Northumberland County Council

**Jacqui Pearson**
**<jacqui.pearson@northumberland.gov.uk>**

# Fwd: Schools in the west

1 message

**Lorraine Fife** <lorraine.fife@northumberland.gov.uk> 27 April 2018 at 10:43
To: Jacqui Pearson <jacqui.pearson@northumberland.gov.uk>

Hi Jacqui

Can you please have a go at drafting a full response to the email below for review? I've put in the points you need to make in blue underneath the questions.

Thanks

Lorraine
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Sue Aviston** <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk>
Date: 26 April 2018 at 16:42
Subject: Fwd: Schools in the west
To: Lorraine Fife <Lorraine.Fife@northumberland.gov.uk>

Hi Can you please draft a response as I am back to back tomorrow, and I need to leave early
Thanks
Sue
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **John Riddle** <john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>
Date: 26 April 2018 at 12:50
Subject: Fwd: Schools in the west
To: Sue Aviston <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk>

Hi Sue, Forwarded for information, I have not replied so if you do can you please copy me in.
Thanks, John
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Tanya Naylor** <tanyara1981@hotmail.com>
Date: 24 April 2018 at 12:05

Subject: Schools in the west
To: "John.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk" <John.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>

John,
I'm writing this as a parent rather than parish clerk.. hence my personal email address.
The report that has come out today is quite surprising.. Haydon Bridge pyramid is essentially going 2 tier where Hexham staying 3 tier.. I think ive got that right?
A number of concerns really..
1) I was under the impression that one of the big arguments to keeping Haydon Bridge open was the element of secondary/high school choice - this cannot work smoothly if Hexham and Haydon Bridge have 2 systems..
Would children who possibly choose Hexham High over their catchment of Haydon Bridge go into the hexham system at yr7 into middle for 2 years then on QEHS, be removed from primary at yr 5 to go to middle school (both options running the risk of not getting a place in their high school of choice).. or go to Haydon Bridge for 2 years then change to Hexham High?...none of these would be a smooth child friendly option.
- Feedback received from consultees was that the mixed-economy within HAydon Bridge Partnership was not working and did not support. The proposed recommendation for HB Partnership is there will not be one clear pathway for children from primary to secondary school. Choices outside of this pathway would be due to parental preference.

2) Haydon Bridge is not closer than Hexham the way the school buses travel, they go round Hexham roundabout before heading West!.. At age 11 this in my opinion is too far (speaking from experience travelling from Bellingham at age 13) .. in addition there are no boarding facilities for those further afield.
HB catchment is the largest in the county and there are a number of routes around the catchment to HBHS. Children also have to travel some distance at age 9 to reach middle schools.

3)Why can the authority not support the proposed age range for hadrian learning partnership when it is in favour of changing it for the Haydon Bridge pyramid which is arguably more rural??

The majority of pupils in the HBHS are currently taught within a 2-tier system therefore it is sensible to change to the system that will be the least disruptive the the majority of staff and pupils. Furthermore, the majority of the remaining first schools proposed to go primary in the Haydon Bridge Partnership responded that they had the skills and willingness to do so.

4)Will there be as much investment into Haydon Bridge as in Hexham so they have an equal chance of succeeding, being the best they can, and offering children similar opportunities? Can closing just 1 small middle school create the funds that were needed?
The report to cabinet sets out a proposal to invest up to £3m towards buildings at the HBHS site as well as to support its revenue budget for at least 3 years.

Personally I'm in favour of 3tier education as i feel that at 9-13 there is a vast amount going on physically/emotionally that a middle school environment is beneficial...But more so on a rural note though is the travelling at age 11, for some it would be over an hour.
Recognise that individuals have a personal preference.

Whichever 2tier / 3tier i think both our local pyramids should work in tandem, maybe this is the authority's way of discouraging parents looking at both high schools hence ensuring numbers at Haydon Bridge. Personally i would be looking at what each school offers, each of my children, when the time comes to apply but the mismatch of school intakes would be a big issue for me.
As stated previously, there would be one clear pathway established in the HBHS for pupils. Having a different school organisation system in neighbouring partnerships does not prevent cross-partnership working where applicable, but in the first instance schools should work together effectively within their own partnerships.

*Kind Regards*
*Tanya Naylor*

--
County Councillor John Riddle

Bellingham Division
01434 220250

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Sue Aviston

Head of School Organisation and Resources.

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group.

Northumberland County Council,

County Hall,

Morpeth.

Northumberland.

NE61 2EF

Tele 01670622281

Mob 07770934182

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Lorraine Fife
School Organisation Manager
Northumberland County Council
Tel: 01670 624050