Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Governor Meeting - Wark First School

12th March 2018 – 5:10 pm

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

7 Governor members of Wark FIrst 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:

In our response, we'll send in glossy business plan. The LA will provide copies of everything to members

There was a lot of discussion about why the Church schools have not been given the option to merge like maintained schools.
There were never any intentions to make this the case, you can put it in your response as an option if it is applicable. This question was asked several times.

There was a conversation about the community impact and the DfE document about not closing rural schools. It states in the policy, so why are you not considering the impact?
LA Officers confirmed that the document does to a certain extent and there will be an Equality Impact Assessment done.

The Governing Body expressed that they were stunned about the decision but want to do what they can and work with the LA. They are conscious not to create anger towards the LA, they want to be active and work with the LA.

Q: What holds weight for the report and we'll do it?

A: It is parents, staff, governing bodies - people are listened to.

Q: Do we fit 2 or 3 tier? Our preference is to remain as we are. The west of the county needs to be 2 / 3 tier not mixed.

There were discussions about Wark's unique position - land is not owned by LA or Church, it is Trust and needs to be used for education for the local community.

There was discussion about HLT and their consultation.

LA Officers gave examples of previous consultations and the outcomes.
The meeting concluded that all parties care about pupils and the quality of education.
Facts will win the case.