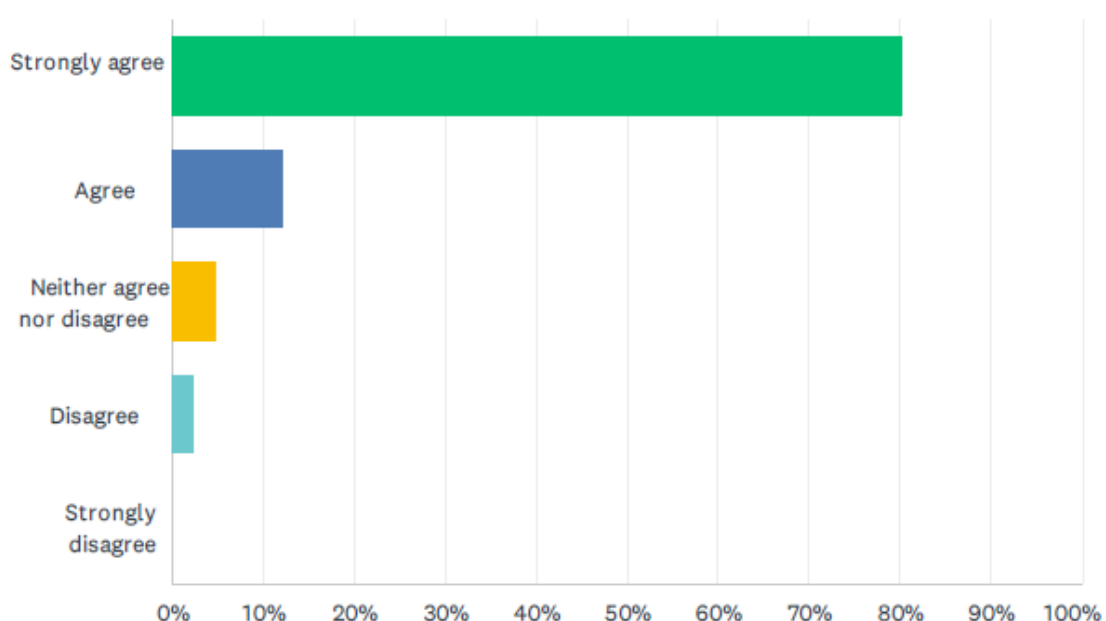


- 4.1.5 For those that responded 'Other' they were able to submit their own response, one was a business operator associated with the leisure centre and another was a former resident of the area.

Question 3: Are you supportive for the development of a new secondary school within Radcliffe?

- 4.1.6 The question encouraged respondents to select an answer from multiple pre-determined options. 41 responses were received to the question, the breakdown of results are as follows:

- Strongly agree: 80.5%
- Agree: 12.2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4.9%
- Disagree: 2.4%
- Strongly disagree: 0%



