

SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 6) on
Thursday 31 January 2013 at 4.00pm

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any)	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Proposal to Discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland Church of England (CE) Voluntary Aided (VA) Primary School and Proposal to Establish a New CE VA School on the Existing Hylton Red House Primary School Site	1
	Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services (copy attached).	

E WAUGH
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND

22 January 2013

Contact: Gillian Warnes, Principal Governance Services Officer Tel: 0191 561 1041
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Information contained within this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats.

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET –
31 JANUARY 2013**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND BISHOP HARLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CE) VOLUNTARY AIDED (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW CE VA SCHOOL ON THE EXISTING HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE

Author(s): Executive Director Children's Services

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is: -

- (i) to seek the approval of the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet for the proposal published by Sunderland City Council to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School; and
- (ii) to consider the related proposal from the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance to establish a new CE VA school on the existing Hylton Red House Primary School site.

Description of Decision:

That the Committee considers the following related proposals :-

- i) To discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School on 31st August 2013.
- ii) To establish a new CE VA School on the existing Hylton Red House Primary School site on 1st September 2013.

Under the provisions of Schedule 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet can either approve the proposals with or without modification or reject the proposals. The School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is requested to approve both proposals.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: In approving the proposals future concerns around the sustainability of provision in the area would be largely addressed. The large number of surplus places across both schools would be removed, with the additional resources that are currently used to support unused space redirected towards resources to improve teaching and learning. It is expected that this will enable the progress already seen in the quality of provision at both schools to be maintained.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: The alternative is not to approve the proposals, which would not address the long term sustainability of the two schools. It is not possible to approve one proposal and reject the other, as the two proposals are related.	
Impacts analysed: Equality <input type="checkbox"/> Privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes Is it included in the 28 Day Notice of Decisions? Yes	Scrutiny Committee

**PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
BISHOP HARLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CE) VOLUNTARY AIDED (VA)
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

AND

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW CE VA SCHOOL ON THE EXISTING
HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval of the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet for the statutory proposal published by Sunderland City Council to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary Schools and the related proposal published by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance to establish a new CE VA school on the existing Hylton Red House Primary School site.

2. Description of the Decision

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the following related proposals

- To discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School on 31 August 2013 and
- To establish a new CE VA school on the existing Hylton Red House Primary School site on 1st September 2013.

Under the provisions of Schedule 2 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 the Committee can either reject the proposals or approve the proposals with or without modification. The Committee is requested to approve both proposals.

3. Background

- 3.1 Reports from the Executive Director of Children's Services to Cabinet on 18th July and 10th October 2012 provided detailed information on the rationale for the proposed changes at Bishop Harland CE Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School. In brief, both schools in recent years have faced and dealt with significant challenges in terms of Ofsted Inspection. However, as a consequence of the significant levels of surplus places, the schools have also faced, and will continue to face, budgetary challenges that could impact on the schools' ability to maintain their current levels of improvement. The schools are currently operating a 'soft' federation under a single headteacher. This has resulted in close working relationships between teaching staff and

governors in a number of curriculum and pastoral areas. However, despite the ongoing improvements seen at both schools there remains a concern that, in the absence of a local solution, current national policy may result in the imposition of an alternative organisational model for one or both schools.

- 3.2 The current numbers on roll are 143 at Bishop Harland and 330 at Hylton Red House, a total of 473. The number of surplus places is 67 and 97 respectively, a total of 164 between the two schools.
- 3.3 Given the successful relationship that already exists between the two schools, one of the options under consideration in the initial consultation process focused on the formalisation of this 'soft' federation. The 18th July Cabinet report set out, with two other options, the proposal to discontinue provision at both schools and to establish a new voluntary aided school on the Hylton Red House site, utilising its existing resources to deliver to the pupils from both schools. This option would deliver a sustainable school for the future and would create positive educational benefits for the delivery of education. It would also address the surplus places issues faced by both schools and would free up the resources currently used to maintain unused teaching areas and enable these resources to be directed towards educational delivery.
- 3.4 This proposal would also enable the Church of England to maintain a presence in the local community. Bishop Harland CE School is currently the only CE Primary School in North Sunderland and the initial consultation process carried out by the local authority outlined a level of support for this presence to remain.
- 3.5 Initial consultation with the governing bodies of both schools also included consultation with Hylton Red House Nursery staff and its governing body. Following discussions the governing body of the nursery stated that they did not wish to be part of the new school and wished to remain independent. However, a consequence of the proposals is demand for an additional 26 part time places at Hylton Red House Nursery from existing Bishop Harland pupils. Local authority officers have commenced discussions with the nursery in order to plan any remodelling that may need to occur in order to accommodate the increased cohort.
- 3.6 Sunderland City Council currently owns the buildings and playing fields at the Hylton Red House Primary School site. On the current Bishop Harland site the council own the playing fields and the Diocese own the buildings. As part of this proposal a 'land swap' would take place which would result in the council taking ownership of the current Bishop Harland school buildings and in turn ceding ownership of the Hylton Red House school buildings to the Diocese.
- 3.7 Following the appraisal of a number of options, the most effective long term solution to safeguard the primary educational provision in the area currently serviced by the two schools is considered to be the closure of Bishop Harland CE VA School and Hylton Red House Primary School with the Hylton Red House Primary School site then housing a new CE VA school..

4. Consultation, Publication and Representation

4.1.1 Section 16 of the EIA provides that those bringing forward statutory proposals to discontinue a school must consult such persons as appear to them to be appropriate. As such consultation has included the following;

- The governing bodies of both Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School
- The governing body at Hylton Red House Nursery School
- Teachers and other staff members at both schools
- Parents of pupils at both schools
- Members of Durham Diocesan Board of Education (in line with the related proposal to establish a new CE VA school on the existing Hylton Red House Primary School site).
- Teaching and non-teaching trade unions representing staff at consultation events
- Wider representation from the wider community at both schools

In addition to this, copies of the statutory proposals to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA School were provided to

- The governing bodies of both schools
- The governing body of Hylton Red House Nursery School
- The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
- The Lead Member for Education for Sunderland City Council
- The Ward Members of both affected schools
- The Secretary of State for Education
- The Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring local authorities

4.2 Initial discussions included consultation with the governing bodies of both schools and also included consultation with Hylton Red House Nursery staff and its governing body, who were asked to consider whether the nursery would wish to be part of any future proposal. Following discussions the governing body of the nursery declined to take this any further. However, it has been agreed that, should this proposal be approved, the nursery class currently at Bishop Harland CE VA School will be transferred to Hylton Red House Nursery School.

4.3 The first stage informal consultation on options began on 4th September 2012 and concluded on 28th September 2012. As requested by Cabinet (18th July 2012) three options were presented for consultation. They were as follows

Option 1 – To close Bishop Harland CE Primary School and transfer all pupils to Hylton Red House Primary School;

Option 2 – To close Bishop Harland CE Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School and to open a new voluntary aided C of E school on the Hylton Red House site and;

Option 3 –To keep things as they are, but this would mean further changes in the future.

- 4.4 Five consultation sessions were held in total. These were for the staff, governors and wider communities of both schools and Hylton Red House Nursery. Notes of all meetings are appended as Appendix 2 of this report.
- 4.5 Information about the rationale and options for consultation were circulated to parents of children at both schools as well as parents with children at Hylton Red House Nursery and members of the wider community. The deadline for responses was the 28th September 2012. A breakdown of the responses as well as associated comments from respondents is attached as Appendix 3 of this report.
- 4.6 The outcomes from this consultation showed significant support for Option 2 – to close Bishop Harland CE Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School and to open a new C of E voluntary aided school on the Hylton Red House Primary School Site. 95% of respondents favoured this option with many responses identifying that there was already a good working relationship between the two schools and this merger would represent an extension of that. There was also support for maintaining a C of E presence in the north of Sunderland, with Bishop Harland CE Primary School currently the only C of E primary in the area.
- 4.7 Whilst supporting Option 2 there were a number of responses which expressed concerns about issues such as the impact that the additional footfall may have on parking and access at the Hylton Red House site as well as the additional distance that children may have to walk to school in bad weather. The local authority, the schools, nursery and Diocese have been actively working together to identify solutions which would minimise this (with particular focus on safeguarding and separating children from vehicles on the Hylton Red House Site should the proposals be approved). There was also a concern expressed in relation to the future of the Bishop Harland site which was raised at the meeting held on 19th September 2012 for the wider community around both schools.
- 4.8 Having regard to the outcomes of the informal consultation, Cabinet agreed on 10th October 2012 to proceed to statutory consultation. Further consultation meetings with parents, governors and teaching and non teaching staff from both schools were held in October. In total 6 sessions were held across both schools. These meetings were to inform all parties of the outcomes from the initial consultation period and to outline both Sunderland City Council and the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance's intention to publish statutory notices and proposals for Option 2. Minutes from those meetings are appended as Appendix 4 to this report. Both of the statutory notices and proposals are appended as Appendix 1.
- 4.9 Statutory notices were published in the Sunderland Echo on 5th November 2012. The 6 week statutory representation period ended on 24th December 2012.
- 4.10 In total two representations to the statutory notices were received. Both of these are in support of the proposals. However, in addition to this we have

