Consultation – Part 2
Schools and Academies in Haydon Bridge and Hexham
Staff and Governors Meetings
27 February - 27 March 2018

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PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

- This informal consultation follows on from Phase 1 of consultation which took place in January with headteachers Chairs of Governors of schools and academies, the Dioceses and the Regional Schools Commissioner.
- The views of the above were used in developing the proposed models that now form Phase 2 of this consultation.
- This is your opportunity today to share your views on these models and how they may impact on you, your school and students; it's also a chance for you to put forward any alternative models that you believe can resolve the issues that face schools in the west of Northumberland.
- Your views will be noted today and these will be included in the feedback given to the Council's Cabinet. You can also respond directly to the consultation via the Response Form in the Consultation Document.

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THE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITY AND POWERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- The council must ensure that there are sufficient good school places for the population in the west of Northumberland.
- The council can hold consultations and propose changes to maintained schools
- The council cabinet is the decision maker with regard to maintained schools:- close, extend age range and enlarge.
- The Secretary of State for Education has the powers to direct the council to close schools
- The Department of Education can close or re-broker academies
- Academy trusts can hold consultations and apply to the regional schools commissioner to change age ranges.
- The dioceses can establish academies and also hold consultations.
- The council cannot establish academies or free schools.

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CONTEXT

- Regional Schools Commissioner requested a viability assessment of Haydon Bridge High School in November 2017. Potential for Secretary of State to direct the local authority to close the school.
- Hadrian Trust (QEHS) carried out an informal consultation on 11-18 age range in 2017 and have published their findings. They will carry out their formal consultation from 5 March
- £1.5m deficit budget is predicted by 2020 by maintained schools in Haydon Bridge Partnership. Hexham Partnership maintained schools predict a surplus by 2020, but does not take into account deficit at Hadrian Learning Trust schools.
- Bright Tribe Trust will withdraw from Haltwhistle First and Middle Schools and have already withdrawn from Haydon Bridge.
- There are 27 maintained schools including, first, primary, middle, secondary, high. There is one special school in Hexham. 5 academies, run by 3 trusts.
- Currently 1,261 surplus places in Haydon Bridge Partnership*
- Currently 785 surplus places in Hexham Partnership*

*Updated following Phase 1

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CONTEXT (CONT)

- Several of the schools in Haydon Bridge and Hexham require significant capital investment in their estates to ensure they provide high quality facilities. We estimate this to be £17.8m
- The National Funding Formula for all schools is to be introduced in 2020. This does not offer financial solutions to the challenges faced by most small schools.
- The majority of schools currently offer a good or better standard of education, however a small proportion require improvement or special measures
- The wider context of Northumberland is described in the Directors Annual Report 2016/17
- Council Officers will attempt to act as mediators – to seek consensus and develop options to put forward as potential solutions to part 2 of the consultation.

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CONTEXT (CONT)

- EXTERNAL FACTORS;
  - Withdrawal of Bright Tribe as sponsor of HBHS
  - Hadrian Learning Trust – Desire to change to change its age range to become 11-18 academy in Hexham.
  - Investment in schools estate - condition of buildings
  - Provision for vulnerable and those with SEND
  - Finance and impact of National Funding Formula
  - Surplus places
- OPPORTUNITIES
  - Investing multi millions Upgrading buildings and facilities.
  - A system of organisation that is sustainable and viable for the next 30+ years
  - Hearing the views of all interested parties

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HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

- OFSTED INSPECTION
  - Special Measures December 2014
  - Bright Tribe Trust identified as sponsor - 2 years to carry out due diligence
  - Withdrawal of Bright Tribe from sponsorship - November 2017 on grounds HBHS not viable
  - No other sponsor has come forward.
  - Viability assessment to take place at request of RSC
- FEBRUARY 2018
  - A proposal for a new Interim Executive Board appointed by LA with the approval of SoS for Education .

