**Proposal**

**The dissolution of Ashton Sixth Form College Corporation and creation of a new 16-19 academy**

This proposal is published by the Corporation of Ashton Sixth Form College. The college which is proposed to close is:

Ashton Sixth Form College, Darnton Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire, OL6 9RL

**The proposed closing date:**

31st January 2019

**The academy proposed to open:**

1st February 2019

The academy proposed will be part of the following multi-academy trust:

The Stamford Park Trust, c/o Ashton Sixth Form College, Darnton Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire, OL6 9RL

All property, rights, assets and liabilities of Ashton Sixth Form College will transfer to The Stamford Park Trust on 1st February 2019

Ashton Sixth Form College provides sixth form education for 16-18 year old students across a wider curriculum comprising A level, Applied General Qualifications, Level Two BTEC qualifications and GCSEs in English, mathematics and science. In addition, the College offers courses to adults through a SFA contract and delivers higher education courses through franchising arrangements with local universities and direct HFCE funding. The current number of 16-18 year old students in 2145.

**The reason for the proposal**

Ashton Sixth Form College would be replaced by Ashton Sixth Form College, 16-19 academy. This is a conversion of the college’s legal status, through dissolution rather than a discontinuation of the current provision. Ashton Sixth Form College will be a 16-19 academy as part of The Stamford Park Trust, a multi-academy trust.

The Stamford Park Trust will be established by Ashton Sixth Form College as an empty MAT in the first instance, with the aim of local schools joining the MAT in the future. The aim is to provide outstanding educational support, quality improvement and stronger governance to schools and 16-19 academies with the Tameside area.

The benefits to the local area are:

* Allow for the further development of partnership work, begun through the work of the A+ Trust, aimed at raising the level of achievement.
* Secure better value for money through the use of joint procurement allowing more funding to be directed to teaching and learning.
* Provide opportunities for the development of shared back office functions, such as Human Resources, Finance, Payroll, I.T. and, Health and Safety, further improving value for money and creating greater resource for teaching and learning.
* Create opportunities to improve the recruitment, retention and development of talented staff to ensure that students and pupils are taught be the very best.
* Lead to stronger partnerships and collaboration for the sharing of expertise in teaching and learning, and student support aimed at improving standards and educational outcomes across the partnership.
* Strengthen transition arrangements between schools and the college between educational phases
* Support better quality information, advice and guidance for all students to ensure the right educational pathway for all students
* Support the continuation of adult and Higher education provision at Ashton Sixth Form College.

**Staff Implications**

Staff employed by Ashton Sixth Form College would transfer under TUPE to The Stamford Park Trust. A separate consultation, in line with TUPE regulations, will take place with all affected staff.

**The Consultation Process**

We welcome your views and feedback about our proposals. As part of this consultation process, we are particularly keen to hear from interested parties on the following:

1. Do you support the proposal?
2. Do you have any additional comments, questions or suggestions for our consideration?

You can find our formal proposal on the college and school websites detailed below. You can also respond to the consultation using the following:

* Via the online consultation page at
* By emailing your comments to [consultation@asfc.ac.uk](mailto:consultation@asfc.ac.uk)
* Or by writing to:

Consultation

Ashton Sixth Form College

Darnton Road

Ashton-Under-Lyne

Tameside

OL6 9RL

The consultation period begins on Wednesday 26th September 2018. The closing date will be Thursday 8th November 2018.

More information about the academies programme can be found at [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies).

The Governing Body will prepare a written response at the end of the consultation period which will be available at [www.asfc.ac.uk/consultation](http://www.asfc.ac.uk/consultation).