been requested to note that the staff at Bishop Harland CE VA and Hylton Red House Primary Schools wish for the Committee to note that their positive responses to the first informal stage of consultation reflect their views on the statutory notices. The governing body of the two schools would also like their support to be noted. No official response was received during the representation period but minutes of the Federation Meeting (November 2012) identify their support for the proposals. The responses are included as Appendix 5 of this report

4.11 If approved both proposals will be implemented by 1st September 2013.

5. Suggested Reason(s) for Decision

5.1 In approving the proposals future concerns around the sustainability of provision in the area would be largely addressed. The large number of surplus places across both schools would be removed, with the additional resources that are currently used to support unused space redirected towards resources to improve teaching and learning. It is expected that this will enable the progress already seen in the quality of provision at both schools to be maintained.

6 Alternative Options

6.1 The alternative is not to approve the proposals, which would not address the long term sustainability of the two schools. It is not possible to approve one proposal and reject the other, as the two proposals are related.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 An estimated breakdown of the capital expenditure associated with the proposal is £330,200 to carry out necessary remodelling to the existing Hylton Red House Primary building focusing on structure and fabric, heating and mechanical, electrical work and suitability and sufficiency. A further £30,000 has been estimated to carry out works to improve access to the site.

7.2 In addition to this a further estimated £200,000 has been projected to carry out modifications to the Hylton Red House Nursery in order to accommodate a further 26 children who will transfer from Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School's nursery provision. Funding for all Council led activity would be sourced through the Children's Service Capital Budget.

7.3 The Durham Diocesan Board of Finance and the school governing body have identified a similar level of capital funding to carry out additional developments to the Hylton Red House site in addition to those to be funded by Sunderland City Council.

7.4 At present the council owns the buildings and playing fields at the Hylton Red House Site. On the Bishop Harland site the Council owns the playing fields while the Diocese owns the buildings. Should this transfer take place the Council would continue to own the playing fields at both sites but a land swap

would take place with the Council taking ownership of the buildings at Bishop Harland with the Diocese taking ownership of the buildings at Hylton Red House Primary School. The Nursery at Hylton Red House would remain under the ownership of the Council. Should this proposal be agreed the Council will determine the future use of the Bishop Harland site, having regard to the views expressed during consultation.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 Both proposals have been published in accordance with the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007

9. Appendices

1. Statutory Notices and Full Proposal Documents
2. Notes of September Consultation Meetings
3. Breakdown of Consultation Responses
4. Notes of October Consultation Meetings
5. Responses to Statutory Notices

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL BY SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL TO DISCONTINUE HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL (4-11) AND TO DISCONTINUE BISHOP HARLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL (3-11)

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Sunderland City Council of P.O. Box 101, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN proposes to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School, Rotherham Road, Red House, Sunderland, SR5 5QL and also proposes to discontinue Bishop Harland Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Ramillies Road, Red House, Sunderland, SR5 5JA. It is proposed to discontinue both schools on 31st August 2013.

All applicable statutory consultation requirements in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

It is proposed that the pupils from the two schools proposed for discontinuance will attend a new Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School located on the Hylton Red House Primary School site within the existing building. The Diocese of Durham Board of Finance have published a related Notice of Proposal for the establishment of the new school from 1st September 2013. Admission may also be sought to other schools.

The needs of pupils with special educational needs will be met within the proposed new school, or in an alternative school if parents exercise their right to express a preference for a different school. It is believed that the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and range of educational provisions for all pupils including those with special educational needs as the budget for the proposed new school will reflect the school operating at full or near full capacity, affording the school with great stability and flexibility to respond to the needs of pupils. The school will provide local authority commissioned places for up to 10 children with language difficulties.

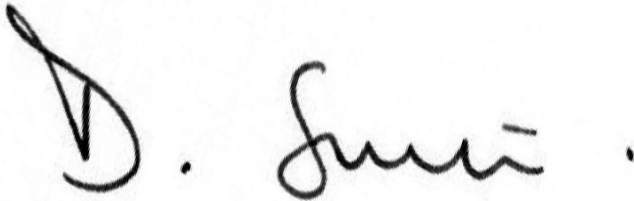
As the proposed new school is 0.56 of a mile from Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School, there are no proposals to provide transport for the displaced pupils. Travel plans will be put into place to minimise any additional car use. Access and parking arrangements at the new school will also be reviewed.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Alan Rowan, Sandhill Centre, Grindon Lane, Sunderland SR3 4EN or on 0191 561 1372 or by email to alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to the Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council, P.O. Box 101, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

Explanatory Notes

The capacity of the proposed new school will be 525 places which will be sufficient to accommodate all existing and projected pupils from the two existing schools. Nursery aged children from Bishop Harland CE School will be accommodated at Hylton Red House Nursery School which is on a site adjacent to Hylton Red House Primary School. The school will serve its local community welcoming children of all faiths and of no faith, and children of all abilities. No priority will be given to children from Church of England families, or to children from the wider Christian community. When necessary, the Local authority's oversubscription criteria will be applied.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Smith', with a large initial 'D' and a period following it.

Signed: David Smith, Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council

Publication Date 9th November, 2012

**NOTICE OF PROPOSAL BY DURHAM DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE TO
ESTABLISH A NEW VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Notice is given that Durham Diocesan Board of Finance, Diocesan Office, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7QJ, intends to establish a new Church of England maintained voluntary aided primary school under Section 11(1A) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as amended by the Education Act 2011. It is proposed that the school will open on 1st September 2013.

The school will be located on the Hylton Red House site within the school building at Rotherham Road, Red House, Sunderland, SR5 5QL. The school will serve the area currently served by Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland C of E VA Primary School in the Redhill Ward.

The ethos of the school will reflect the principles and values of the Church of England. The school's Christian character will be developed in partnership with the Church at local and diocesan level. The school will aim to serve the community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The ethos will encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all pupils. Recognising its Christian foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.

The proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with a Church of England religious character.

The new school will cater for pupils between the ages of four and eleven years. It will provide places for 525 boys and girls. All of the children currently attending Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE Primary School will be admitted to the new school in September 2013. 75 pupils will be admitted into the reception classes in September 2013. The school will provide local authority commissioned places for up to 10 children with language difficulties.

The school will serve its local community welcoming children of all faiths and of no faith, and children of all abilities. No priority will be given to children from Church of England families, or to children from the wider Christian community. When necessary, the Local Authority's oversubscription criteria will be applied.

The school will work in partnership with others to provide extended services to ensure that there is ready access to the core offer. A varied menu of activities will be provided such as a breakfast club, a wide range of sporting after school clubs; residential activities; a variety of family learning sessions, conservation activities within the locality; special interest clubs and creative activities.

As the proposed new school is 0.56 of a mile from Bishop Harland CE VA School, there are no proposals to provide transport for the displaced pupils. Travel plans will be put in place to minimise any additional car use.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Alan Rowan, Sandhill Centre, Grindon Lane, Sunderland SR3 4EN or on 0191 561 1372 or by e mail to alan.rowan@sunderland.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to the Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council, PO Box 101, Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN

Signed: 

Jeremy Fitt, Director of Education
CE Diocese of Durham

Publication Date: 9th November 2012

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Sunderland City Council

PO Box 101

Civic Centre

Sunderland

SR2 7DN

Hylton Red House Primary School

Rotherham Road

Red House

Sunderland

SR5 5QL

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School

Ramillies Road

Red House

Sunderland

SR5 5JA

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

31 August 2013

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Headteachers, staff and governors of Hylton Red House, Bishop Harland CE and Primary Schools and Hylton Red House Nursery School Families of pupils at the schools Pupils at the schools Ward Members Teaching and non-teaching unions Diocese of Durham Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Member of Parliament for (b) Two stages of consultation carried out. Minutes of public consultation meetings on options held in September 2012 are available and minutes of public consultation meetings on proposals held in October 2012 are attached. (c) Responses to the consultation held in September 2012 are available and responses to consultation meetings held in October 2012 are attached. (d) Copies of the consultation documents are attached. These were sent out to all concerned and they were also made available on the council's website.