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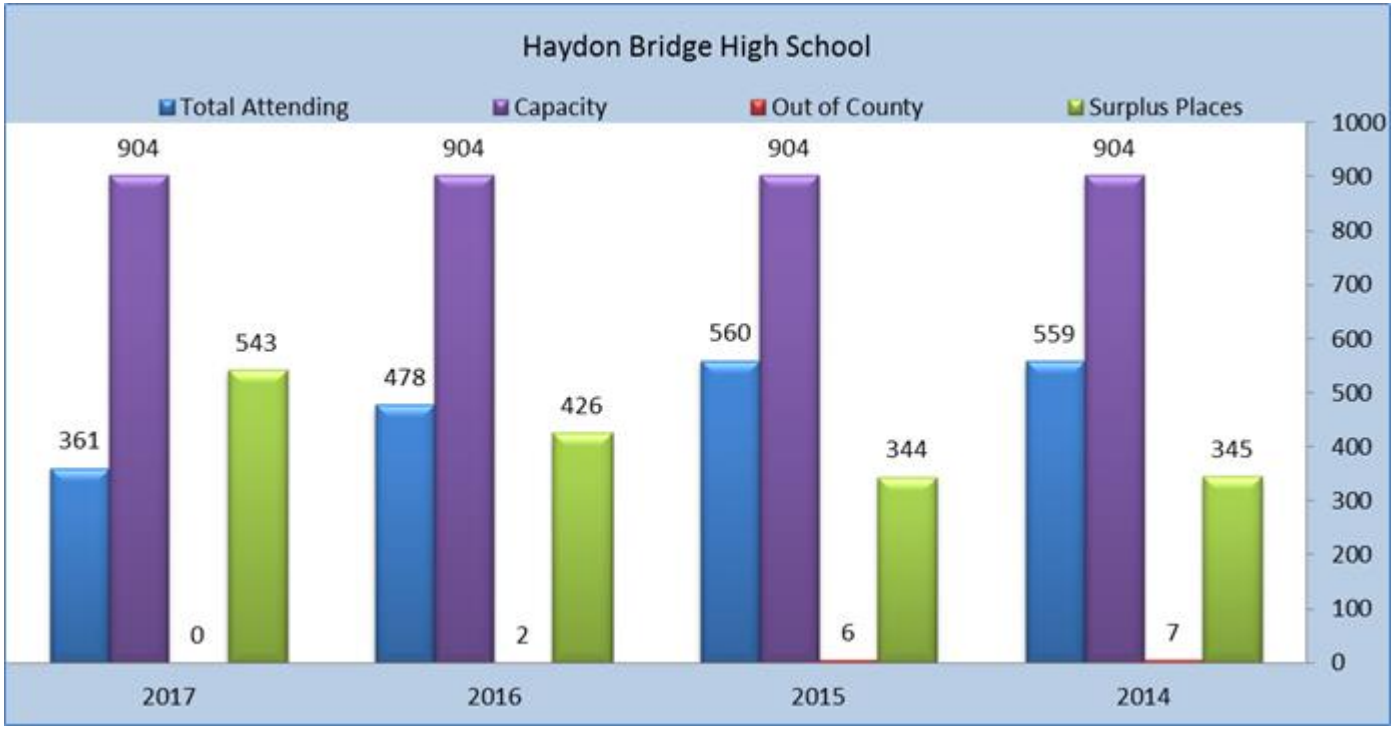
HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL (cont)

