

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet

10 November 2014

## ITEM 7(a)

Education Review –  
feedback from Pre-  
publication Consultation

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| <b>Portfolio(s):</b> Children, Young People and Learning | <b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Cllr Ian Grayson |
| <b>Report from</b>                                       | <b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>              |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>                              | <b>Paul Hanson</b> (Tel: (0191) 643 7000 ) |
| <b>Wards affected:</b>                                   | <b>All</b>                                 |

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### PART 1

#### 1.1 Purpose:

On 13 October 2013, Cabinet agreed to a review of the education system in North Tyneside. On 8 September 2014, Cabinet considered the work done as part of that review and agreed a set of options for pre-publication consultation. The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to consider the results of that consultation and agree a preferred option for further consultation.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet

- (1) Note the feedback from the pre-publication consultation
- (2) Agree to consultation on the basis of the preferred option outlined in appendix 3
- (3) Agree to the further actions outlined at paragraph 1.8 and agree to receive further reports as required.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 8 October 2014.

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report links to the Our North Tyneside Plan through the priority placed upon Our People and Our Economy

- Our People will “Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people”
- We will be successful if “The gap in educational attainment across the borough has been reduced”
- Our Economy will “Have the right conditions to support investment and create new jobs, especially apprenticeships” and “Have local people that have the skills which businesses need”

- We will be successful if “More jobs have been created, including quality apprenticeships” and “Local employers find it easier to recruit the skilled workforce they need from the local area”.

## 1.5 Information

This report summarises the following information

- The work done as part of the pre-publication consultation
- The main messages from the consultation response
- The next steps to consult on a preferred option
- The next steps on the further actions agreed with Cabinet at its meeting on 8 September 2014 and further clarified with Headteachers, Governing Bodies and Partners.

## 1.6 Pre-publication consultation

The pre-publication consultation exercise took the following form

- **Consultation document;** a summary of the Cabinet Report of 8 September 2014, tested with lay readers and headteachers, was circulated from 22 September 2014, to all 95 000 households in North Tyneside. The document accompanied the Our North Tyneside magazine which contained an article describing the review. Further copies were available at Customer First Centres and other public buildings
- **Consultation presentation;** an overview presentation was delivered to Elected Members (including the Strategic Leadership Group and Children, Education and Skills subcommittee of Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and Governing bodies as well as the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership and business representatives
- **On-line;** the consultation document was made available on the website and comments could be submitted electronically.

Appendix 1 lists all of the consultation activity.

## 1.7 Main messages from the consultation

Given the work done between October 2013 and September 2014 the consistent response to the pre-publication is not surprising. A more detailed summary is contained in Appendix 2. The main messages are as follows

- **Option Three is preferred by most responders;** there was a clear view in favour of the third option. Cabinet will wish to note this included the comprehensive support of all secondary, middle and special school headteachers as well as individual Governing Bodies
- **Governing bodies are keen to engage;** across the Borough the Governing Bodies are keen to be part of further developing the North Tyneside Education system
- **Employers are keen to be part of the solution;** working with our commercial partners, North East Chamber of Commerce and local business we have some innovative work in hand to improve employer engagement and help young people be ready for work
- **While there is significant support for the approach more detail is required on the suggested model at Norham;** while respondents could see the merit of the proposal at a high level there was an understandable curiosity to know more

- **The agreed principles do not sufficiently emphasise a happy childhood;** in discussion, it became clear there needs to be more emphasis on supporting children to be happy and to enjoy childhood and education.

Appendix 3 contains the option as described to Cabinet at its meeting on 8 September 2014.

## 1.8 Next steps to consult on the preferred option

Subject to Cabinet's decision, it is proposed that the next phase of consultation will commence for a 4 week period starting Monday 24 November 2014 ending Sunday 21 December 2014.

This consultation process will again follow DfE Guidance (where significant changes to schools are proposed) which will allow the Council to provide the necessary feedback to all consultees on the process to date. Any resultant changes to individual school admission numbers will need to be managed through the Schools Admissions arrangements. Other system changes will be subject to individual governance arrangements including reporting back to Cabinet, decisions by Governing Bodies and the Schools Forum.