Objectives

- 5. The objectives of the proposal.

<p>Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE Primary Schools have been operating under a soft federation with a single headteacher leading both schools. Both schools have shown significant improvement under this model of working.</p> <p>However, both schools have significant levels of surplus places which present challenges to the sustainable delivery of effective education moving forward. The projections up to 2015 show that the level of surplus places between the two schools will continue to be significant.</p> <p>This proposal outlines our intention to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School. This proposal is directly related to The Durham Diocesan Board of Finance’s proposal to establish a mainstream CE VA school from September 2013 (the “New School”) on what is currently the Hylton Red House Primary School site. We consider the outcomes from this proposal will be: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the significant progress made at both schools thus far is underpinned to allow the improvement journey to continue. 2. To minimise the number of surplus school places (projected at 128 across the two schools in 2013) creating a more sustainable level of educational provision for families in the areas serviced by the two existing schools.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

This proposal presents the greatest opportunity to maintain the upward trajectory of quality provision that currently visible across the two schools. In order to continue to develop the resources, capacity and quality provision available to Red House Primary and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School pupils the barriers created by excess surplus places, and the consequences of these surpluses, must be tackled.

In discontinuing the two existing schools and providing future delivery on one school site the major barrier to further progression, i.e. the significant surplus places in the area, will be met. As opposed to two schools operating significantly under capacity we will have one school operating at (or close to) full capacity. In doing so we will reduce costs associated with the maintenance of under used teaching space across two sites and, with a budget more appropriate to it's pupil count, the 'New School' will ensure that funding currently allocated to maintaining dead space is instead focused on increasing resources, educational delivery and adding value to the pupils' school experience. It is therefore considered that the increased economies of scale and flexibility afforded by the increased resources this will deliver will have a significant impact in driving up standards.

The Church of England has been involved in school provision in the North of Sunderland for over 50 years and it was apparent through our consultation process that there was a strong desire from parents and residents in the area that this presence was maintained, despite the closure of Bishop Harland CE VA School. Consequently the New School is to be designated as a CE VA school and will maintain the diversity of educational options on offer to families in the area.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Hylton Red House Primary School currently has a Net Capacity of 420 and a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60. In September 2013 the school is projected to have a surplus of 16% (70 places). Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School currently has a Net Capacity of 210 and a PAN of 30. In September 2013 the school is projected to have a surplus of 28% (58 places). Between both schools the projected surplus is 20% (128

places)

The New School will be based on the Hylton Red House Primary School site. The school building was originally built as separate infant and junior schools. It has the capacity to accommodate 525 pupils and some internal remodelling will be carried out to support it to operate as a 2.5 form of entry school. There will therefore be no local displacement as a consequence of this proposal

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School currently has a nursery class providing for 13 full time equivalent places. Hylton Red House Nursery School will be remodelled if necessary to ensure it has sufficient capacity to accommodate demand in the area.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School is the only CE VA primary school in the north area of the City. The "New School" to be proposed by Durham Diocesan Board of Finance will ensure that the diversity and parental choice currently available is maintained in this geographical area.

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Hylton Red House Primary School is a mixed community school which caters for pupils aged 4 – 11 with a current Net Capacity of 420. The Annual Schools Census in January 2012 recorded 330 pupils aged 4 – 11. The school also has special needs provision for 10 pupils with Language difficulties.

The Annual Schools Census in January 2012 recorded 66 pupils on the register of SEN and 3 pupils with statements of SEN

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School is a mixed maintained voluntary aided primary school which caters for pupils aged 3 – 11 with a current Net Capacity of 210 plus nursery provision for 13 FTE pupils. The Annual Schools Census in January 2012 recorded 143 pupils aged 4 – 11 and 30 part-time nursery aged pupils.

The Annual Schools Census in January 2012 recorded 37 pupils on the register of SEN and 2 pupils with statements of SEN.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and

- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

It is proposed that, excepting nursery pupils, pupils attending Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary Schools at the point of closure will be offered places at the "New School" with effect from 1 September 2013.

Nursery pupils will be offered places at Hylton Red House Nursery School.

Parents would still have the right to apply for places at other schools.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Hylton Red House Primary School sits on a large site and was built originally as separate infant and junior schools. As the school roll has declined the net capacity has been realigned. Some remodelling will be carried out to increase the capacity to 2.5 form of entry.

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

Neither Hylton Red House nor Bishop Harland CE VA Primary Schools are used by outside groups for community activities. There are dedicated community facilities available within the area. The schools have been operating under a soft federation with a single headteacher leading both schools, therefore there are already strong links between the schools and the community. The establishment of a single school will strengthen those links.

Our consultation process to date has identified a strong desire from the community served by both schools for proposed merger to proceed. At the first stage of our local consultation process (September 2012) 75 from 81 responses (93%), identified that the proposal outlined above was the course of action supported by the local community (including parents, teachers and local residents).

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Hylton Red House Primary School offers a variety of family learning, a wide range of sporting after school clubs including adventurous activities and weekend adventure/challenge residentials, breakfast club in association with Hylton Red House Nursery and a wide range of performing arts after school clubs. The school also offers extra-curricular conservation activities within the locality and with our partner conservation organisation Beamish Wild.

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School currently offers a range of sporting after school clubs including adventurous activities and weekend adventure/challenge residentials, performing arts after school clubs. The school also offers extra-curricular conservation activities within the locality and with its partner conservation organisation Beamish Wild.

The 'New School' will build on the extended services offered by the two discontinued schools. It will offer a menu of provision that includes:

- Breakfast clubs
- Study support, 'catch up', 'stretch' activities and homework clubs
- A wide range of sporting after school clubs
- Residential activities
- Creative activities such as dance, drama and arts and crafts
- Special interest clubs and activities such as ICT and music
- A variety of family learning sessions
- A parenting programme
- Conservation activities within the locality

Hylton Red House Nursery School offers wraparound childcare to 3 and 4 year olds, delivers the 3 and 4 year old offer flexibly and delivers the two year old offer

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

For pupils from the current Hylton Red House Primary School there would be no change to their journey to school.

Of the pupils at Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School, 13% live closer to the proposed "New School", 24% will have their journeys increased by up to 0.5 mile and 63% will have their journeys increased by no more than 0.56 mile.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

There are no proposals to provide transport for the displaced pupils as Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School is 0.56 of a mile from the "New School". Travel plans will be put in place to minimise any additional car use. As most pupils will travel no more than an additional 0.56 mile, it is anticipated that there will be little or no increase in car usage.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

This proposal is related to the proposal by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance to establish a new VA Primary school in the current Hylton Red House Primary School building.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;

- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

N/A

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

The local authority believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for the children with SEN currently at Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary Schools, for the following reasons:

The discontinuance of Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary Schools and the establishment of the "New School" is likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of educational provision for pupils with special educational needs because the budget at the "New School" will reflect the school operating at full, or near full, capacity, affording the school both greater stability and flexibility to respond to the needs of pupils with SEN.

There will be greater scope to employ specialist support staff and for staff training in the various specialisms. The stronger financial position will enable the school to plan their whole school SEN provision with more certainty and to build on their good practice of targeting early intervention where a pupil's needs are identified, and developing individualised learning packages.

The increase in staffing across the school will also give staff the opportunity to develop their specialisms and to build on their expertise in differentiating their specific curriculum areas to meet individual's needs.

Information required to be included in section 10 and 11 Complete Proposals to establish a mainstream school outside of a competition.

Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

Contact Details

1. The name of the proposer or proposers and a contact address.

The Durham Diocesan Board of Finance
c/o The Diocesan Director of Education
Church House
St John's Terrace
North Shields
NE29 6HS

2. Whether the proposals are being submitted independently or jointly with another proposer or proposers.

The proposal is submitted independently. It is linked to the proposal by Sunderland City Council to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School.

