Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Governor Meeting - Greenhead C of E Primary School

7th March 2018 – 2:30 pm

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

8 Governor members of Greenhead 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: What does the possibility of a merger look like?
A: There had been a lot of discussion from the start of the meeting that Greenhead would merge to Henshaw Primary School. There was a lot of discussion about the Governing Body consulting on this, the statutory proposals, could the consultation run alongside the LA's or separate, timelines etc.

There was discussions about transport and what would be required to be paid.
The LA Officers explained an outline of the transport policy that would then need to be looked at on an individual basis as it is so complex.

Q: Can the LA look at a timeline and come back to the Governing Body and a rationale?
A: The LA Officers confirmed they would look at this and if the school remained open, it doesn't mean that it can't be used in a different entity. Do a transition period to help support pupils moving.

Q: Will we receive financial support from the LA (e.g. a financial merger model)

A: It was confirmed that the schools finance assistant would look at drafting up a financial model for the school to demonstrate their financial position.

There was confirmation from the Governing Body that going 2 tier is for the best.

Q: How can QEHS receive money for a new school and they are an Academy?
A: LA Officers explained the LA has a responsibility for the environment of Northumberland pupils and they will be teaching these pupils so the building will be owned by the LA and leased to the Academy for education use for 125 years.

There was discussion about HLT and their deficit and how being an academy has this been allowed?

The meeting concluded with the Governing Body confirming that they were due to meet the following week and would put together their Governing Body response and submit.