The consultation process will be conducted as follows

- **Web;** the content of this report and description of the preferred option will be replicated on the Council's website setting out the dates that the representation period ends and with the ability to comment
- **Press Release;** coverage from the local press has been useful in getting the messages of the review out to the Borough. Following Cabinet's decision, details of the preferred option and attendant consultation will be issued to the local media
- **Council and education sites;** notice of the decision and preferred option will be placed at Customer First Centres and appropriate education sites
- **Further briefings;** sessions will be offered to governing bodies and Children, Education and Skills subcommittee.

At the end of the consultation period consideration will be given to the feedback obtained before the final decision is made.

## 1.9 Next steps on the further work agreed by Cabinet on 8 September 2014

Following Cabinet's decision on 8 September 2014, detailed work is underway to clarify the projects that flow from the review, particularly as it relates to the Our North Tyneside plan and the programme of change in place to deliver it. Each project will have a detailed project brief, agreed by the Education Review Project Board and involved stakeholders. Those projects are as follows

- **Ready for School;** a continuing review of early years work and the development and delivery of a North Tyneside entitlement
- **Ready for Work;** developing a North Tyneside entitlement and the comprehensive overhaul of information, advice and guidance as well as employer engagement and adult learning
- **Post-16;** a review of the offer to North Tyneside and proposed developments in the light of the new Post-16 Accountability Framework making sure the offer is consistent across the Borough and balances academic and vocational skills aligned to the economy of the Travel to Work Area. This work to include provision for pupils at our Special Schools

- **Planned Admission Numbers and Catchment;** a review of the current approach and revisions required as projects are delivered and new school buildings come on stream
- **Transport, locality and access;** in line with the work on Planned Admission Numbers and Catchment reviewing transport, locality connections and access to the education system
- **Capital Investment;** continuation of the work in hand to deliver the next 5 new schools but also handling the proposed national changes in stock condition and capital investment and the next phase of the national programme
- **Specific work in localities and at schools;** as follows
  - **Whitley Bay and Monkseaton;** working to maintain and raise standards and tackle the collective financial challenge
  - **Norham High School;** working to develop and deliver a new model
  - **Longbenton Community College;** working to meet the financial challenge, raise standards and take advantage of the new building
  - **Seaton Burn Business and Enterprise College;** developing collaboration across primary and secondary in the area, developing the campus as a hub for service to the community and, as part of the post-16 offer, increasing access for students in the community.

#### 1.10 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet

##### Option 1

Agree to move to consultation on the preferred option.

##### Option 2

Ask for further work to be done.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

#### 1.11 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- It reflects the preferred approach based on pre-publication consultation
- It meets the challenges and opportunities facing the education system in North Tyneside.

#### 1.12 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Consultation activity

Appendix 2: Consultation responses

Appendix 3: Preferred option – Pre-publication option as described to Cabinet at its meeting on 8 September 2014

#### 1.13 Contact officers:

Paul Hanson, Deputy Chief Executive, tel. (0191) 643 7000

Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People and Learning, tel. (0191) 643 8782

Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment, tel. (0191) 643 8089

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7038

## **1.14 Background information:**

The following background paper has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

(1) Education Review – Report to Cabinet 8 September 2014

[http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=556162](http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=556162)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

The financial and other resource implications of this report are limited to the cost of the consultation activity which is being met from existing budgets.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Local Authority has a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure sufficiency of school places. The Local Authority must also promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

The Department for Education has issued guidance which Local Authorities must have regard to when exercising functions under the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained School) Regulations 2013.

The Guidance states that when significant changes to schools are proposed which may relate to a reorganisation within an area then a statutory process must be followed. Significant changes include enlargement of premises, alteration of upper or lower age limit of a community school including the addition or removal of a nursery or sixth form and also transferring a school to a new site. Any related proposals must be considered together. The process includes a further period of consultation following publication of the preferred option. Information regarding the preferred option should be made available one week after publication of the notice. Following the consultation process which should be for a minimum of four weeks the decision can be made. Any appeal of the decision should be made to the adjudicator within four weeks of the decision.

With regards to changes in admissions any arrangements must comply with the Admissions Code which was issued under Schools Standards and Framework act 1998.

In addition, when considering any significant changes to schools there must be regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty which requires 'due regard' to be had to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and further good relations.

The matter for decision in the report is for agreement to a preferred option consultation period to be entered into to enable the option proposed to be considered further and to consult with interested parties. There will then be a further report on the outcome of this consultation in January 2015.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

Consultation has been extensive and is detailed at Appendix 1

## 2.4 Human rights

There are no direct human rights implications flowing from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications associated with this report. However, the preferred option is aimed at improving equality of access to opportunity and tackling inequalities within the education system.