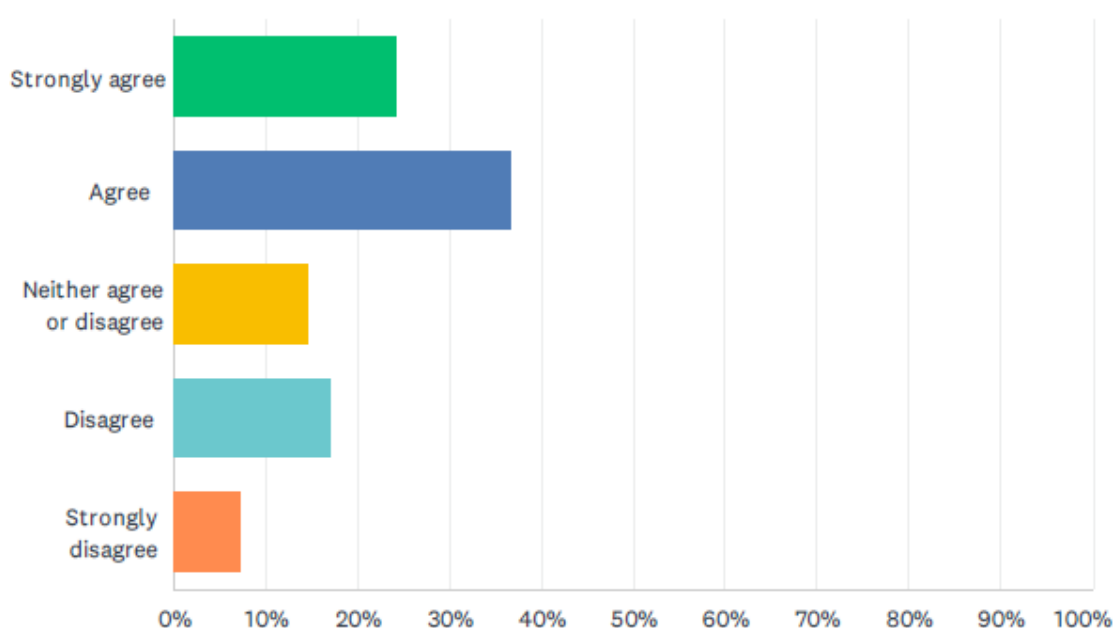
Applicant's Response

- 4.1.7 It is recognised that Radcliffe has been without a secondary school for a significant period of time, and we welcome that the overwhelming majority of respondents support the proposed delivery of a new secondary school within Radcliffe.

Question 4: Do you consider the design proposals and layout for the new school is appropriate?

4.1.8 The question encouraged respondents to choose an answer from multiple pre-determined options. 41 responses were received to the question, the breakdown of results is as follows:

- Strongly agree: 24.4%
- Agree: 36.6%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 14.6%
- Disagree: 17.1%
- Strongly disagree: 7.3%



Applicant's Response

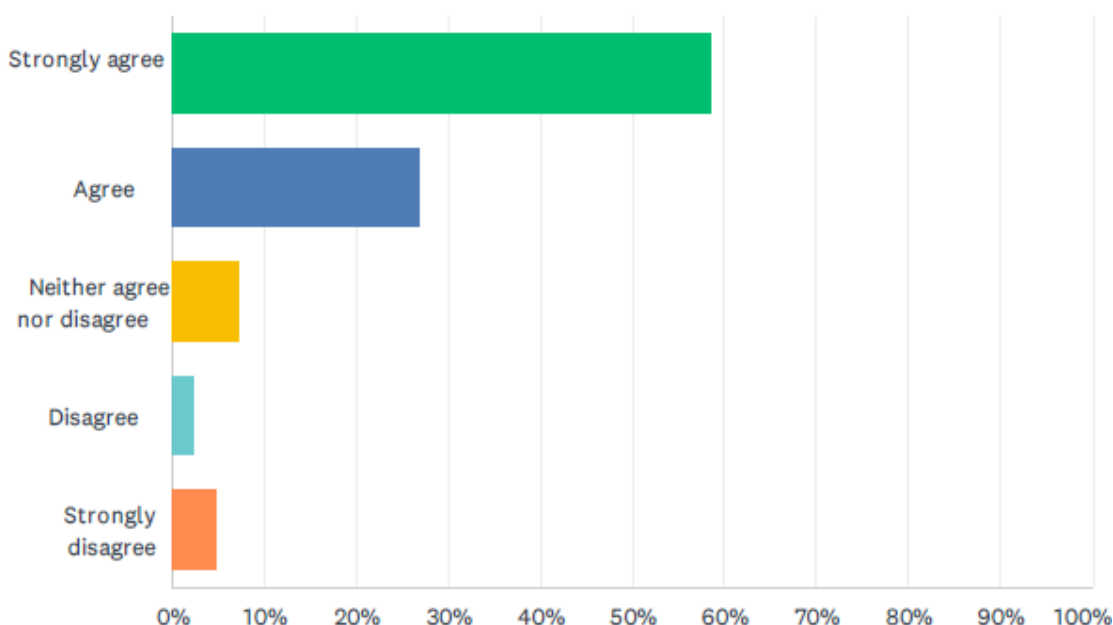
4.1.9 It is noted that most respondents have a positive impression of the proposed design, which we welcome. Morgan Sindall has extensive experience and expertise in the design and delivery of secondary schools, and both Morgan Sindall and the DfE have worked collaboratively with the Council, Star Academies and other bodies to ensure the design is appropriate for the site and its use as modern premises for educational purposes.

