Northumberland
County Council

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF SOME MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN THE HAYDON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

The following proposal falls into three categories.

CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that it is the intention of Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF to discontinue (close) the following school;

- **Bellingham Middle School and Sports College,** Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2EN with effect from 31 August 2019.

Bellingham Middle School and Sports College is a local authority maintained community school.

In order to facilitate the above proposal, notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF intends to make the following prescribed alterations to the schools below:

CHANGE OF AGE RANGE

a) **Bellingham First School**, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2EL by changing the age range of the school.
- The current age range of Bellingham First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

b) **Kielder Community First School,** Kielder, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1HQ by changing the age range of the school.
- The current age range of Kielder Community First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

c) **Greenhaugh First School**, Greenhaugh, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1LX by changing the age range of the school.
- The current age range of Greenhaugh First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

d) **Otterburn First School**, Otterburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE19 1JF by changing the age range of the school.
- The current age range of Otterburn First School is 3 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 3 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

e) **West Woodburn First School**, West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2RX by changing the age range of the school
- The current age range of West Woodburn First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

For the purposes of providing further information, should Northumberland County Council decide to implement the above proposals, this decision would be made in conjunction with a decision by the Council to change the current age range of Wark Church of England First School**,** Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3LS from age 3 to 9 school to an age 3 to 11 school with effect from 1 September 2019, which is not required to be part of this statutory proposal

ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES

In order to facilitate the above proposals, notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Northumberland County Council County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF, intends to make the following prescribed alterations to the schools below:

f) **Otterburn First School**, Otterburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE19 1JF by permanent enlargement of the premises with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 was 32. The current published capacity of the school is 75 but includes accommodation allocated to the current nursery provision. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 70 for pupils aged 4 to 11. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 15. The maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 10. Nursery admission numbers would remain unchanged.

g) **Greenhaugh First School**, Greenhaugh, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1LX by permanent enlargement of the premises with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 is 27. The current published capacity of the school is 40. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 56. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 8. The maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 8.

In the interests of providing further information, Bellingham Middle School and Sports College and Bellingham First School occupy parts of the same building and it is proposed that Bellingham First School would also occupy that area of the building in which the middle school is currently accommodated. It is also proposed that the children's centre currently located on the Bellingham schools' site would relocate within the main school building with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter. Furthermore, in the interests of providing further information, it is proposed that there would be changes to the capacity and planned admission number as appropriate of the following schools:

- **Bellingham First School**, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2EL. The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 was 49. The current published capacity of the school is 75. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 105. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 15. The maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 15.
- **Kielder Community First School,** Kielder, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1HQ. The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 was 11. The current published capacity of the school is 75. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 50. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 8. The maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 8.
- **Wark Church of England First School,** Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3LS. The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 was 32. The current published capacity of the school is 75. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 70. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 15. The

maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 10.

- **West Woodburn First School,** West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2RX. The number of pupils on roll at the school in May 2018 was 23. The current published capacity of the school is 44. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 42. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 4 is 10. The maximum number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 4 from 1 September 2019 and subsequent years would be 6.

Bellingham, Kielder, Otterburn, Greenhaugh and West Woodburn First Schools are local authority maintained community schools. Wark Church of England First School is a local authority maintained voluntary school.

In the interests of providing further information, as set out above it is proposed to reduce the Planned Admissions Numbers (PAN) of Otterburn, West Woodburn First School and Wark Church of England First Schools with effect from 1 September 2019. It is also proposed to increase the PAN of Haydon Bridge High School from 65 to 120 into Year 7 and Year 8, and to reduce the PAN from 120 to 65 into Year 9 with effect from 1 September 2019. There would be one intake of 120 into Year 7 only at Haydon Bridge High School with effect from 1 September 2020 onwards. Should this statutory proposal be approved by the Council at a later date, proposals to reduce the published PANs of the above schools would be referred for approval to the Schools Adjudicator in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

Copies of the full Statutory Proposal may be obtained from:

The School Organisation and Resources Team
Education and Skills
Wellbeing and Community Health Services
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

or from the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

All schools named above form part of the Haydon Bridge Partnership of schools.

