Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Staff Meeting - Wark First School

12th March 2018 – 3:30 pm

Present: Sue Aviston – Head of School Organisation and Resources
Lorraine Fife - School Organisation Manager
Bridget Halpin – NCC HR Adviser
Jacqui Pearson – Note taker

Also Present: Richard Woolhouse - NEU / ATL
Gareth Robson - NASUWT

9 Staff members of West Woodburn First School

Sue Aviston asked members of the LA to introduce themselves.

Sue went through the presentation, she 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. She 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.

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

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

Following the presentation there was a question/answer session:

Q: Who decides and how, what is formulated?
A: LA Officers confirmed this is from Phase 1 responses, size of school, education system for the next 25 years - sustainable for the future

Q: 50 pupils have been mentioned but never 75 as a minimum number, where did this come from?
A: A model suggested was 1 FE and when this was looked at it was too great so it was calmed down to a 0.5 FE.

There was discussion from the staff about all of the specialist subjects that is partaken in the school - PE, theatre trips and music festivals.

There was a lot of discussion about the nursery in the school.

There were conversations about the PE grant, sparcity funding and how exactly this is calculated, e.g. it is distance to nearest school, not size of school.

There was discussion about SEN pupils and educating SEN pupils in mainstream.

Q: What weight do responses take?
A: Staff groups, parents, governing bodies have more weight than for example a petition with signatures from another country

Q: In the response proposal, should we be looking partnership wide rather than focussing on just us.
A: A model to cover all would help if possible.
Q: Has anyone looked at the transport costs?
A: There are huge amounts of finance involved - £18m to keep buildings, £50m+ on capital investment and the transport will be detailed with models.

Q: What happens if there are any redundancies?
A: LA Officers discussed the staffing protocol and explained how it worked in other consultations that had taken place to give actual examples.

There was discussion about submitting a business case to remaining open. LA Officers commented to look at 2 and/or 3 tier, for it to be positive, viable, offer a quality of education and be financially viable.

There was a conversation about the Early Years Commissioner and he has been very quiet. LA Officers confirmed that the Commissioners role was to concentrate on school improvement process and the Head of School Organisation's role is everything else.

There was discussion about the lack of LA support with HBHS. LA Officers said that RSC had told the LA not to go near the school and Bright Tribe.