Question 5: Do you consider the new secondary school will have a positive impact on the local area?

4.1.10 The question encouraged respondents to choose an answer from multiple pre-determined options. 41 responses were received to the question, the breakdown of

results is as follows:

- Strongly agree: 58.5%
- Agree: 26.8%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7.3%
- Disagree: 2.4%
- Strongly disagree: 4.9%



Applicant's Response

4.1.11 We welcome that the majority of respondents consider the development of a new secondary school would be positive to the local area, with only a minority of respondents in disagreement. The DfE is committed to delivering a new secondary school in the area to address the shortfall in provision of local secondary school places which has been prevalent for a significant period of time. The Council have also repeatedly expressed the importance of delivering a new secondary school for the area and have been working proactively with the applicants to ensure its delivery.

4.1.12 Star Academies are one of the country's leading education providers, who are successfully operating both primary and secondary schools throughout the UK, including schools across Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Star Academies therefore have a wealth of experience in delivering and successfully running excellent academies, and it is their strong track record which has led to their appointment by the DfE to operate the new school for Radcliffe.

4.1.13 In addition to the educational use of the site, the sports facilities are to be made available for use by the wider community outside of the school's operating hours. This will add to the community benefit and the standing of the facility within the community.

Question 6: Do you have any further comments you would like to share on the proposals?

4.1.14 The question was open structured to allow respondents to express their views uninhibited, allowing a wide range of views to be collected. 33 respondents provided answers to this question and 8 skipped the question. Upon review, seven responses said they had no further comments to make on the scheme. Reviewing and analysing the feedback, we have grouped responses together into topic areas which are summarised below.

Design, layout and capacity

4.1.15 Several respondents provided comments on the design proposals for the school, these included:

- Praising the design;
- The capacity of the school seems too small, noting that other schools have been built of a similar size and had their capacity subsequently increased;
- Consideration should be given to relocating the road / parking to the east of the site;
- Concerns about the location of the pupil drop-off area;
- Querying the siting of the school compared to the previous school;
- Raising questions on the location and purpose of the roundabout shown from the access road, and questioned the reasoning behind the western section of the site not having any development proposed.
- Questioned the sports facilities composition (the lack of an athletics track was specifically highlighted), their size and provision and if these could be used by the public; and

Applicant's response

4.1.16 We welcome the positive comments on the design. This has been carefully considered against a number of factors (policy based, physical and environmental) and is reflective of a modern secondary school.

- 4.1.17 The capacity of 750 students has been determined from projections and data compiled by the Council's education team and subsequently the informed specific need for secondary school places within the locality. The school's capacity has consequently been designed to accommodate current and anticipated pupil numbers.
- 4.1.18 The layout and location of the access road, car park and pupil drop-off areas have been carefully considered and balanced with the other needs and facilities the school will provide, as well as the specific constraints of the site. The access arrangements have been designed in consultation with the local highway authority and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to ensure they are suitable to serve the scheme. The application will also be supported by an independent Road Safety Audit to assess the road design and layout proposed to ensure a safe environment will be provided for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as vehicle users. This will subsequently be assessed by the Council who will inform the applicant if any design amendments will be required.
- 4.1.19 Regarding the proposed roundabout junction shown, and the north-western corner of the site which is not shown to accommodate any development at part of the application, this is with consideration of the site forming the southernmost part of the Elton Reservoir draft allocation (ref JP Allocation 7) in the Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan. The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan will provide a strategic spatial strategy for nine Council area across Greater Manchester.
- 4.1.20 Whilst the PfE Plan is not yet adopted, it is at an advanced stage of its examination whereby its content is material to the determination of the planning application. To ensure that the potential future development of this allocation is not prejudiced, the roundabout would allow for an additional arm to be provided to the north to allow for access should it be required. The site is Council owned land who would therefore have control over how this area is ultimately developed.
- 4.1.21 With regards to the sports facilities, we note some respondents questioned if an indoor sports hall would be provided. We can confirm that a sports hall (which has been designed to accommodate three sport courts) and activity studio are included in the scheme. The composition of sports facilities included in the scheme are aligned with Star Academies curriculum. Whilst there is no formal area dedicated for athletics, a grassed area is included which can be utilised for these activities in the summer months. There will also be a community use agreement put into place which will allow