Category

3. The type of school that it is proposed be established (a foundation school and, if so, whether it is to have a foundation, a voluntary school or a community school) and, if required by section 10, a statement that the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publication of the proposals.

It is proposed to establish a voluntary aided Church of England primary school.

Consultation

4. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals have been complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposal were complied with.

5. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including —

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and

d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

- (a) Headteacher, staff and governors of Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE Primary Schools and Hylton Red House Nursery School
Families of pupils at the schools
Pupils at the schools
Ward Members
Teaching and non-teaching unions
Representatives of Sunderland City Services Local Head Teachers North Group
C of Diocese of Durham
R C Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Member of Parliament
- (b) Two stages of consultation carried out. Minutes of public consultation meetings on options held in September 2012 and in October 2012 are attached.
- (c) Responses to the consultation held in September 2012 and in October 2012 are attached.
- (d) Copies of the consultation documents are attached. These were sent out to all concerned and they were also made available on the council's website.

Objectives

6. The objectives of the proposal.

Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland CE Primary Schools have been operating under a soft federation with a single headteacher leading both schools since January 2011. Both schools have shown significant improvement under this model of working.

Both also have significant levels of surplus places which present challenges in the sustainable delivery of effective education. The projections up to 2015 show that the surplus provision at the two schools will continue to be significant.

The objectives of the proposal are:

- (i) to ensure that the significant improvement in the provision of education in this part of Sunderland continues; and
- (ii) to remove surplus school places (projected to total 128 across the two schools in 2013).

The proposal represents a unique opportunity for the communities of Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland to come together and, working in partnership with parents, other partners and stakeholders, and the whole community, to ensure that this and future generations of children in this area of Sunderland receive an outstanding education.

We propose a school with a clear ethos which would play an important part in the development of a strong and inclusive community for parents and pupils alike. Every aspect of school life would be designed to ensure the rounded development of each pupil. A learning environment would be created in which all pupils would have the opportunity to become confident and fulfilled people, successful learners, and responsible citizens. There would be a relentless focus on meeting individual needs and building good relationships within and outside the school. We want the school to be the hub of the community, fully embracing the extended schools agenda, with robust partnerships within its locality and beyond.

Our vision is for a primary school that would provide outstanding education that stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit, encourages the will to do good, and opens the heart to others. Personalised learning and a child-centered curriculum are vital in continuously driving forward school improvement and in assisting each child to make the progress of which s/he is capable.

The Church of England has been involved in school provision in this part of Sunderland for over fifty years and is strongly committed to continuing its engagement in this area. The Durham Diocesan Board of Education (DDBE) fully supports the important place of primary schools at the heart of the community and the crucial role they play in helping to develop community cohesion. A primary school works with whole families, not with children in isolation. Our new primary school would be a resource for its community and would seek to work with other voluntary organisations and statutory agencies to serve the best interests of the whole community.

Extended Services

7. Information on the extended services which it is envisaged will be provided on the site of the school.

The school would make the most effective possible use of resources to meet the needs of all the children and young people to ensure that there is ready access to the core offer. The school would provide a focal point not only for its pupils but also for their families and the wider community.

Without compromising the core business of delivering a high quality education in order to optimise life chances for the children, the school would work in partnership with others to provide a varied menu of activities.

We would build on the good practice in the two existing primary schools. In response to local need, and following consultation with parents and the community, activities are likely to include:

- breakfast club
- study support, 'catch-up', 'stretch' activities and homework clubs
- a wide range of sporting after school clubs
- residential activities
- creative activities such as dance, drama and arts and crafts
- special interest clubs and activities such as ICT, music,
- a variety of family learning sessions
- a parenting programme
- conservation activities within the locality

Aiming for the best possible outcomes for all of the pupils, the school would ensure they all have access to the care, guidance and support they need to succeed. This is particularly important for those who are vulnerable and at risk of underachievement. It is vital that this work begins as early as possible in a child's life and so we will work with statutory and other agencies to identify families in need of support. We would provide targeted intervention in school and access to a range of support services. These would include services such as speech and language therapy, child mental health services, family support services and intensive behavior support.

Pupil numbers and admissions

8. Information on —
- a) the number of pupil places the school should provide;
 - b) the upper and lower age limits of the school;
 - c) where it is intended that it should provide sixth form education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
 - d) where it is intended that it should provide nursery education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
 - e) where it is intended that the school should provide for boarding pupils, the number of pupils for whom it is intended such facilities should be provided;
 - f) the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will be implemented or, where it is intended that the proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the proposed school in each stage that the proposals will be implemented;
 - g) whether it is proposed that the school should admit pupils of both sexes or boys or girls only and, in the case of a single sex school where it is intended to provide sixth form education, whether both sexes or boys or girls only are to be admitted to the sixth form.

- (a) 525 pupil places
- (b) 4 – 11years
- (c) N/A
- (d) N/A
- (e) N/A
- (f) YR = 75, Y1 = 78, Y2 = 69, Y3 = 61, Y4 = 72, Y5 = 71, Y6 = 75
- (g) boys and girls aged 4 – 11 years

Ethos/Religious Character

9. A short statement suitable for publication setting out the proposed ethos of the school, including details of any educational philosophy, which it is proposed that the school will adhere to.

The vision for this primary school is that it would ensure every individual pupil achieves his or her full potential. It would nurture young people to be good citizens who are capable, confident and caring; contributing to and proud of their own community, and equipped with the necessary basic skills to be effective members of the national and global community.

The ethos underpinning this vision would reflect the principles and values of the Church of England. The school's Christian character would be developed in partnership with the Church at local and diocesan level. The school would aim to

serve the community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The ethos would encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience it offers to all pupils. Recognising its Christian foundation, the school would preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.

10. If the school is to have a religious character, confirmation of the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education will, or may be required to be provided at the school; and a statement that the proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

We intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with a religious character. It will be a Church of England school and in keeping with diocesan guidelines the religious education will be multi faith.

Area or community that school serves

11. The area or particular community or communities which the new school is expected to serve.

The school will serve the area currently served by Hylton Red House Primary and Bishop Harland C of E Primary in the Redhill Ward. All children currently attending Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE Primary School would be admitted to the new school.

Admission Arrangements

12. An indication of the proposed admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria for the new school including, where the school is proposed to be a foundation or voluntary school or Academy which is to have a religious character —

a) the extent to which priority for places is proposed to be given to children of the school's religion or religious denomination; and

b) the extent, if any, to which priority is to be given to children of other religions or religious denominations or to children having no religion or religious denomination.

The oversubscription criteria would be:

'Looked-after' child and previously looked after child – a child that is 'looked-after' by a Local Authority, or has previously been 'looked-after' by the LA in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989

A sibling link - an older brother/sister or older child (including adoptive and step-children) that shares the same parent/carer and lives at the same address, who will still be attending the school at the time of admission.

Exceptional medical or psychological reasons – based on a medical or psychological report, prepared by a professional practitioner, to explain why only

this school can meet the child's medical or psychological needs.

Pupils for whom preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.

Within each of the above, places will be offered on the basis of distance from the front door of the home address to the main entrance of the school with priority being given to those living closest to the school. Distance is measured by the shortest safest walking distance, using a geographical information system.

(a) No priority would be given to children from Church of England families, or to children from the wider Christian community.

(b) The school would serve its local community welcoming children of all faiths and of no faith, and children of all abilities.

All of the children currently attending Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE Primary School would be admitted to the new school in September 2013.

Grammar schools

13. Where the school is to be established in substitution for one or more discontinued grammar schools, a statement to this effect and a statement that the school may be designated as a grammar school for the purpose of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998.

N/A

Schools with a religious character or particular educational philosophy – parental demand

14. Where the school is —

a) proposed to have a religious character, evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion; or

b) proposed to adhere to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question that is not already met in other maintained schools or Academies in the area.

(a) One of the closing primary schools is a Church of England school and the parents of its pupils and many parents of pupils in the community primary school have indicated through the consultation process that they would like the new school to be a Church of England school.

Establishing the new school as a Church of England school would maintain diversity of provision in this part of the city. The new school would be the only C of E school in the local authority north of the river Wear. The nearest Church of England Primary School is St Paul's VC Primary in Ryhope, 7.4 miles south.