- CAPACITY AND SURPLUS PLACE



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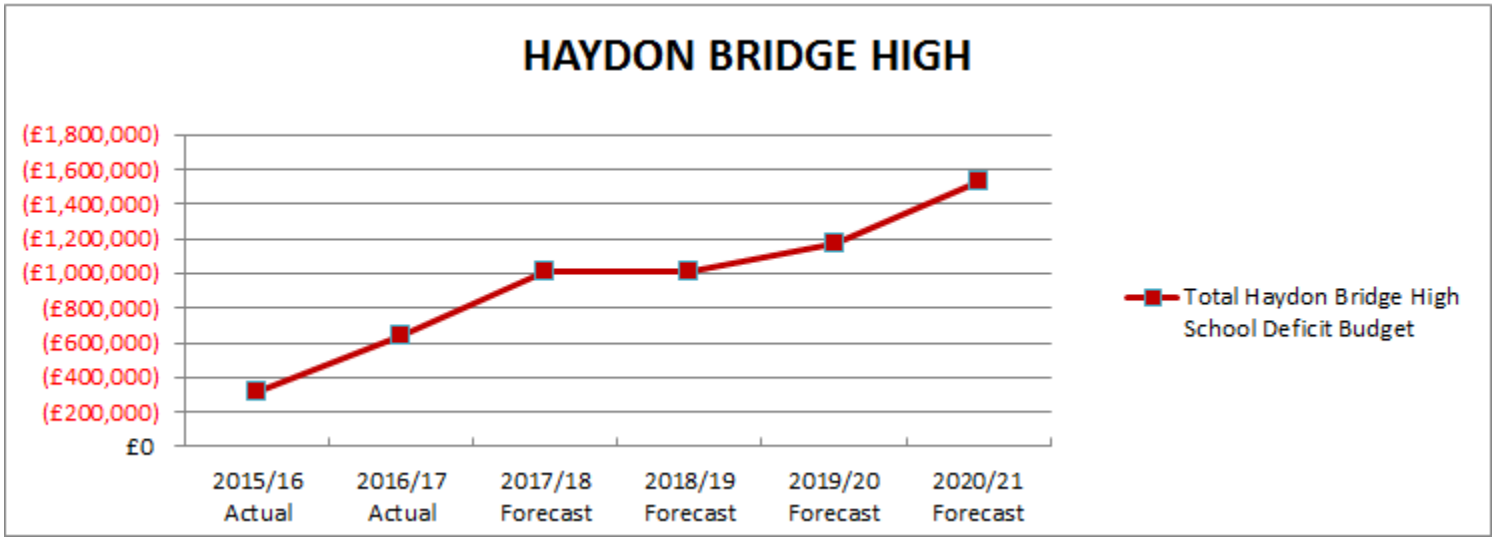
HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL (cont)

- FINANCE AND BUDGETS



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HAYDON BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL (CONT)

- CATCHMENT
  - Many parents in HBHS catchment choose to send children to Hexham.

- OPTIONS
  - Without a sponsor, RSC may direct closure
  - Capital investment of circa £1.5m needed to reduce empty/unused buildings

