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05 June 2018

Cathy McEvoy,
Executive Director of Children's Services,
Northumberland County Council,
County Hall,
Morpeth,
Northumberland,
NE61 2EF.

Dear Ms McEvoy,

Northumberland County Council: -

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF SOME MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN THE HAYDON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP, 10 MAY 2018.

Please find here my brief response to the above statutory consultation.

Kindly note both
that I am an active member of the Allendale community and
that, consistently since January 2017, I have raised issues concerning the provision of secondary education in West Tynedale

- with Allendale Parish Council
- with my County Councillor and with the holder of the NCC education portfolio and
- with the recently retired Director of Education for NCC.

From December 2015 onwards, (i.e. from the date when Ofsted first placed Haydon Bridge High School in special measures,) I have scrutinised both

- all such apparently relevant documentation as has entered the public domain and
- much background information.

May I thank the County Council for all the work which went into both the production of the Informal Consultation on the Future of Education in the West of Northumberland and the relevant Report?

As I have three grandchildren at Haydon Bridge High School I have strong family reasons for wanting that secondary school both to survive and to become viable. It is for expedient and local preferential reasons that **I endorse all those proposals for the reorganisation of a group of schools in the North Tyne zone** which are contained in the above consultation.

I would very much appreciate it, however, if you would pass on to Cabinet Members the following serious concerns namely

- that the proposals, if approved, establish a two tier system of education in West Tynedale and a three tier system of education in East Tynedale
- that the Government's policies concerning the academisation of education leave me ignorant concerning the futures of severally

1. Haydon Bridge High School
2. Haltwhistle Community Campus Academy
3. Queen Elizabeth High School Academy, Hexham
4. Shaftoe Primary Academy, Haydon Bridge

- the likely relationship of Schools 3 and 4 to Haydon Bridge High School
- that a petition in preperation and a response to NCC as posted on the HCCA website indicate levels of confusion amongst at least some stakeholders in West Tynedale which may not augur well for the efficient and successful management of HBHS and
- that Ofsted's renewed categorisation of HBHS as requiring special educational measures can be foreseen to create further uncertainty and confusion amongst stakeholders.

I would be most grateful if you would confirm to me that such proposals for the reorganisation of some schools in West Tynedale as the NCC Cabinet may yet approve are subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education.

I trust that the dating error which appears in the above NCC statutory consultation, i.e. **2019 instead of 2018,** does not have the effect of invalidating same? Perhaps you would advise me precisely here?

Reference consultation page 3, 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 ...."

Yours Sincerely,

Maggie Keyte.