Implementation.

- Bellingham Middle School and Sports College is proposed to close with effect from 31 August 2019.
- Kielder, Otterburn, Greenhaugh and West Woodburn First Schools and Wark Church of England First School are proposed to extend their age ranges and to reorganise to become primary schools with effect from 1 September 2019 in a phased way. The schools would retain Year 5 in September 2019 and would then retain Year 6 in September 2020. Bellingham First School is proposed to extend its age range and to reorganise to become a primary school with effect from 1 September 2019, at which point it would retain Year 5 and would receive the Year 6 cohort (subject to parental preference) transferring from Bellingham Middle School following its closure on 31 August 2019.

Objectives and reason for closure

The objectives of this proposal are to:

- **Discontinue (close)** Bellingham Middle School and Sports College, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2EN with effect from 31 August 2019.
- **Extend the age ranges of**:-
  - Bellingham First School, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham,

Northumberland, NE48 2EL by changing the age range of the school. The current age range of Bellingham First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

- Kielder Community First School, Kielder, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1HQ by changing the age range of the school. The current age range of Kielder Community First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.
- Greenhaugh First School, Greenhaugh, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1LX by changing the age range of the school. The current age range of Greenhaugh First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.
- Otterburn First School, Otterburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE19 1JF by changing the age range of the school. The current age range of Otterburn First School is 3 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 3 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.
- West Woodburn First School, West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2RX by changing the age range of the school. The current age range of West Woodburn First School is 4 years to 9 years. The proposed age range for the school is 4 years to 11 years to take effect from 1 September 2019.

Reasons for proposal:
In January 2018 and between 19 February and 9 April 2019, two phases of informal consultation were carried out by Northumberland County Council on ideas for the organisation of schools in Haydon Bridge and Hexham School Partnerships in the west of the county. These consultations were promulgated by a number of external factors, including:

a) The potential closure of Haydon Bridge High School due to the withdrawal of the Bright Tribe Trust as a sponsor.

b) A consultation carried out by the Hadrian Learning Trust in Hexham Partnership to seek authorisation from the Regional Schools Commissioner to change its age range.

c) The financial difficulties predicted by several schools if they are to maintain an appropriate curriculum offer.

d) The poor physical state of many school and academy buildings and need for significant investment in the school estate.

e) Home to school transport arrangements in light of the rural nature of the west of the county.

Having considered feedback from consultation and the educational case for change in relation to the Haydon Bridge and Hexham Partnerships, the Council's Cabinet has approved publication of this statutory proposal to close Bellingham Middle School and Sports College to take effect from 31 August 2019 and to extend the age ranges of Bellingham, Kielder, Otterburn, Greenhaugh and West Woodburn First Schools to take effect from 1 September 2019. The Council is not required to publish a statutory proposal in relation to Wark Church of England First School and any decision in this regard would be made in conjunction with the outcomes of the proposals set out in this statutory proposal. The publication of the statutory proposals has been approved on the basis that the establishment of a primary-secondary model across the whole of the Haydon Bridge Partnership would be in the best educational interests of the current and future pupils in that area. The introduction of one system of school organisation across the Haydon Bridge Partnership would necessitate the closure of Bellingham Middle School and Sports College, but would enable primary schools to have larger cohorts of pupils in Years 5 and 6 and enable Haydon Bridge High School to have larger cohorts in Years 7 and 8. No proposals for statutory organisational changes to local authority maintained schools in the Hexham Partnership have been proposed as a result of informal consultation.

Effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area

Haltwhistle Community Campus is an academy trust within the Haydon Bridge Partnership, which includes Haltwhistle First School and Haltwhistle Middle School; should the Council approve the proposals set out in the statutory proposal at a later date, the Council would work with the new sponsor of Haltwhistle Community Campus to develop a solution that would fit with the wider organisation of schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership. Should the new sponsor of Haltwhistle Community Campus submit a request to the Regional Schools Commissioner for the closure of Haltwhistle Middle School, the timeline for closure and the transition arrangements for pupils would be the same as those for Bellingham Middle school and Sports College set out in the 'Displaced pupils and timeline for implementation' section of this proposal. Similarly, should the new sponsor of Haltwhistle Community Campus submit a request to the RSC for the extension of the age range of Haltwhistle First School from an age 3 to 9 academy to an age 3 to 11 academy, the timeline and transition arrangements for pupils would be the same as those for the first schools set out in the 'Displaced pupils and timeline for implementation' section of this proposal.

Project Costs and Proposed Stages for Implementation

Should this Statutory Proposal be approved for implementation, there would be a need to carry out building works to facilitate the changes. Building costs set out in Table 1 below are estimates and should be treated as draft as they are subject to further detailed work and a tender process.

Table 1

School	Description	Costs
Bellingham Primary	internal refurbishment to include relocation of the children's centre provision into the main building, to give a 0-11 provision in one building	£912k
Kielder Primary	No works required	Nil
Otterburn Primary	A classroom extension to include toilet and cloakroom provision	£335k
Wark C of E Primary	Minor internal refurbishment	£10k
Greenhaugh Primary	A classroom extension to include toilet and cloakroom provision	£366k
West Woodburn Primary	No works required	Nil
*Haydon Bridge High School	Rationalise all teaching accommodation, which will include demolition of some blocks. Refurbishment of remaining teaching blocks together with roof and window replacements	Estimated £2.5m - £3m

*Proposed capital spend at Haydon Bridge High School given in the interests of providing further information linked to the statutory proposal.

The total estimated cost of funding the capital work associated with the proposed model for Haydon Bridge is around **£4.6m.**

Funding Source	Contribution
Council's Medium Term Plan	£2.59m
School's Capital Investment Programme	£2.m
LCVAP (church capital grant) (90% of RC and C of E Aided costs.) NOTE: Further discussions to take place with the Church of England Diocese regarding this process	£0.009m

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Bellingham Middle School and Sports College

There are currently 108 pupils on roll at Bellingham Middle School and Sports College.

The age range of the school is 9-13 and provides education to both boys and girls.
There are currently 3 pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Bellingham First School,
There are currently 49 pupils on roll at Bellingham First School.
The current age range of Bellingham First School is 4 years to 9 years and provides education to both boys and girls.
There are currently 2 pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Kielder Community First School
There are currently 11 pupils on roll at Kielder Community First School.
The current age range of Kielder Community First School is 4 years to 9 years and provides education to both boys and girls.
There is currently one child with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Greenhaugh First School
There are currently 27 pupils on roll at Greenhaugh First School.
The current age range of Greenhaugh First School is 4 years to 9 years and provides education to both boys and girls.
There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Otterburn First School
There are currently 32 pupils on roll at Otterburn First School.
The current age range of Otterburn First School is 3 years to 9 years.
There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

West Woodburn First School
There are currently 24 pupils on roll at West Woodburn First School.
The current age range of West Woodburn First School is 4 years to 9 years and provides education to both boys and girls.
There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Wark Church of England First School
In the interests of providing further information, the following pupil information is provided in relation to Wark Church of England First School:
There are currently 32 pupils on roll at the school.
The current age range is 3 to 9 years and provides education to both boys and girls.
There is currently one child with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at the school.

Displaced Pupils and timeline for implementation

In accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Northumberland County Council intends to discontinue (close) the following school with effect from 31 August 2019:

- Bellingham Middle School and Sports College, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2EN. In May 2018, there were 108 pupils enrolled at Bellingham Middle School, a local authority maintained community school. It is expected that a similar number of pupils would be on roll in September 2019, who would be displaced should the school close.

To facilitate this, it is proposed that the following model be implemented in accordance with the following arrangements and timeline subject to finalisation of the associated buildings programme:

First schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership that would become primary schools (Greenhaugh, West Woodburn, Bellingham, Kielder, Otterburn First Schools and Wark Church of England First School)

1 September 2019

- Pupils in Year 4 in the all of the above first schools on 31 August 2019 would be retained by their new primary schools as the new Year 5.