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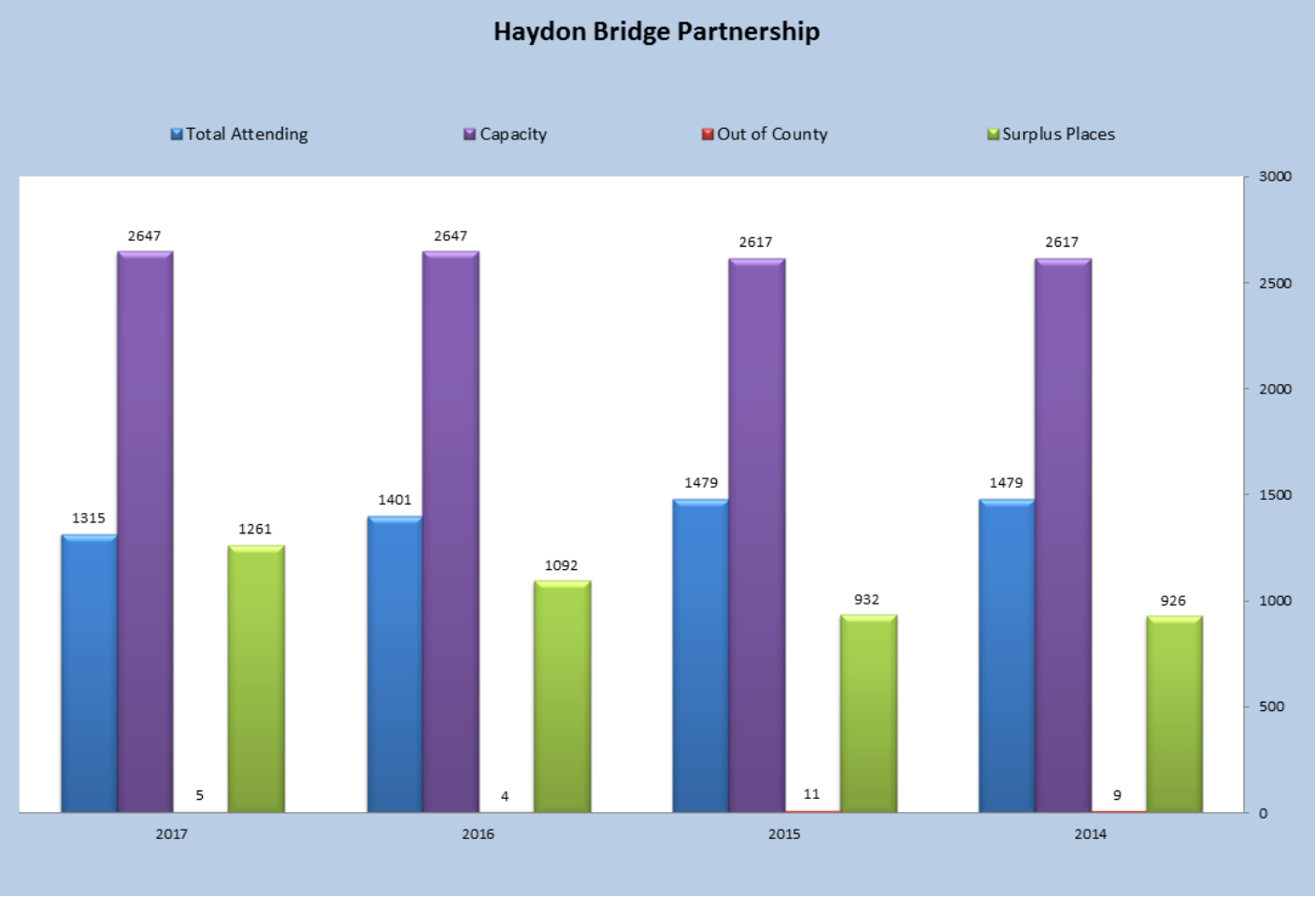
CAPACITY AND SURPLUS PLACES IN THE WEST