## 2.6 Risk management

The Education Review has a project risk register which is monitored by the Project Board.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications flowing from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications associated with this report. However, the preferred option is aimed at ensuring North Tyneside has sustainable communities and the specific construction projects referenced in the report have their own sustainable construction context.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy

## Consultation activity

|    | Date                    | Event  |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1  | 29 <sup>th</sup> August | Report published on North Tyneside Council website   |
| 2  | 29 <sup>th</sup> August | Report sent to secondary and middle school Headteachers, Chair of Governing Bodies (secondary), Tyne Met College, Jeremy Fitt and Joe Hughes   |
|    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept    | Press release issued - 'Cabinet considers education review findings'   |
| 3  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept    | Report sent to primary and special school Headteachers   |
| 4  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept    | Report sent to Association Secretaries   |
| 5  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept    | North Tyneside Council Member Briefing   |
| 6  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept    | North Tyneside Council Member Briefing   |
| 7  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept    | Briefing given to Chronicle/Journal education reporter   |
| 8  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | News Guardian front page article - "Plans have been drawn up by North Tyneside Council on the future of education in the borough"  |
| 9  | 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | Journal news article - "Council will debate its masterplan for schools"  |
| 10 | 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | Report considered by Cabinet   |
| 11 | 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Report presented to North Tyneside Strategic Partnership   |
| 12 | 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | North East Chamber of Commerce North Tyneside Area Meeting   |
| 13 | 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Association Secretaries Meeting  |
| 14 | 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | All Headteacher Briefing   |
| 15 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept   | Commencement of formal consultation. Our North Tyneside magazine distribution starts with a half page piece on the Education Review, and including the consultation document. Distribution to 95,000 households and made available in the Customer First Centres and Children's Centres. 200 copies also sent to each middle and high school for reception areas |
| 16 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept   | Press release issued - 'Share your views on education options'   |
|    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept   | Council tweet - Share your views on options for the future of education  |
| 17 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept   | Children, Education & Skills Sub Committee   |
| 18 | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept   | Norham High School Governing Body  |
| 19 | 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Valley Gardens Middle School Governing Body  |
| 20 | 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Whitley Bay High School Governing Body   |
| 21 | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | News Guardian front page article - "A four-week review is underway into the potential changes in the education system in the borough". This information was also carried online and promoted via the paper's Twitter feed  |
| 22 | 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct     | John Spence Community High School Governing Body   |
| 23 | 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct     | Report sent to Mary Glendon, MP and Alan Campbell, MP  |
| 24 | 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct     | LA Governor Briefing   |
| 25 | 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Schools Forum  |
| 26 | 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Council re-tweet - Share your views on options for the future of education   |
| 27 | 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Council tweet - Make sure you have your say on options for borough's education, before the end of today  |
| 28 | 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Association Secretaries Update   |

|    |                      |   |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 29 | 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Project Board – Review of Education Provision |
| 30 | 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct | End of formal consultation period             |
| 31 | 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Children, Education & Skills Sub Committee    |
| 32 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct | Collingwood Primary School Governing Body     |

### **Scheduled Meetings**

|    |                      |  |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 33 | 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Briefing to Special School Headteachers    |
| 34 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | Churchill Community College Governing Body |



## Summary of Consultation Responses

Formal consultation commenced on Monday 22 September 2014 and ended on Friday 17 October 2014.

Following the four week consultation process a total of 165 responses were received by the consultation deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. These can be summarised as follows:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Approach 1</b><br>Make individual plans to handle the challenges and take the opportunities       | 6   |
| <b>Approach 2</b><br>Make area or locality plans to handle the challenges and take the opportunities | 13  |
| <b>Approach 3</b><br>Begin to remodel the education system.  | 104 |
| No clear opinion or approach expressed   | 42  |

Within these responses, ten have been received from individual or collective school groups, in support of Option 3 (Chair of High, Middle and Special Schools / Churchill Community College / Wellfield Middle School / Tyne Metropolitan College together with the Governing Bodies of George Stephenson High School, Whitley Bay High School Valley Gardens Middle School, Monkseaton Middle School, Marine Park First School and Holystone Primary School).