1 September 2020

- Pupils in Year 5 in these primary schools on 31 August 2020 would be retained as the new Year 6.

1 September 2021

- Pupils in Year 6 in the these primary schools on 31 August 2021 would transfer as the new Year 7 to Haydon Bridge High School and would join other Year 7 pupils moving from the existing primary schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership, or to another school providing education in those year groups according to parental preference.

Haydon Bridge High School

1 September 2019

- Students on roll in Year 6 in existing primary schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership on 31 August 2019 would transfer into Year 7 at Haydon Bridge High School as usual.
- Students on roll in Years 6 and 7 at Bellingham Middle School and Sports College on 31 August 2019 would transfer to Haydon Bridge High School and join the Year 7 and 8 cohorts or to another school providing education in those year groups according to parental preference.

1 September 2020

- Students on roll in Year 6 in Bellingham Primary on 31 August 2020 would transfer to Haydon Bridge High School as part of the Year 7 cohort.
- Haydon Bridge High School would reduce the number of intakes into the school to one only at Year 7 and for each subsequent year. The Planned Admission Number into the school would be reduced to 120. Requests for admission into year groups other than Year 7 at the school would be treated as in-year admissions.

1 September 2021

- Pupils in Year 6 in the new primary schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership on 31 August 2021 would transfer as the new Year 7 to Haydon Bridge High School and would join other Year 7 pupils moving from the existing primary schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership.

However, parents would be able to apply for a place at any other appropriate school according to parental preference, subject to a place being available.

Impact on the Community

There would be an impact on the community as a result of this proposal as educational provision in Years 7 and 8 would be removed from Bellingham village. However, educational places in Years 7 and 8 for pupils in these years groups would be provided at Haydon Bridge High School from September 2019. However, the villages of Kielder, Greenhaugh, West Woodburn, Otterburn and Wark would retain their primary age children for an additional two years in Years 5 and 6.

As it is proposed that Bellingham First School would continue within building it currently shares with the middle school, there would be no loss of provision to the village in relation to buildings. Furthermore, it is proposed that the early years provider on the site of the Bellingham schools would be able to relocate within the main building, thereby providing an opportunity to enhance provision.

Balance of denominational provision

There would be no impact on the balance of denominational provision within the Haydon Bridge Partnership as Bellingham Middle School and Sports College does not have a religious character.

Rural Primary Schools

Bellingham Middle School and Sports College is a middle school, deemed secondary therefore in the opinion of Northumberland County Council does not fall within the categorisation of a rural primary school as set out in Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Furthermore, the school is not listed on the DfE's List of Designated Rural Primary Schools 2017.

Bellingham, Otterburn, Kielder, Greenhaugh, West Woodburn First Schools and Wark Church of England First School are listed on the DfE's List of Designated Rural Primary Schools 2017. However, as the proposal is for these schools to extend their age range, this policy area would not be impacted.

Maintained nursery schools

The nursery provision currently provided at the first schools proposed to extend their age ranges as a result of this statutory proposal would not be affected by its implementation.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

N/A - There is no provision for students aged 16 to 19 in Bellingham Middle School.

Special educational provision

Provision for pupils with SEN is already provided at the schools that are the subject of this Statutory Proposal.

- There are currently 3 pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan on roll at Bellingham Middle School and Sports College. Should this statutory proposal be approved for implementation, the families of pupils with an EHCP on roll at Bellingham Middle School who would be displaced by its closure would be consulted about any specific potential impacts on their child and it would be ensured that appropriate individual arrangements were made where this is necessary to avoid potential adverse impacts, including any reasonable adjustments.
- There are currently 2 pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at Bellingham First School.
- There is currently one child with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at Kielder Community First School.
- There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at Greenhaugh First School.
- There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at Otterburn First School.
- There are currently no children with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at West Woodburn First School.
- There is currently one child with an Educational Health Care Plan enrolled at Wark Church of England First School.