Elsewhere in the Diocese, in both rural and urban environments, there is a strong call for Church of England schools with a clear Christian ethos. This preference is expressed by a wide range of parents including those of Christian faith, those with other faith backgrounds and those with no faith who wish their children to experience education within a church school.

[Empty box]

Sixth Form Education

15. Where it is proposed that the school will provide sixth form education, how the proposals will —

- a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- b) increase participation in education or training; and
- c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities, for 16-19 year olds in the area.

[Empty box]
N/A

Early Years Provision

16. Where the proposals are to include provision for pupils aged between 2 and 5, the following information must be provided —

- a) details of how the early years provision will be organised, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number of places, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;
- b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services, and how the proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare;
- c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;
- d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and
- e) the reasons why schools and settings outside the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school and who have spare capacity, cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the numbers of such children.

Specialisms

17. Whether the school will have any specialisms on implementation and whether the promoter intends to apply to the Secretary of State for the school to be a specialist school from implementation.

[Empty box]
N/A

Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

18. Information and supporting evidence on:

- a) how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and

b) how the school will help to raise the standard of education in the area and contribute to school improvement.

a) Bishop Harland, one of the two schools proposed to close, is the only voluntary aided C of E primary school in Sunderland. If the new primary school is not a C of E school it would have a detrimental impact on diversity of provision in the whole area. There would then be no C of E school in the north of the city and parents in this part of the City would be denied access to a C of E school unless they travelled to St Paul's VC Primary in Ryhope, 7.5 miles away or to Benedict Biscop CE Academy in Moorside, 7.8 miles away.

Both schools proposed for closure are wasting resources on maintaining surplus places. Value is added by bringing them together as one school, in one building. There would be many opportunities in this new arrangement for working in innovative ways to improve teaching and learning for pupils and their families and so impact positively on attendance, attainment, achievement, aspirations and ambitions.

b) The combination of issues with which the current schools are dealing is extremely challenging.

The most recent Ofsted reports for the two schools highlight many positive features and improvements. Whilst being realistic about the challenges, we would build on the strengths of the existing schools, and provide the opportunity to gain from strong partnership with other local schools in the area and in the family of diocesan schools. We encourage and support all our schools to secure the highest possible educational standards.

Set out below are some of the ways in which the new school would enhance the quality of provision, raise standards and contribute to school improvement in the area.

- commitment to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils in a supportive environment clearly based on Christian values
- education suited to the learning styles and abilities of all pupils: identifying the differentiated needs of learners including those recognised as finding learning particularly challenging, and those who are gifted and talented
- providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced and memorable, recognising the importance of enjoyment and excitement to stimulate learning, using the resources of the local community to make education relevant to pupils and placing the school at the heart of the community
- collaboration with other schools and other partners, sharing ideas and benefiting from shared experiences
- identification of what blocks and what enables successful learning and removal of the blocks in order to improve learning potential
- schooling with an international outlook: engaged with the global community through links with schools overseas, including those with whom the current schools are already associated Hamburg, Germany and Syria, and in our link Diocese of Lesotho
- care for each other and for the planet on which we live
- continuous professional development (CPD) of staff

Outstanding teaching would be essential to achieve these goals. Continuous professional development would make a significant contribution in this respect. Staff would be encouraged to be reflective practitioners and expected to work in a range of groupings and to mentor and support each other. They would be able to work collaboratively with a larger number of colleagues in each key stage in planning and delivering an effective and varied curriculum with an appropriate range of educational opportunities and challenge.

19. Information and supporting evidence on how the proposals will contribute to enabling children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to the community and society, and achieve economic well-being.

The school would be committed to achieving the five outcomes of *Every Child Matters* for pupils of all abilities. The Christian ethos of the school would also address the spiritual aspect of each child's development which is not made explicit in the *ECM* documentation.

- *Be healthy:* In line with our vision for the development of the whole child, the school would be a Healthy School pursuing the programme for healthy schools. Through a variety of curriculum areas and through effective parental communication, the children and their families would be well informed about healthy lifestyles and choices. School policies would support healthy eating and physical activity. Our understanding of being healthy includes the concept of a healthy and happy mind as well as body. A Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme would be adopted to develop emotional intelligence and resilience.
- *Stay safe:* Pupils' health and wellbeing are affected by the quality of the learning environment. The new school would be organised with safety and security in mind. The Christian ethos and the 'golden rule' of treating others as you would like to be treated by them would help to promote good relationships, mutual understanding, respect and responsibility. We would ensure that, through clear precise policies and procedures, understood and acted upon by all members of the school community, bullying and all forms of prejudice were not tolerated. The Student Council would have a key role in ensuring that pupils feel safe and are confident that the school listens to their views and acts in response to their concerns. 'Circle Time', SEAL programmes and PSHE along with other parts of the curriculum and the acts of collective worship would help to reinforce our core values and good relationships. In addition, road safety, fire safety, e safety, stranger danger and other programmes would be taught appropriately for the age of the children. Safeguarding policies and procedures would be monitored and reviewed regularly. Training would be provided to ensure that all staff are well informed about best practice and are kept up to date about current requirements. Health and safety would be a priority and risk assessments would be rigorous.
- *Enjoy & achieve:* This is at the heart of our approach to the curriculum and the learning and teaching underpinning it, and would drive all aspects of school life. Our aim is to achieve the highest possible standards for all students, through their engagement in, and enjoyment of, their learning. Provision would be further enhanced through vibrant extended learning opportunities available to both the children and their families. A range of activities would be provided, designed to encourage involvement and collaboration, develop individual talents, and build links with the community. The school would join a national programme for supporting gifted and talented pupils. Children's success would be celebrated across the school.
- *Make a positive contribution:* Pupils would be encouraged to become

resilient, responsible, reflective and resourceful learners who make a positive contribution not only to their own learning but to that of others. Pupils would be encouraged and expected to assume responsibility for themselves, for each other, for their environment and for their community as appropriate to their age and stage of development. The school would join the Eco-Schools programme to raise awareness and promote eco-friendly actions and sustainable life styles. It would work towards the International Schools Award to ensure that pupils make a positive contribution internationally as well as locally and nationally. Access through the internet and other means to the world wide community would build an understanding of world issues, bring students in contact with pupils from other cultures and backgrounds, and help develop their roles as global citizens. Supporting relief work and a variety of charities, such as Jeans for Genes, Comic Relief and Children in Need, would be fun as well as worthwhile and memorable.

- *Economic wellbeing:* Personalised learning and catering for preferred learning styles are fundamental in helping children make the progress of which they are capable and enabling them to gain qualifications later on. A high level of employability skills, high levels of achievement and high levels of confidence and self esteem equip young people to engage fully in the world of work. Good qualifications give young people more possibilities and choices. Our aspiration is that when our pupils leave secondary school they are ready to play a full part in their community and in society. A programme of visitors from a range of occupations, including former pupils, would help to raise aspirations and encourage ambition.

Community Cohesion

20. The following information relating to the proposals —

- a) how the school will promote and contribute to community cohesion;
- b) how the school will increase inclusion and equality of access for all social groups; and
- c) how the school will collaborate with other schools, and in relation to secondary school proposals how the new school will collaborate with colleges and training providers.

- a) Schools have a duty to contribute to working towards a society in which
 - there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities
 - the diversity of people's background is understood and valued
 - similar life opportunities are available to all
 - strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the work place, in schools, and in the wider community

A school's contribution to community cohesion embraces the following three areas: teaching and learning and curriculum; equality and excellence; and, engagement and extended services.

The existing schools are attracting children from a wide range of social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. A number of languages are spoken by families from across the world, and a variety of religions are now represented in the schools. This rich mix of people and resources within the schools and their extended communities provides the foundation for valuing diversity and fostering community cohesion.

The two existing schools have their own distinctive cultures and ethos. The first priority in relation to community cohesion is to bring the schools together as one cohesive community with a shared identity, ethos and culture. The close and effective working relationship within the soft Federation has laid the ground for achieving the strong and enduring cohesion necessary for success.

These strategic aims are strongly aligned to our core values, based on the fundamental worth of all human beings. Diocesan expectations promote a school ethos that recognises the importance of the individual and fosters a strong sense of community through shared responsibility. There would be a commitment to pupil-voice being appropriately part of the decision making processes and the School Council would play a major role in this.

