Your Views

ABOUT YOU

Governing Body of: **West Woodburn First School**

We are a first school in West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland (West)

We currently have 24 children on roll - 12 girls and 12 boys.

We have 2 Classes:

Class 1 Reception (3) and Year 1 (7)

Class 2 Year 2 (5) Year 3 (3) Year 4 (6)

We were rated “Good” by Ofsted in March 2017.

YOUR VIEWS (continued)

1) How do you think surplus places can be reduced in schools in Haydon Bridge and Hexham Partnerships? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

- Independent audit of surplus places needed. Are PAN's a current true reflection of actual numbers ?
- There should be some percentage of surplus places to allow for natural fluctuations of numbers.
- Possible reduction of the size and number of some existing buildings by reconfiguring provision.
- Investment in wrap around care to make schools more attractive.
- Years 9,10,11 more vocationally focussed.
- Could Hayden Bridge High School extend its age range.

2) Will the current structure of schools in the west of the county remain financially and educationally viable for the next 25 years? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

This would be dependent on:

- Birth rates
- Changes of Government
- Outcomes of current consultation

HBHS is demonstrating a surplus of 60%. This is skewing the figures of the partnerships as a whole.

Small schools are currently educationally viable as demonstrated by good rated from Ofsted across the West of the County. This is also demonstrated by the progress of SEN children in the nurturing environment small schools can provide.

SLA's need to be charged on a 'per head' basis, not per school as is currently the case. Flexibility of services deemed necessary.

Delay of application of the new funding formula will impact negatively on small schools.

Earlier intervention from County is critical when budget constraints are becoming unmanageable to prevent further impact.

3) Should schools in the west of the county receive additional capital investment and if so, how should this be invested? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*

Schools moving from 3 to 2 tier should not be penalised because of lack of funds to facilitate change. Therefore capital investment should be allocated to those schools on a 'need' basis.

Parental choice of school is healthy and should always be considered. Local (small) communities rely on a thriving school to attract potential new families.

4) Do colleagues see any merit in the establishment of a local authority Multi-academy trust and would your school want to join such an entity? *Please note your thoughts and ideas below (use a separate sheet if necessary).*
Previous information from County indicated that this is not a realistic option. However, these are our thoughts in relation this: MAT could allow • Stronger Governance. Skills based Trustees would be appointed: Finance Risk Management Quality Assurance Management of Standards Inspection background Teachers Business • Opportunities to form new models • Diminish the difference between performing and underperforming schools • Larger network of support to all schools • More cost effective spending across all schools Ie SENDCO across the hub Centralised admin service • Pressure off senior leaders • Opportunities to develop future career pathways

5) If you have any other ideas or proposals that do not fit with the questions above please attach them as additions to this document.

Impact on

- Local Communities
- Transport Bill

- Mental wellbeing of children being removed from their community for education

- Decision should be based on the needs of the children and their community NOT party politics.

PLEASE RETURN THIS REPONSE FORM AND ANY OTHER COMMENTS TO:
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Children's Services
FREEPOST MP135
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 1BR

Or send your response electronically to:
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