for public use of the facilities outside of the school's operating hours.

Temporary School

4.1.22 The consultation was focused around the design proposals for the new permanent school, however, respondents noted the plans for the temporary school accommodation on part of the site. Comments received included:

- Some respondents questioned the need to develop a temporary school on the site and not just proceed with the permanent school;
- Respondents also questioned why the temporary school was being progressed as a separate planning application to that of the permanent school, with some being concerned this would mean the permanent school would not be delivered and the temporary school would remain in situ; and
- Concerns were also raised about the potential disruption to learning when pupils move from the temporary accommodation to the permanent school.

Applicant's response

4.1.23 The DfE and the Council are committed to delivering a permanent secondary school in Radcliffe and funding has been secured to ensure this occurs.

4.1.24 The rationale for delivering a temporary school on the site and pursuing it as a separate planning application to that of the permanent school proposals is borne from the need to open the school in September 2024 and to avoid any potentially delays, as both the DfE and Council have committed to achieving this. This will allow for a student intake at the start of the 2024-25 academic year and address the longstanding shortfall for secondary school provision in Radcliffe as soon as possible. The temporary accommodation would be used for the first two terms for the 2024-25 academic year until Easter 2025, when the students would decant to the permanent school building for the summer term. The temporary school accommodation would then be dismantled to allow for the external environment of the permanent school proposals to be completed.

4.1.25 This approach has been taken to allow for the school to open in sync with academic cycles and to ensure that secondary school education is provided in Radcliffe as soon as possible and in a way which would minimise disruption. In addition, pursuing two separate planning applications has allowed opportunity for the design of the

permanent school to be refined whilst the temporary accommodation proposals are advanced.

Access and Highways

4.1.26 Several respondents returned comments relating to highways and access. This included raising concerns about how the scheme would impact traffic in the area and lead to increases in congestion, with some noting this is a significant issue already. Other comments raised include:

- Management of the drop off zone needs to be carefully planned;
- Queried if the road surface is to a stone mastic asphalt (SMA) or a hot rolled asphalt (HRA);
- The drop off zone would encourage more driving to the site;
- Queries were raised if the access road and junction design were appropriate and future-proofed;
- Requests that the vehicular access and walking / cycling access should be separate; and
- Questioned if any highways improvements or restriction are to be included to minimise the impacts of the school, including introducing parking restrictions on Spring Lane.

Applicant's Response

4.1.27 Traffic impacts on the local highways network have been assessed in the submitted Transport Assessment. It is of note that the site currently accommodates active use (a leisure centre and secondary pupil referral unit) and previously accommodated a secondary school. The transport modelling undertaken within the Transport Assessment indicates that no significant impacts for the successful operation of the local highway network are anticipated to result from the proposed development. The inclusion of the drop-off zone in the scheme will help to remove vehicles off the highway to undertaking drop-offs, aiding pedestrian safety. The findings of the report will be assessed by the Local highways Authority who will determine if its contents and conclusions are accurate.

4.1.28 The road surface specification for the access road is yet detailed, however, the road will be designed to adoptable standards, and will require agreement from the local

highway authority.