- HAYDON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP



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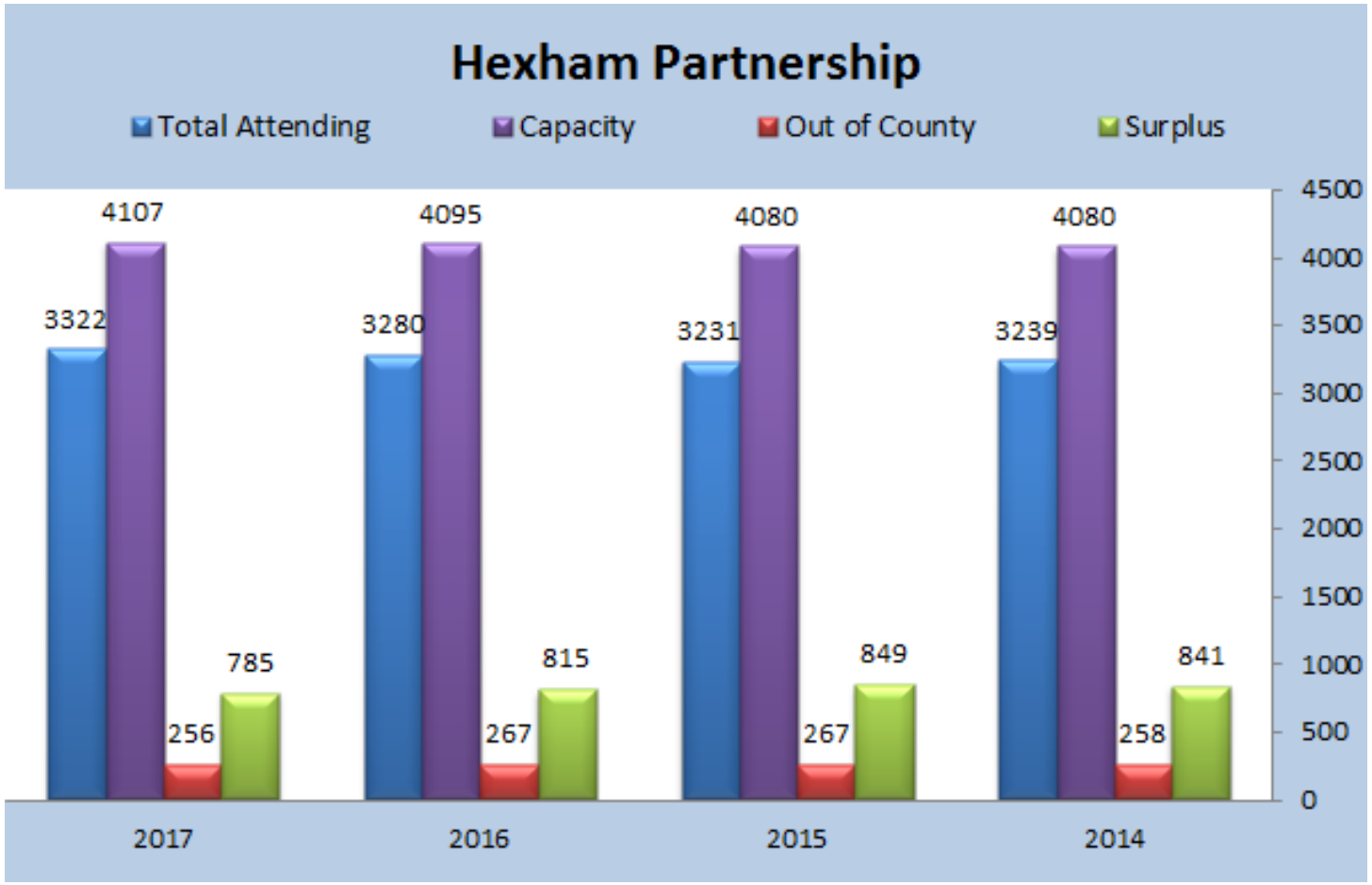
CAPACITY AND SURPLUS PLACES IN THE WEST

- HEXHAM PARTNERSHIP



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FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE WEST

- HAYDON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP
  - 12 maintained schools
  - 5 predict deficit in 2017/18
  - 6 predict deficit in 2018/19
  - 7 predict deficit in 2019/20
  - Total predicted deficit of £1.5m by 2020
- HEXHAM PARTNERSHIP
  - 14 maintained schools (not including Hexham Priory)
  - 2 predict deficit in 2017/18
  - 4 predict deficit in 2018/19
  - 5 predict deficit in 2019/20
  - Total predicted surplus of £175k by 2020
  - QEHS has had deficits in 2014/15 and 2015/16 - current situation not known as an academy

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OTHER FACTORS

- HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST
  - HLT = QEHS and Hexham Middle School
  - HLT has carried out informal consultation on becoming 11-18 school for educational and financial reasons
  - Carrying out further consultation from 5 March
- NATIONAL FORMULA FUNDING
  - Standardised model from April 2020
  - 72% of a schools budget is related to pupil numbers
  - Government clear it does not want to subsidise over capacity
  - How do we create a sustainable, high quality system?
- SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ESTATES
  - QEHS included in Priority School Building Programme
  - Backlog maintenance in Haydon Bridge and Hexham Partnerships of approx £12.85m
  - £3m from Government to county annually for maintenance
  - How should capital monies be invested in the west of Northumberland

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SOME POTENTIAL MODELS

- **MODEL A**
  - HBHS (Years 9-13) would merge with QEHS – Aug 2019
  - Students of HBHS (years 7&8)transfer to Hexham Middle or QEHS – Sept 2019
  - HMS and QEHS have new buildings either on a new or one of the existing school sites – Sept 2022
  - Middle schools in both partnerships carry on as they are now
  - Pupils in primary schools in Haydon Bridge Partnership transfer to HMS at the end of Year 6 from Sept 19
  - Some first and primary schools would merge with others on basis of no less than 75 pupils capacity and travel distance of no more than 6 miles further than current journey

