CABINET

10 JULY 2018

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO CABINET

OUTCOMES OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR EDUCATION IN THE WEST OF NORTHUMBERLAND

REASONS FOR DECISION

The proposals to close Bellingham Middle School and Sports College and to extend the age ranges of Kielder, Greenhaugh, Bellingham, Otterburn and Wark Church of England First Schools should be adopted and implemented for the following reasons:-

1) These changes across the maintained schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership best supports the long term viability and quality of all the schools in the partnership.

2) There would be an exciting opportunity to invest £5.1m into the fabric of schools in the Haydon Bridge Partnership, including:

   - Significant investment in a newly created Bellingham Primary School, including enhanced facilities for art/technology and community spaces that could be used by all schools to deliver an enhanced primary curriculum.
   - Significant investment, of around £3.5m in Haydon Bridge High School to rationalise the buildings, safeguard the site and upgrade the interior of the remaining buildings.In addition an investment of £1.5m to subsidise the school over the next three years to ensure a transition that provides a good educational experience.

3) Parents and students would retain a choice of secondary education in the west of the county, while parents would retain the preference to apply for a place for their child in any school.

4) The Governing Bodies of Kielder, Otterburn, Greenhaugh and Wark have indicated they support the change to a primary structure.Primary age children living in the catchment areas of Kielder, Greenhaugh, Otterburn and Wark C of E First Schools would remain in their good or outstanding village primary schools for a further two years, therefore would not have to make a transition and travel to Bellingham at age 9 and 10.

5) The proposed Resilience Programme will attempt to support the good and outstanding schools in the North Tynedale and Redesdale area to work

together and across the partnership and beyond to increase sustainability through building on and sharing current good practice.

6) A review of transport routes to Haydon Bridge High School will be undertaken to assess the impact of the implementation of the statutory proposal on individual children living in the North Tynedale and Redesdale areas, particularly in relation to pupils in Years 7 and 8 who would travel to Haydon Bridge High School.

The consultation on this statutory proposal and the wider informal consultation has been very extensive, reasonable and robust and has attempted to preserve small rural primary and secondary education.