- 4.1.29 The proposals are intended to be accessible by a range of means, including via active transport, public transport and private car. The management of transport measures, including any arrangements for the operation of the drop-off zone, will be set out within the Academy's Travel Plan. The measures included in the Travel Plan will be informed from the experience of existing operating sites and from any requirements identified by the local highway authority. The proposals measures will be independently assessed by the Local Highways Authority during the planning application's determination process to discern if they are sufficient.
- 4.1.30 On the points regarding if the access road and junction design were appropriately designed and future-proofed, the road layout has been designed to accommodate the anticipated volumes of traffic which would be generated by the proposed school. Should the PfE Plan be adopted and detailed proposals for the development of the Elton Reservoir site come forward, it is anticipated that the road and junction design may need to be reviewed and adjustments made according to further transport modelling. The highway proposals as presented have sought to allow flexibility for revisions to the road design to be accommodate in the future should this be necessary.
- 4.1.31 The application is to be supported by an independent Road Safety Audit which will assess the junction designs from a safety perspective. The report will be assessed by the local highways authority who will determine if its contents and conclusions are accurate and acceptable.
- 4.1.32 Regarding any potential highway improvements or parking restrictions, the highways design has been progressed in close dialogue with the local highway authority and TfGM. The local highways authority will subsequently assess the detailed proposals as part of the planning application process and should any additional highway measures be necessary to make the proposals acceptable in planning terms, these will be raised during the planning application's determination process.

Other Comments

- 4.1.33 Several comments were received which did not fall into the aforementioned broad topic areas. These are as follows:
- Some respondents stated that the school needs to be provided as soon as

possible.

- Respondents questioned about when school places would be made available, how these would be publicised and how the scheme would meet Special Educational Needs (SEN) needs;
- Concerns were raised about potential impacts to, and what measures would be put in place, to protect wildlife;
- Concerns were raised about how existing activities and operations in the leisure centre will continue;
- Concerns were raised about sound and air pollution;
- Comments requested as much transparency and information as possible until the school opens; and
- It was noted that Star Academies need to foster a positive academic environment.

Applicant's response

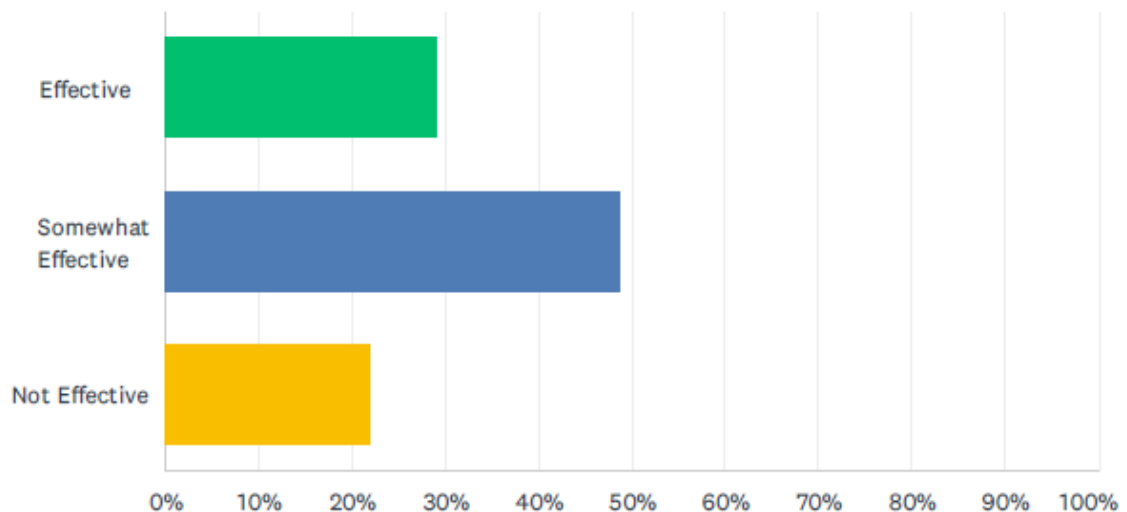
- 4.1.34 The Council, Star Academies and the DfE are committed to opening the temporary school in September 2024 in time for the 2024-25 academic year, with the permanent school opening for the start of the summer term in 2025.
- 4.1.35 With regards to school places, Star Radcliffe Academy will be welcoming admissions for the 2024-25 academic year. Further information on the admission process will be available via Bury Council's school admissions team as well as the pre-admissions consultation scheduled for Autumn 2023.
- 4.1.36 Specific teaching spaces and facilities are included in the proposals to accommodate the needs of SEN students. This includes a designated SEN wing, incorporating a large group room, two smaller group rooms, a resource space, dedicated SEN co-learning support office and SEN garden.
- 4.1.37 The application is submitted with a number of supporting ecological reports and surveys, as well as a report which outlines a series of biodiversity enhancements. During the determination process, these will be independently assessed by the local planning authority and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit as a consultee to determine if the contents, methods, biodiversity improvements and protection measures are sufficient. Should the Council consider it necessary, then specific measures can be secured via planning conditions attached to any planning permission.