In addition to the above, we have also received 100 individual responses from pupils attending Monkseaton High School. Although a significant number of the responses received (43) made clear reference to retaining the 3 tier system with no clear approach identified, 5 identified Approach 1, 9 identified Approach 2 and 43 identified Approach 3.

### Examples of responses received are:

#### Approach one

Response from a pupil: I would like to choose option 1 as I believe this will allow schools to support all of its students.

Approach one has my vote. Schools are much better left to make their own decisions.

## **Approach Two**

Response from a pupil: I think the second option is the best option because if the schools work together they have more opportunity to do things as a school.

I have read the consultation document and probably prefer approach 2: area or locality plans to see local schools work together rather than in competition.

## **Approach Three**

Response from a pupil: I am in favour of approach 3 – I believe that this will be the better system because it is the only one to have more benefits than drawbacks resulting in a clear option an obvious decision to make.

I would like to voice a strong endorsement of 'Approach Three'- Remodelling the education system. I believe this is the best long term option of the three

Preference is approach 3. All schools need to work to establish links with outside businesses/employers. Need to raise expectation of students from an early age.

'This is a collective response to the Education Review Consultation on behalf of all High, Middle and Special School Headteachers of North Tyneside. We discussed the consultation in depth at our most recent meeting and agreed, unanimously, that we prefer Approach Three – To begin to remodel the education system. Throughout and following the consultation we will all work hard to support a process which has at its heart the interests of the young people, the communities and the economy of our borough.

## **Web Page 'Hits'**

The Education Review web page has received a total of 1,023 'hits' over the four week consultation period. The table below summarises the number of 'hits' per week.

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Week commencing 22 September 2014 | 516 |
| Week Commencing 29 September 2014 | 163 |
| Week commencing 6 October 2014    | 153 |
| Week commencing 31 October 2014   | 191 |

**Preferred option -Pre-publication option as described to Cabinet at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Begin to remodel the education system**

In summary this option would

- Propose work with Headteachers and Governing Bodies across the Whitley Bay and Monkseaton group of schools to retain the three-tier system while managing places, raising standards and controlling costs. This would mean work to develop a stronger federation or federations to share costs and resources but preserve the aspects of the system that are important to many families in the area
- In the North Shields area, re-build Whitehouse Primary (due to open for 2016/17), re-build Marden High School and John Spence Community High School (due to open 2016/17). Propose work to change what happens at Norham High School from academic year 15/16 – which would mean
  - Acknowledging family choice already being made
  - Managing a reduction in size, not just letting it happen
  - Working to create a new model that would
    - Include the closest Primary Schools
    - Develop a partnership with Churchill Community College and TyneMet College
    - Improve standards
    - Directly involve employers and pathways to work
  - Continuing to deliver the National Curriculum
    - But include direct work with employers to prepare students for work
    - And engage them with wider opportunities, particularly science, technology, engineering and maths
  - Building a plan to redevelop the campus
- Propose work in the North West of the Borough to re-build Backworth Park Primary school (due to open in 2017), re-build Longbenton Community College (due to open in 2016) and cap the entry numbers at George Stephenson High School.

For Longbenton this means

- Rebuilding the school
- Working with the Governing Body to tackle the deficit
- Delivering the agreed leadership approach of a fixed term Executive Head Teacher with the intention of
- Maintaining and improving standards
- Resolving the budget position
- Developing school leadership to take advantage of the new building

For Seaton Burn this means

- Recognising and develop the role of the Business and Enterprise College in the community
- Working with the primary-secondary partnership on standards, assets, costs and leadership

- Developing the College Campus as a hub for community activity, drawing in wider public services including the John Willie Sams Centre
- As part of wider work exploiting technology and employer links to improve access to post-16 opportunity

It is important that Cabinet note that each element of this option is subject to its own governance. For example

- **New Builds;** have been and will be subject to appropriate consultation (Cabinet will recall the work done to plan for re-providing Backworth Park Primary School). The Education Funding Agency has its own approval and sign off approach for Priority Schools Building Programme which involves each School and the LAGS required.
- **Activity at individual schools;** will be subject to the responsibilities of the Governing Body, the LA and, potentially, the Schools Forum
- **The specific proposal at Norham High School;** has significant support but requires much greater detail before arrangements are finalised. That is likely to include its own Governing Body, the Governing Bodies at Churchill, Tynemet and the associated primary schools.

Any decision will be backed up by appropriate engagement and consultation.