Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Governor Meeting - Newbrough Primary School

8th March 2018 – 5:10 pm

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

8 Governor 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: Option C was not in Phase 1 of the consultation. Why?
A: It was discussed as Phase 1 - all provision for Haydon Bridge e.g. William Howard. This was discussed from schools.
Q: There was no discussion to transplant lock, stock and barrel - why not integrate other Primaries? Another option. Why choose Newbrough?

Q: When analysed, what do you look at?
A: What is being said about the models, positives, negatives and anything that could be workable. Alternative models. Bearing in mind who the consultees are - weight is given to parents, governing bodies and staff in the area.

There was discussion about past consultations and it is usually 1 model that is debated but due to the complex nature of this consultation it needed to be the 3.

Q: Why not sort HBHS?

A: Sponsors say it is not viable and the RSC asked the LA about the viability of the school and what would the community think.

Q: Why is there no capital investment? Is Northumberland not fighting for funding?
A: LA Officers discussed the building schools for the future programme and it is not a case of not bidding, it depends when it it your turn (e.g. we were told we would be on Phase 2 or 3 and reality was it was wave 12, it becomes too late and no funding left).

There was a lot of discussion about Haydon Bridge, the catchment and in particular the size of catchment and maintaining contact with parents.

There was a lot of discussion about the (lack of) financial modelling of each model

The Governors expressed how strongly the parents felt about the issue of transport - distance, mixture of age groups, safeguarding, safety of roads.
There was discussion about who the Cabinet Members were and the areas in which they resided - e.g. no West of Northumberland representation.

There are small secondary schools in Derbyshire with c400 pupils 11 - 16 year olds and they are viable.
There is a Primary School in Devon with a large year group this year, 2 pupils, the school is successful and financially viable.

Over time (7 years) the reputation will grow in HBHS.

An idea of a model thrown out in discussion was close HBHS and open a free school. Newbrough Primary remain as it is and open a free school in Haydon Bridge.