- 4.1.38 Radcliffe Leisure Centre is currently located on the site, with the swimming pool being housed in a temporary structure. Radcliffe has a series of significant regeneration schemes underway, one of them being Radcliffe Civic Hub that will see the development of a new leisure centre complete with a new swimming pool, fitness suites and studios. The Hub is scheduled to be complete in 2024. In the interim period prior to the opening of the Civic Hub, Bury Council will be running activities to ensure that continuity of access to sports provision and opportunity for exercise are provided to the community. Opportunities for the booking of activity spaces within the local area will be available at other existing leisure facilities prior to the completion of the new school, following which there would be opportunity for the community to book the activity studio or sports hall at the academy outside of the school's opening times.
- 4.1.39 Impacts on noise pollution are considered in the submitted Environmental & Intrusive Noise Study. The study found that the school proposals will not result in any discernible noise impacts for any neighbour occupants, therefore no specific additional noise mitigation measure have been identified as being necessary. It concludes that noise emitted from the outdoor sports pitches is highly unlikely to be of an adverse effect to surrounding receptors. The study will be independently assessed by the Council's Environmental Health Officers who will determine if the content and findings of the study are justified.
- 4.1.40 Impacts from air pollution have been assessed in the Air Quality Assessment. It concludes that pollutant concentrations would remain below the threshold air quality objective levels, therefore the site is suitable to accommodate an educational establishment.
- 4.1.41 Regarding transparency and further information about the project, communication and regular updates will be provided via Star Academies website and other communication means at the appropriate times.
- 4.1.42 Star Academies have extensive experience in delivering high quality primary and secondary education. Star Academies is one of the UK's leading education providers, they are a values driven organisation who are committed to enhancing social mobility. Additional information on Star Academies can be found on their website.

Question 6: How effective has the consultation been in providing an understanding about the proposed development?

4.1.43 41 respondents provided feedback to this question, the breakdown of results is as follows:

- Effective: 30.0%
- Somewhat Effective: 47.5%
- Not effective: 22.5%



Applicant's Response

4.1.44 We welcome the feedback from respondents and welcome that the consultation was considered to be effective.

Additional Responses

4.1.45 In addition to the comments received via the online feedback form, responses from four individuals and groups were received which provided comments on the proposed development. Reviewing these representations has found there are several overlaps with what was raised via the online feedback form, these will not be repeated again as they have been addressed previously in this statement.

4.1.46 Feedback received can be summarised as follows

- The canal side part of the site should be integrated into a wider level network of walking and cycling opportunities;
- Could a community environment hub be accommodated on the site as part of the proposals;
- It was suggested that secure fencing is installed between the school and the

canal towpath and acoustic fencing to minimise noise impacts;

- The area proposed for development is too small;
- The access road design is inappropriate, and is not futureproofed to successfully accommodate the PfE draft allocation and should be revised;
- The amount of green / outdoor / sports space is insufficient;