The curriculum too would be designed to help children to understand the diverse nature of society and to promote community cohesion by developing good attitudes and aptitudes, as well as facilitating the acquisition of knowledge and skills. For example, Religious Education would support children in learning about and learning from world religions. Children would be given opportunities to investigate the world around them, from the local to the global. Through exploring culture, beliefs, values, human rights and responsibilities, children develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others, and a sense of belonging. They see how societies are organized and shaped by people's values and actions, and how communities can live and work together.

Collective worship plays an important part in the life of a Church school. It has a significant role in developing and maintaining the Christian ethos and values and providing space for shared reflection and response. By including material and resources which show that the Christian faith is a world wide multi cultural faith, relevant to twenty first century life, and by sensitive and appropriate use of the Bible and other material, including that from other faiths, collective worship strongly contributes to the valuing of diversity and the promotion of mutual understanding.

b) The admissions policy for the school would ensure that all children from the community in which the school is placed would be able to attend it. There would be no selection on the grounds of faith or ability. All children would be welcomed and included into the school community.

Whilst forging its own identity, the new school would be expected to be fully and actively committed to closing the attainment and achievement gap; developing common values of citizenship based on dialogue, mutual respect and valuing diversity; contributing to building good community relations and challenging all types of discrimination and inequality; and removing the barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement.

The aim of providing high quality education through personalised learning for pupils of all abilities is fundamental to closing the attainment gap and removing barriers to access, progression and achievement. Treating others as you would like to be treated by them would be the 'golden rule' for interpersonal relationships within the school and between the school and its parents and families. It would be the guiding principle for developing the school community's interactions with others locally, regionally and globally. We aim to build a school that is at the heart of its community and a school community that has a compassionate heart for others.

c) The Diocese would expect the school to play a full part within the Sunderland

family of schools and within the Diocesan family of schools and to develop mutually beneficial partnerships.

School staff would work together with the Red House Academy and its feeder schools in developing and participating in CPD. They would collaborate with other City schools' staff and Diocesan schools' staff at a variety of conferences and courses.

Governors would be encouraged to participate in training and conferences provided by the local authority, the Diocese and other organisations.

Parents would be encouraged to work together within the school. Sporting competitions and other regional events would provide the opportunity for joining with parents from other local schools and further afield.

As a Church of England school there would be easy access to other Anglican schools across the region. There are Church of England schools in a variety of locations in rural, coastal, urban and suburban areas.

From time to time the Diocese holds special services or events for its schools when they are invited to celebrate and learn together. The annual Schools Services, held in July, are a good example of this, when hundreds of school leavers from church schools and community schools across the Diocese gather in the Cathedral to mark this significant stage in their school career.

Community cohesion also entails looking beyond the local and regional community to national and international communities. We would encourage the school to develop links with schools in other parts of the country and as a Church of England school it would have a ready made network to tap into. The world-wide Anglican Communion would also support international links, most easily with our link Diocese of Lesotho.

Single sex or co-educational school

21. Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex —

a) evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and

b) A statement giving details of the likely effect the alteration will have on the balance of provision of single sex education in the area.

The proposal is for a co-educational primary school.

Location

22. A statement about —

a) the location of the site (including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses if the school is to occupy a split site);

b) whether the school will occupy a single or split site;

c) the accessibility of the site (or if the school is to occupy a split site the accessibility of the accommodation);

d) the current ownership and tenure (freehold or leasehold) of the site and the proposed use of any buildings already on the site;

e) details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease including details of any provisions which could obstruct the governing body or the head teacher in the exercise of any of their functions under any of the Education Acts or place indirect pressures upon funding bodies;

f) whether the site is currently used for the purposes of another school which will no longer be required for the purposes of that school. If so, provide details as to why the site will no longer be required for the purposes of that school; and

g) the estimated costs of providing the site and a statement about how the costs will be met.

a) & b) It is proposed to establish the new school in the current Hylton Red House Primary School building in Rotherham Road, Red House, Sunderland SR5 5QL.

c) An increase in pupil numbers would require a reconfiguration of access to the site prior to opening.

d) & e) The site and current Hylton Red House Primary School building are owned by the local authority. It is proposed that priority health and safety and condition works will be addressed by the LA before conveying it to the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance on the opening of the new VA school. The playing fields would remain in the ownership of the local authority.

f) The site is currently used for Hylton Red House Primary School which it is proposed would close at the end of August 2013.

g) Since the site of one of the closing schools is owned by the LA and the other by the diocesan Board of Finance (as Trustees). Negotiations between the local authority and the Diocese are progressing towards an agreement which is likely to involve an exchange of sites.

Implementation

23. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

The proposals would be implemented 1st September 2013.

24. Where the proposals are to establish a voluntary controlled or foundation school, a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the LA or by the proposers, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both,

a) a statement as to the extent that they are to be implemented by each body, and

b) a statement as to the extent to which the capital costs of

implementation are to be met by each body.

N/A

Project Costs

25. A statement of the estimated capital cost of the proposals and the extent to which the costs are to be met by the proposers and/or the LA.

Discussions are proceeding between the Diocese and the LA with a view to ensuring that on handover to the new governing body the Hylton Red House School site and buildings will be fit for purpose. Pre opening costs would be met by the LA. Once the new school is open the new governing body would assume responsibility for capital works via the LCVAP and DFC funding streams.

26. A copy of a confirmation from the Secretary of State or LA or the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

N/A

27. Details of how it is proposed to fund the proposer's share of the capital costs of implementing the proposals (if any).

The Diocese understands that the capital costs for implementation would be met by the local authority.

Travel

28. The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.

For pupils from the current Hylton Red House Primary School there would be no change to their journey to school.

Of the pupils at Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School, 13% live closer to the proposed new school, 24% will have their journeys increased by up to 0.5 mile and 63% will have their journeys increased by no more than 0.56 mile.

We would work with the existing schools and the LA to draw up a Green Travel Plan emphasising road safety and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Federation

29. Details of any proposals for the school to be federated with one or more schools (by virtue of section 24 of EA 2002 and section 12).

N/A

Curriculum

30. Confirmation that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002 and an outline of any

provision that will be in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002, in particular any 14-19 vocational education.

The new school would conform to the primary National Curriculum and other statutory requirements. Underpinned by the Christian ethos the well planned and relevant curriculum would:

- ensure that all children are challenged and supported to achieve the highest standards of which they are capable.
- provide a rich and innovative curriculum that meets the needs of all children within a framework of national expectations.
- offer high quality teaching and support that recognises and plans for all abilities and talents
- maintain a safe environment for pupils and staff
- promote community cohesion and help develop a sense of community

Within this broad and balanced curriculum, personalising the pupils' learning would be pivotal. A detailed knowledge and understanding of individual pupils' needs would be essential for the development of innovative responses to their needs. We would use a wide range of learning methodologies designed to cater for individual learning styles and to encourage a sense of fun and a venturesome culture. Personalised learning would demand robust approaches to differentiation, acceleration and progression as well as creative learning design, rigorous planning, and meticulous implementation of Individual Learning Plans. Effective systems for tracking progress and for assessment and record keeping would be developed to support personalisation.

Learning how to learn would be a core element of the curriculum within a safe and secure learning environment. All pupils would be equally valued, would learn in an atmosphere of collaboration, where they are encouraged to exercise responsibility for their learning and reflect on it, and so develop the resilience and resourcefulness required for success in learning in any context, now and in the future.

A relentless focus on literacy would underpin every aspect of learning and teaching, ensuring not only that learners have the basic skills to fully access the curriculum but also that they develop the higher order skills associated with greater achievement in both a school and working context.

Pupils would experience a range of learning situations: lead lessons, small team and independent learning, as well as a more traditional class approach. Each learning situation would be determined by the specific learning outcomes required by the lesson/theme/module. Technology would further enhance a rich and varied learner entitlement and enable access to learning resources, both real and virtual, well beyond the traditional confines of the school. Staff at all levels would continue to adopt a rigorous approach to their own self review and assessment as part of the school's pursuit of outstanding education.

Voluntary aided schools

31. In addition, where the school is to be a voluntary aided school —
- a) details of the Trust on which the site is to be held; and
 - b) confirmation that governing body will be able and willing to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

- (a) The Durham Diocesan Board of Finance would be the Trustees of the school.
- (b) The Diocesan Board of Education supports all VA schools to carry out their

obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

Staff

32. Not applicable – removed by amending Regulations.

Foundation Schools

33. Where the school is to be a foundation school, confirmation as to whether the new school —

a) will have a foundation established otherwise than under SSFA 1998 and, if so, the identity of that foundation;

b) will belong to a group of schools for which a foundation body acts under section 21 of SSFA 1998; or

c) will not fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b).

