Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Governor Meeting - West Woodburn FIrst School

6th March 2018 – 3:30 pm

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

8 Governor members of West Woodburn First School

The meeting opened with the Chair of Governors stating that the Governing Body had not had time to consult prior to meeting with the LA (due to the recent weather conditions).

There was a lot of discussion over the data in the consultation document, financial reporting, capacity figures and the perceived inaccuracies of the data from the schools point of view.

LA Officers did confirm that the financial data used was that supplied by the school to the LA Finance department. Capacity figures are used by the DfE and are based on what the school can accommodate (i.e. does not take in to account a classroom that is now used as a store room) and a report is released to the Headteacher each year for the capacity figures to be signed off.

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:

There was discussions about Haydon Bridge High School being in Special Measures in 2014 and why did the LA not step in. LA Officers confirmed that they were told not to interfere with Bright Tribe.

There was discussion about Hadrian Learning Trust.

There was a lot of discussion about transport and Health and Safety audit needed to be produced on the transport system. It was raised several times during the meeting that a Risk Assessment of the transport was needed.

LA Officers reiterated that this was an informal consultation and officers would provide an equality impact assessment at the next stage. When there is an identified model, there will be an assessment on the impact of the community included.

The merging of 2 schools was picked up for the Governing Body from the staff meeting and explained for the benefit of the Governors.

The idea of a MAT model was confirmed by the Chair of Governors not to have been directly asked to him if the school was interested in this. It was just left hanging, with no detail presented or worked up.

There was discussion about the financial position of the school and this lead to discussions of which areas of the school the Governing Body are responsible for and which is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

The meeting concluded with the number of responses that could be made (e.g. a member of staff could submit an individual response, a staff group response, a response from being a parent, i.e. several responses could be made reflecting different roles of an individual)