Applicant's Response

- 4.1.47 The existing 'banana path' public right of way will provide a level route of pedestrian access linking the school and the canal. A more direct connection with the canal has not been incorporated, in part due to the security requirement for the school. The pedestrian and cycle access arrangements will be reviewed by the local planning authority and relevant statutory consultees during the determination period.
- 4.1.48 The scheme will include a variety of spaces which in the future would be available for use by the community, this includes the outdoor sports pitches, sports hall and activity studio. The specific use of these facilities can be subject to future discussions with Star Academies.
- 4.1.49 With regards to the installation of specific forms of fencing, the application is supported by a fencing plan which details the different boundary treatments and fencing which would be included in the scheme. 2.4m high weldmesh fencing is included around the perimeter, including along the boundary with the canal towpath. Acoustic fencing is not proposed as this was determined to not be required based on the results of the noise assessment.
- 4.1.50 The size of the development, and the area used to accommodate the development, has been considered against the backdrop of other considerations (such as topography, the need to accommodate specific facilities required by the school and to Star Academies curriculum as well as other factors) and the need to consider the potential future development of the Elton Reservoir allocation.
- 4.1.51 With regards to the quantum of external space, including the area used for outdoor sport and recreation, the levels and types of external space has been carefully considered and designed with adherence to the relevant guidance and standards as set by the DfE to meet the specifications of their design brief and to successfully accommodate the proposed maximum capacity of students.

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a series of public consultation measures to inform the public of the site's redevelopment and to invite feedback on the scheme in line with national planning policy and guidance received from the Council. Activities have included:

- Extensive and ongoing pre-application engagement with the Council;
- Meeting and presentation for local ward Councillors;
- Letter distribution to the local community; and
- Public consultation undertaken on the draft proposals, with a consultation webpage hosting information and opportunity to provide feedback.

5.1.2 Star Academies has also undertaken additional consultation and publication of the proposals to align with legislative requirements and more consultations will occur in the future relating to the schools opening and pupil intake.

5.1.3 The responses received across the pre-application engagement activities has been used to inform the progression of the design proposals. The feedback received from the public and other stakeholders has been summarised in this statement and responses have been provided to aspects which have been raised.

5.1.4 It is considered that the applicants have demonstrated extensive engagement with the Council, elected members and the local community, which in the context of NPPF paragraph 132, should be considered favourably in the determination of the application.

Appendix A: Public Consultation Notification Letter to Neighbouring Residents



Star

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION



TETRA TECH
Planning



Department
for Education

Dear Resident

9 August 2023

**Radcliffe Leisure Centre and Spring Lane School Site:
Consultation for Proposed New Secondary School**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Star Academies and the Department for Education, Tetra Tech Planning welcomes you to view current proposals for a new secondary school at the site of the Radcliffe Leisure Centre and Spring Lane School, Spring Lane, Radcliffe, M26 2SZ.

The new school would be called 'Star Radcliffe Academy'. Star Academies is one of the country's leading education providers, who are successfully operating both primary and secondary schools throughout the UK, including schools across Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Star's track record of success has led to the Department for Education selecting them to operate the proposed new school for Radcliffe, with the support of Bury Council's Education Team.

The new school would be 5-form entry for pupils aged 11-16, providing 750 new school places.

The school would initially open utilising temporary facilities on the site to accommodate the first cohort of 150 students in September 2024. Separate planning applications are to be submitted for the temporary facilities and the permanent school. The temporary facilities would be used whilst development of the new permanent school is completed, scheduled for Spring 2025. The new school would provide modern teaching and learning spaces and will also include facilities for community use.

The leisure centre facilities currently on the site are planned to be relocated to the new Civic Hub development within Radcliffe town centre. Spring Lane School is also planned to relocate to a new location within the local area.

How to Review the Proposals

Design proposals for both the temporary facilities and the permanent school proposals will be presented at the following dedicated web page from 11th August:

<https://consultations.tetratecheurope.com/consultations/star-radcliffe-academy/>

We would welcome feedback on the permanent school proposals, which can be returned via the webpage. If you have any specific questions about the proposals, please respond using the online form provided on the webpage. We request that any comments are returned **by Tuesday 29th August**.

