Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Governors Meeting - Bellingham Middle School

5th March 2018 – 5:00 pm

Present: Andy Johnson – Project Director
Sue Aviston – Head of School Organisation and Resources
Lorraine Fife - School Organisation Manager
Jacqui Pearson – Note taker

5 Governor members of Bellingham Middle School

Andy asked members of the LA to introduce themselves.

Andy went through the presentation, he explained that for Phase 1 there were 3 meetings which took place at Hexham Mart, 1 for Hexham, 1 for Haydon Bridge and a combined meeting for all Heads and Chairs of Governors. Following the meetings the feedback from Headteachers and Chairs of Governors was used to develop the proposed models. He explained that this is not a referendum and that there may be a Model D, which may consist of bits of Model A, B and C or something completely different.

Andy explained that Hadrian Learning Trust (HLT) consultation is running alongside the LA consultation but is separate and will end before the County Council consultation.

Andy explained the consultation process and explained what would happen next and the timeline.

Following the presentation there was a question/answer session:

The Q & A section started with the Governors stating that they were struggling with the model process and there will be massive repercussions of decisions.

There was a discussion about the Phase 1 conversations over a MAT being formed. The Governing Body confirmed that this had not been moved forward by the school as they did not feel amongst the group that they had the expertise to make this a successful option.

A: The MAT would be 20% LA so you would still have LA back office support if this was a viable option.

To try and help the Governing Body work through the proposals, LA Officers have an outline to work through: Starting with a blank piece of paper

1. **Stay as it is** - HMS 11 -18; HBHS shut - we should stay as we are because....

2. **Primary school** because…. HMS & HBHS implications…..
3. **All through school** - because…… HMS & HBHS implications……
4. If any of the above are implemented, what are the effects on:
   West Woodburn, Otterburn etc.

LA Officers tried to keep the context of the school for the Governing Body - it is about your solution for your schools. In 5 years time or more if we do nothing now, we will not be financially viable in schools and we will be here again. An example we have done with other schools in this situation is close Belford Middle School and they became Belford Primary School.

You are 16 miles from your nearest Middle School - it is positive to make this a case with:

- Education
- Transport
- Finance
- Partnership
- Community