N/A

34. Where the school is to be a foundation school which has a foundation:
a) the name of the foundation where known;

b) the rationale for the foundation and the particular ethos that it will bring to the school;

c) the details of membership of the foundation, including the names of the members;

d) the entitlement to appoint charity trustees and the number of trustees to be appointed;

e) the proposed constitution of the governing body;

f) details of the foundation's charitable objects;

g) where the majority of governors are to be foundation governors, a statement that a parent council will be established in accordance with section 23A of EA 2002;

h) a statement that the requirements set out in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England) Regulations will be met;

i) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of education at the school and how it is envisaged it will help to raise standards; and

j) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of community cohesion and the impact the foundation will have on the diversity of school provision in the area.

N/A

Special educational needs

35. Information as to whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision and the proposed number of pupils for whom such provision is to be made.

Local authority provision for up to 10 children with language difficulties is currently based at Hylton Red House Primary School. Most of these pupils have a statement of special educational needs. The provision is accessed through local authority commissioning of places, rather than at the discretion of the school admissions policy.

The new school would retain this provision and the Local Authority are committed to continuing to commission up to 10 places in the Language Provision within the terms of the new funding arrangements to be published in April 2013. This arrangement will be kept under review subject to future funding arrangements.

Pupils return to their home school on a Friday. Overall the proportion of pupils who are supported at school action plus or have a statement of special educational needs is average.

36. Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.

The supportive ethos and culture of a Church school are particularly attractive to families of pupils with special needs. Many of our existing schools have higher than average numbers of pupils with statements of special educational needs.

The new school would cater for the full range of abilities including children with statements. Through collaborative working with outside professional services, children's needs would be met as early as possible, in order to remove barriers and to ensure that children do not become distracted or disengaged from learning. Programmes of learning would be specifically tailored to meet the needs of all pupils, with targeted learning opportunities provided to support and extend the learning of individuals or groups. This inclusive approach would ensure that each learner continues to make the progress of which s/he is capable.

37. Where the school will replace existing educational provision that would be recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs:

a) a statement on how the proposer believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for these children;

b) details of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of —

i) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the LA's Accessibility Strategy;

ii) improved access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support and/or outreach services;

iii) improved access to suitable accommodation; and

iv) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

Relevant experience of proposers

38. Evidence of any relevant experience in education held by the proposer, or proposers (other than a local authority) including details of any involvement in the improvement of standards in education.

The Church of England, through its parish and diocesan system, continues to engage with every community in the nation, regardless of social and economic circumstances. The Church of England has a long history of involvement in Education. In many communities, and for many generations, only Church education was available for 'the poor of the parish'. Local Education Authorities were established in 1902 and since then there have been many changes in the organisation of the education service of this country. Throughout this period Church of England schools have continued to play a major role in the system.

The Church of England has a good track record in education. Historically many Church Schools are village schools, but others support urban communities and some support communities in very challenging environments. Today about one million pupils nationally are educated in Church of England schools, and around a quarter of the primary schools in the country have an Anglican foundation. Diocesan authorities work with LEAs as partners to ensure the highest quality of education possible.

Each Church of England diocese is required by law to set up an Education Board whose function is to look after the interests of its church schools. Diocesan Education Boards work with head teachers, governors, LEAs and the DfE to uphold and enrich the distinctive contribution of Church schools to the state education system. The Durham Diocesan Board of Education aims to facilitate the collaboration of governors, teachers, parents, church and other partners to ensure that the quality of education offered to the children in its church schools is of the highest standard.

The Diocese is supported by the Church of England's National Society which was founded in 1811 and which provides all dioceses across the country with legal and professional advice. The National Society works with the DfE to ensure that our schools flourish and develop their Christian distinctiveness in ways that enrich and offer diversity to the national provision of maintained schools.

Although steeped in history, the Church of England continues to encourage and support its schools to look forward and innovate. Over recent years schools have been encouraged to work together, and a variety of models of collaborative working have been developed. Many examples exist within C of E schools in the diocese, such as clusters, partnerships, networks and 'soft' and 'hard' federations.

Local churches and members of the community support Church schools in our Diocese by providing a range of skills through membership of the governing

bodies. In addition, the Diocesan Board of Education complements the local authorities' services by providing its own dedicated support to staff and governing bodies through a range of appropriate services, courses, conferences, resources and targeted help and advice. Structures have been developed to support school improvement and schools causing concern.

The Diocesan Board of Education includes in its membership serving and former headteachers as well as clergy and lay people with experience and expertise in education.

Durham and Newcastle Dioceses have established a joint education team to support their schools. The small team comprises highly professional officers who offer a wide range of experience to schools. This is supplemented by a range of part-time consultants and volunteers who support individual aspects of the work.

Planning permission

39. Where the establishment of the new school involves development for the purpose of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a statement as to whether planning permission has been obtained and, if it has not been obtained, details of when it is anticipated that it will be obtained.

As part of the arrangements for the local authority to improve access and egress for vehicles, which would address some of the concerns raised in the initial consultation, any planning permission would be sought as appropriate to establish a safe and secure entrance for pupils at the beginning and end of the school day. Any plans for developing access and egress arrangements would be developed in full consultation with the Red House Nursery School Governing Body as the two schools occupy the same site. Capital costs would be met as appropriate by the Local Authority prior to the new school opening.

Independent schools entering the maintained sector

40. A statement that the requirements of section 11 (3) are met.

N/A

41. A statement as to whether the premises will meet the requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and, if not:

a) details of how the premises are deficient; and

b) details of how it is intended to remedy the deficiency.

N/A

PUBLIC FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Tuesday 11th September 2012 at 6.00 pm.

Those present were:-

(a) Governors

Mrs S Humble (Vice Chair), Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(b) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Specialist Minute Taking)

(c) In Attendance

Val Thompson, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning and Change Management
Gary Robinson, Governor Support Manager
Stuart Bain, Chair of Education Board - Diocese
Jeremy Fitt, Diocesan Director of Education

42F/12 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Hodgson.

Governors agreed to accept to accept the apologies.

43F/12 Declaration of Interest

No governors declared an interest in any agenda item.

44F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Parents to the LA School Place Planning Consultation and recapped on the Soft Federation arrangement between Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland COE VA School.

Mr Williamson discussed anxieties and stated that the consultation was for Parents to find out more information regarding the future of Hylton Red House Primary School. Mr Williamson thanked Parents for attending and confirmed that the decision around options Mrs Thompson would discuss were still under negotiation and no decisions had been made.

Mr Williamson introduced Mrs Thompson and Mrs Scanlon from the LA, Mr Fitt and Mr Bain from the Diocese highlighted to parents that they would be able to answer questions relating to the LA and Church of England.

Mr Williamson introduced Mrs Humble, Vice Chair of Governors, Mr Robinson who was supporting the LA presentation and the Clerk who would record a minute of the meeting.

Presentation

Mrs Thompson told parents/carers that there would be a power point presentation (See Annex 1) and that parents/carers would be welcome to comment and ask questions when the presentation concluded. The points covered were:

Explanation of the legal differences between the status of Maintained and Church of England Schools with regards to building, staffing and budgets.

Maintained Schools buildings were owned by the LA, staff employed by the LA and budgets set via the LA. Church of England Schools buildings were owned by the Church, the playing fields owned by the LA, staff employed by the Governing Body and budgets set by the LA.

The impact the Soft Federation and the Executive Headteacher had made in improvements for both Schools.

The surplus place position of both schools and the estimated percentage of surplus places currently and by 2015 indications are that there will be a surplus of 20%. The data used to project the numbers is live births within each ward.

Three options were presented for managing the position in terms of sustaining improvement at both schools and addressing the surplus place positions.

In terms of buildings, for both Schools, Option 1 would remain as they are. Bishop Harland owned by the Church and Hylton Red House by the LA.

Option 2 would incorporate a transfer of the building at Hylton Red House site from LA to Diocese and a possible transfer of the site at Bishop Harland to be owned by the LA. Neither option 1 or Option 2 would include a nursery class.