What the proposed development will look like and the proposed layout are shown on the reverse of this letter. Following the consultation period it is intended that a planning application for the permanent school proposals will be submitted to Bury Council later in the summer.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Campbell

Tetra Tech (on behalf of Star Academies and the Department for Education)



School Building and Sports Hall Visualisation



Proposed Site Plan

Appendix B: Public Consultation Distribution Area Receiving Notification Letter



Appendix C: Public Consultation Webpage



Welcome to the consultation webpage for the new Star Radcliffe Academy

Introduction

[Star Academies](#) in partnership with the Department for Education are consulting on plans for a new secondary school for Radcliffe.

Star Academies is one of the country's leading education providers, who are successfully operating both primary and secondary schools throughout the UK, including schools across Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Star's track record of success has led to the Department for Education selecting them to operate the proposed new school. The new school would be a 5-form entry school, for pupils aged 11-16, providing 750 new school places.

The leisure centre facilities currently on the site are planned to be relocated to the new Civic Hub development within Radcliffe town centre. It is planned for Spring Lane School, which currently also uses the site, to relocate to a new location within the local area.

The Proposals

The school would initially open using temporary teaching facilities on the site to accommodate the first cohort of 150 students in September 2024. Separate planning applications are to be submitted for the temporary facilities and the new permanent school. The temporary facilities would be used whilst development of the permanent school is completed. Once completed the sports facilities on the site would be made available for community use outside of school hours.

The new school would be accessed from a new access road created from Spring Lane. A designated pupil-drop off area is included in the proposals adjacent to the main school complex.

It is intended that a planning application for the permanent school proposals will be submitted in September 2023. Subject to planning permission, construction work would commence in spring 2024, with completion planned for summer 2025.

Plans

Plans and images of the proposals are available to view/download here:

- Site Location Plan
- Temporary School Accommodation – Site Plan
- Permanent School Proposals – Site Plan
- CGI Image 1
- CGI Image 2
- CGI Image 3
- CGI Image 4



Have Your Say

We welcome your views on the proposals presented for the new permanent school.

Please let us have your views by completing the on-line questionnaire found here ([Link to survey](#)).

Alternatively you can email us at: consultationpagesUK@tetrattech.com

Or write to us at:

Tetra Tech Planning, 11 York Street, Manchester, M2 2AW

Please note the closing date for receipt of responses is Tuesday 29th August 2023.

Your responses will be reviewed and feedback will be taken into account in the final scheme design.

Any personal information provided as part of this consultation will be managed in accordance with our [privacy policy](#).



Appendix D: Public Consultation Feedback Survey

Star Academy Radcliffe: Consultation Feedback Survey

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the proposals for the new Star Academy Radcliffe secondary school.

All comments received will be considered and will assist the project team in developing the proposals. All comments will be treated confidentially, and no individuals will be identified when comments or feedback are reported.

1. Personal Details

Name (Optional)	
Address (Optional)	
Email Address (Optional)	

NB. Providing personal details is optional but these will help us to understand comments received and allow us to keep in touch. We will not pass on these details to any third parties.

2. Are you a ...(please tick most relevant)?

- Interested Parent/Carer ☐
- Local Resident ☐
- Potential Student ☐
- Elected Member ☐
- Other ☐ (please specify)

3. Are you supportive for the development of a new secondary school within Radcliffe?

- Strongly agree ☐
- Agree ☐
- Neither agree nor disagree ☐
- Disagree ☐
- Strongly disagree ☐

4. Do you consider the design proposals and layout for the new school is appropriate?

- Strongly agree ☐
- Agree ☐
- Neither agree nor disagree ☐
- Disagree ☐
- Strongly disagree ☐

5. Do you consider the new secondary school will have a positive impact on the local area?

- Strongly agree ☐
- Agree ☐
- Neither agree nor disagree ☐

- Disagree ☐
- Strongly disagree ☐

6. Do you have any further comments you would like share on the proposals?

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. How effective has the consultation been in providing an understanding about the proposed development?

- Effective ☐
- Somewhat Effective ☐
- Not Effective ☐

Thank you for taking the time to find out about the proposals and completing this questionnaire.