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SOME POTENTIAL MODELS (cont)

- **MODEL B**
  - HBHS would merge with HMS/QEHS - Aug 2019
  - Students on roll at HBHS transfer to HMS or QEHS, inc sixth form – Sep 2019
  - Some first and primary schools would close on basis of no less than 0.5 FE – Aug 2019
  - First schools in both partnerships would become primaries – Sep 2019, retaining year 4 pupils into year 5.
  - Middle Schools in both partnerships would close - Aug 2020
  - QEHS would become 11-18 secondary, initially using HMS and QEHS buildings – Sept 2020
  - QEHS would move to new building either on one of the existing school sites or on new site - Sept 2022

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SOME POTENTIAL MODELS (cont)

- **MODEL C**
  - Some first and primary schools would close/merge – Aug 2019
  - HBHS would become an age 4-16 school –merging with Newbrough Primary; current buildings used initially - Sep 2019
  - First schools in Haydon Bridge Partnership become primaries – Sep 2019
  - HMS and QEHS merge to become an age 9-18 school in existing buildings – Sep 2019
  - Haltwhistle Upper and Bellingham Middle close – Aug 2020
  - Haydon Bridge age 4-16 school and QEHS age 9-18 school move into new buildings – Sep 2022

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OTHER ISSUES

- **STAFF**
  - All models would potentially have implications for staff in both partnerships
  - If any models are taken forward to the next formal phase of consultation, detailed discussions with Governing Bodies and Trades Unions would take place
  - NCC HR and staff representatives here today to assist with questions

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OTHER ISSUES (cont)

- **TRANSPORT**
  - The implementation of any of these models could have an impact on current transport arrangements for some students, including shorter or longer journeys
  - A significant number of students in HBHS catchment already choose to travel to QEHS
  - Eligibility for transport is always assessed on an individual basis

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Councils medium financial plan has set a side £45m for investment in Education.
- A commitment from DfE to make a substantial contribution to any new school for Hexham, as part of the council's successful bid to the Priority School Building Programme.
- Models A and B would require investment of £50m+ while Model C would require investment of £60m+

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PHASE 2 CONSULTATION?

- All feedback will be analysed
- A report with recommendations will be published on **24 April** – the Council can only make recommendations about maintained schools, not academies; changes to academies would have to be approved by RSC
- Family and Children's Services Scrutiny meeting **3 May**
- Cabinet meeting **8 May**
  - Decision on whether or not to move to the formal consultation process (a further 4 weeks), with the publication of the Statutory Proposal **or**
  - Request Officers to carry out further informal consultation (example Alnwick)

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STATUTORY CONSULTATION

10 May - 7 June

IF approved the consultation process will move into the formal stage with the publication of a Statutory Proposal.

- 4 weeks statutory period of **consultation**
- No public meetings or events will take place during this statutory process organised by council
- Written responses either supporting or objecting to the proposal from all schools and members of community will be accepted.

8- 28 June

- Officers draft the outcomes of consultation report based upon the submissions received in this formal stage of **consultation**
- Report on the analysis of the formal **consultation** published on 28 June

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FINAL DECISION

- Outcomes of formal consultation analysed
- Report published on **28 June**
- FACS meeting **5 July** to discuss **outcomes**
- Cabinet meeting **10 July**
  - After 7 months of both informal and formal consultation, cabinet will decide on whether or not to implement the proposal for maintained schools - they are **not** the decision maker for academies.

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YOUR NEXT STEPS

- Tell us what you think of the proposed models today – your comments will be noted
- Tell us if you think there is an alternative model that should be considered
- Complete the **Response Form** online from the Council's website at **www.northumberland.gov.uk/schools/consultations.aspx**
- Send by **email or FREEPOST** (address on Consultation Document)
- Consultation open until midnight on **MONDAY 9 APRIL**
- Ask an officer here tonight for a hard-copy document if you would like one.

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Questions ?

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CONTACT:

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