

Reasons for reorganisation of the Coquet Partnership to a 2-tier(primary/secondary structure

Having considered all of the responses to the statutory consultation, the proposals to extend the age ranges of Amble First School, Amble Links First School, Broomhill First School, Grange View CE First School and Red Row First School and to reduce the age range of James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) should be adopted and implemented without modification for the following reasons:

- 1) The Governing Bodies of the first schools, the majority of parents and staff of schools in the partnership (who responded to the informal and statutory consultations) and the Newcastle Diocese Education Board support the proposals, while the Governing Body of JCSC has expressed a desire to support whichever structure of schools is approved.
- 2) Cabinet supports the educational rationale proposed by the first schools, which is
 - First schools are well placed to deliver the primary curriculum to the end of KS2 as primary specialists;
 - The 2-tier(primary/secondary) structure matches the National Curriculum and is in line with the majority of the schools nationally;
 - Having fewer transitions would benefit children with SEND especially.
 - Schools would have accountability for whole key stages in the 2-tier(primary/secondary) structure.
- 3) £33.46 will be invested into the buildings of Coquet Partnership to support the reorganisation, and including the provision of new buildings for JCSC.
- 4) Parents will retain the ability to express a preference for a place for their child in any school in Northumberland or another local authority.
- 5) The consultation on this proposal has been very extensive, reasonable and robust.

Reasons for the increase in pupil numbers of Barndale House Special School through the creation of a satellite site in Amble

Having considered all of the responses to the statutory consultation, the proposal to increase the number of pupil numbers of Barndale House Special School from 60 to 110 through the creation of a 50-place satellite site in Amble is approved for the following reasons:

- 1) There is currently no specialist provision within the Coquet Partnership, therefore the educational rationale to create provision for children and young people with SEMH, ASD, MLD and SLCN needs in this area of the county to meet the demonstrated growing need is sound.
- 2) Furthermore, the creation of specialist provision within the Coquet Partnership will enable this vulnerable group of young people to be educated within, or as close, to their home communities as possible, reducing the need for long journeys to school and supporting their ability to make local friendships.
- 3) The Governing Body of Barndale House Special School is fully supportive of the rationale and the proposal.
- 4) The funding of £5.6m for the necessary works to the proposed building at the current JCSC South Avenue site is in place.
- 5) This consultation has been extensive, reasonable and robust.