Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Staff Meeting - Newbrough Primary School

8th 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: Andrew Gibson - GMB
Richard Woolhouse - NEU
Liz Sturgeon - UNISON

11 Staff members of Newbrough Primary 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: When GP data is used, where is the base for the data?
A: Some may be Humshaugh and some are on the catchment area for Haydon Bridge. The data is based on where the pupil lives, not where the surgery is.

Q: How does this work with HLT, Academy, new school?
A: The new building will be managed by NCC in partnership with HLT and HLT will have a 125 year lease but in ownership of LA. There will be a return of buildings, re issue 125 years lease for new build. If the buildings are not used educationally, then the buildings will be reclaimed. HLT can still do their changes without our consultation.

Q: If the school is a Church of England School, can the LA direct closure without the Diocese?
A: The Diocese has right of appeal but the LA can close.

There was discussion about transport and the dangerous, narrow roads rather than Henshaw. A lot of pupils walk, small taxis, minibuses etc but the roads are not appropriate.

There was a lot of discussion about the DfE rural schools document and the closing of schools.

There was discussion that it was difficult to understand why the school is in this situation.

The school discussed that if it was not their school name mentioned in the document for closure, then a school in Haydon Bridge would be a good idea.

For viability a 2 tier across the partnerships is best.