Continuity for current and future pupils with SEN at the above first schools would be achieved as a result of the implementation of this proposal, as pupils would stay longer in their primary schools and would transfer to the next school phase only once at the end of Year 6, and would stay longer at Haydon Bridge High School.

Travel

- Transport for all pupils affected by the proposed reorganisation should it be approved would be arranged in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- Pupils transferring from Year 4 to Year 5 in September 2019 would remain in their first schools as the schools reorganise to primary status. It is envisaged that many pupils in Years 5 and 6 in the new primary schools would have shorter journeys to schools as they would be educated for an additional two years in the primary schools within their local communities.
- The journeys of pupils in Bellingham Middle School and Sports College transferring from Year 5 to Year 6 at Bellingham Primary School (as it would be) would not be impacted as they would remain in their current location.
- Some pupils transferring from Years 6 and 7 into Years 7 and 8 at Haydon Bridge High School in September 2019 and in Years 7 and 8 thereafter would have an extended journey length dependent on where they reside. Pupils residing more than 3 miles from Haydon Bridge High School, or where there is no safe walking route to that school, or who are from low income backgrounds may be eligible to free Home to School Transport.
- The longest journey currently undertaken by a secondary age pupil living in the Haydon Bridge Partnership greater catchment to and from Haydon Bridge High School is 80 minutes each way, while the Department for Education's School Travel and Transport guidance suggests that students of secondary age (11 upwards), should travel no more than 75 minutes each way to and from school. Therefore, it is envisaged that as a result of the implementation of this proposal, most secondary age students who live in the Haydon Bridge Partnership greater catchment and who would travel to and from Haydon Bridge High School would have journeys within the 75 minutes suggested in the DfE guidance.
- In any event, transport for displaced pupils would be arranged in line with the County Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- There would be no anticipated significant increase in car use as a result of these proposals.

Consultation

All of the applicable statutory requirements to consult on this proposal in accordance with Section (15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 were complied with during the two-phased informal (pre-publication) consultation period that took place during the following dates:

- 15 January to 2 February 2018
- 19 February to 9 April 2018

Consultees recommended in the relevant statutory guidance were consulted via a Consultation Document that was made widely available on the Council's website. Consultees included parents, staff, pupils, Governors of the impacted schools in the Haydon Bridge and Hexham Partnerships, local parish councils, the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses, early-years providers, the local MP, staff representatives (unions), neighbouring local authorities and relevant neighbouring schools in other Northumberland Partnerships or local authorities. Two public consultation events were also held in Haydon Bridge (26 February 2018) and Hexham (17 March 2018) which were very well attended. Individual meetings with staff and the Governing Bodies of schools that were proposed for closure were undertaken in both partnerships during Phase 2 of the informal consultation period.

The meetings organised during the two consultation events allowed consultees attending to the opportunity to make known their views on the proposals and to suggest alternatives, which were noted and considered within the analysis of feedback. During the two consultation exercises, it was made clear that the outcome of the process would not be determined by the equivalent to a simple referendum but would involve a detailed analysis of evidence put forward. A total of 3,023 responses were received from consultees during the informal consultation process, including additional information such as business plans and alternative proposals

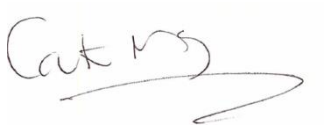
Details of the persons and parties consulted, the notes of the Governing Body and staff

consultation meetings, and all views and responses received are summarised in the Executive Director of Children's Services Report to Cabinet 8 May 2018, which is available on the Council's website at http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=7797.

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposals

Within four weeks after the date of publication of the above proposals **(i.e. by midnight on Thursday 7 June 2018)**, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations to: **The Executive Director of Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF, or by email to** www.northumberland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations.

Signature Publication Date: 10 May 2018



Cath McEvoy
Executive Director of Children's Services
Northumberland County Council