Mrs Thompson referred to the difficulties of managing budgets effectively to ensure a stable staffing structure when operating with significant surplus places. If a school could be established which operates with a minimum number of surplus places it would enable a stable staffing structure to be maintained and provide effective education for the community.

Parents/carers were aware of recent Ofsted inspections and that unless a local solution can be found, the school would possibly become an enforced Academy in the future. Mrs Thompson discussed the difficulties of managing budgets with significant surplus places and the impact on being able to offer the best education for the children. The LA was looking at what was best for the community in terms of maintaining and building on the excellent progress achieved so far.

Mrs Thompson informed parents/carers that the budget was based on pupil roll and that surplus places make it more challenging to manage budgets effectively. Both schools had successfully managed their finances well to date, but this would be difficult to maintain in the future.

Mrs Thompson explained that a preferred option would be looked at by Cabinet in October with a final decision by December. Cabinet consisted of elected members of the Council including the Leader of the Council and various portfolio holders.

The final decision would be made by The School Organisation Committee of Cabinet in December but there would be further consultation before that stage.

HR Information

Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that under Option 1 the Governing Body would declare all posts redundant. Governors at Hylton Red House Primary School would then be approached to consider the Bishop Harland Staff for additional posts on a non competitive basis. The LA would continue their duty to support the redeployment of staff.

Option 2 would declare all posts redundant within Bishop Harland and Hylton Red House Schools. The temporary Governing Body would devise a new staffing structure for the new school. Staff would be ring fenced to positions and if displaced would be supported by the LA in finding a new post through redeployment if possible.

Mrs Dobrianski noted that Option 3 would mean no staffing changes.

Diocese/Church of England

Mr Fitt set out the history of Church of England schools and spoke of the diversity that they can bring to a community.

Mr Fitt explained that the Church of England was interested in keeping a presence in the area to maintain a Church School. Mr Fitt highlighted that there were only 2 Church of England Primary Schools within the City at present and 1 secondary school.

Mr Fitt reiterated that it was in the interest of the Community to have a local solution rather than an imposed solution to the current position.

Response Forms

Mrs Thompson informed parents/carers that Response Forms were available and that all comments and feedback would need to be submitted by 28th September 2012.

Mrs Thompson drew attention to the fact that one of the questions asked for respondents to tick which is their preferred option but stressed that this was not a vote on options.

Questions

The following questions were asked by Parents:

- Q: Will Option 2 have more classes or more pupils per class?
- A: Mr Williamson discussed that his preferred option was to have more classes.
Classrooms within Hylton Red House are currently empty due to the falling roll number and are being used for other resources and interventions and would be reinstated as classrooms if there was a new school. .
- Q: Mrs Lock asked about the Nursery and if Hylton Red House Nursery would be part of the new School? Mrs Lock stated she was worried about her 2 year old and if there would be enough spaces for her child.
- A: Mrs Thompson confirmed the nursery was completely separate from the school and that they manage admissions themselves. However, the local authority would look at the nursery and do some remodelling if necessary to meet demand.
- Q: What if my child has an older sibling in the School, would this be taken into account?
- A: Mr Fitt stated that the Diocese work closely with the LA regarding admissions and that their admissions policies, overseen by the Dioceses are generally similar to local authority admissions policy.

Mrs Thompson stated that a sibling is one of the highest criteria in terms of allocation of places.
- Q: What are the time frames as parents need to consider new uniforms and places?
- A: Mrs Thompson advised that a report would be taken to Cabinet in October and there would be further consultation on a form proposal if Cabinet agreed. A final decision would then be made in December. If there was to be new school it would be effective from September 2013.

Uniforms will be discussed with the Governing Body as costs would be involved and would not want this to affect parents.

Mr Bain confirmed that funding will also be discussed via the Dioceses with regards to uniforms.
- Q: Will the children meet their classmates prior to the new school academic year and will they be put in classes with people they know?
- A: Mr Williamson recapped on the years 3 and 6 working together across the soft federation and that he planned to have parents work with the schools for children to meet one another if there was to be a new school.

Mr Bain confirmed that there could be an event arranged for the children to be brought together. This would also see the community coming together.

Q: Miss Willis asked about Bishop Harland Nursery and the current places and if they would transfer to Hylton Red House Nursery School?

A: Mr Williamson stated that the children completing 3 terms would automatically be ready for reception class within the new school. Other children ready for Nursery would go to Hylton Red House Nursery School. Mr Williamson reiterated that the nursery would remain as a separate identity.

Q: Miss Hedley asked about capacity of the Nursery?

A: Mrs Thompson stated that this was taken into account. If there was to be a new school surveyors would be working with both the new school and the nursery to discuss remodelling if necessary.

Mr Fitt said that he thought the Hylton Red House site had a lot of potential compared to Bishop Harland's site. This site had a lot more to offer in terms of size and potential.

Mr Bain discussed Collective worship in assemblies and that RE Studies help children prepare for the future; however the Diocese does not force this upon people. The intention was for the best school and education for this community.

Q: Mrs Lock asked about Bishop Harland's Ofsted report and asked what plans were in place to maintain the levels at Hylton Red House so that standards don't drop.

A: Mr Williamson stated that the children were already being taught across the schools. Miss Watson confirmed and gave some examples of the joint working.

Mr Williamson discussed Bishop Harland COE VA School and their progress made to date. Hylton Red House Primary School is a bit further on in the journey and has improved much more since the Ofsted inspection.

Mr Bain stated that delivery would be easier having one building and the consistent approach and expectations of staff would continue.

Miss Watson discussed the consistency of working together across the schools and highlighted that they were one team working together to make sure the children receive the best education.

Miss Bulmer agreed with Miss Watson's statement and confirmed she was in full support.

Q: Miss Hedley asked about the day to day running of a Church of England School and what is the difference from maintained?

A: Mr Williamson confirmed that there would not be much of a difference as the School are working already on the lines of a Church of England School. The children visit the local Church at intervals throughout the year.

Mr Williamson discussed Rev Jennifer Bradshaw and how her visits are regular to both of the Schools.

Mr Bain briefed on RE studies and confirmed that the 6 major faiths are taught. Miss Watson confirmed that the children were taught this already in school as a requirement by law.

Q: If the new School became outstanding would the children in the community be guaranteed a place or will you be letting other children from other catchment areas in?

A: Mrs Thompson discussed admissions criteria and that as the final tiebreaker for places for admission is distance, children in the community would be in a strong position to get places. Mrs Humble discussed the Options and stated that as part of the Finance Committee and with consideration of the reduced budget, Option 3 would not be viable as there would be insufficient budget provision to meet the needs longer term.

Mrs Humble stated that she thought Option 2 was the best option for the children and their needs and to offer them the best academic start in life.

Miss Hedley stated she attended Church at the weekend as she wanted to understand the faith aspects more in case her child asked questions relating to RE. Miss Hedley stated as part of the Governing Body, she also favoured Option 2 as this option was fair for all the children in the community not just her own and she wanted the best for everyone.

Mrs Partridge informed fellow parents that she was a past pupil of Bishop Harland COE VA School and that the day to day running of the School was no different to a maintained School.

A discussion around Bishop Harland COE VA School and the children living in that area took place. Mr Williamson stated that a good school was what mattered and that people would travel to get their children into a good school.

Mr Williamson stated he would organise a coffee morning/afternoon at the School for parents who wished to discuss the options provided by the LA with other parents before submitting their response form.

Mrs Thompson thanked parents for their participation and their challenging questions. Mrs Thompson reminded parents about the response forms that they could collect on their departure.

PUBLIC FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT BISHOP HARLAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Wednesday 12th September 2012 at 6.00 pm.

Those present were:-

(c) Governors

Mr R Thorndyke (Chair), Mrs E Watson, Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(d) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Val Thompson, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning and Change Management
Gary Robinson, Governor Support Manager
Jeremy Fitt, Diocesan Director of Education

46F/12 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

47F/12 Declaration of Interest

No governors declared an interest in any agenda item.

48F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Parents to the LA School Place Planning Consultation and recapped on the Soft Federation arrangement between Bishop Harland COE VA School and Hylton Red House Primary School.

Mr Williamson thanked parents for attending and discussed how a lot of conversation had already taken place regarding the School and its future and stated that this was something parents and staff were passionate about.

Mr Williamson confirmed to parents that this was a consultation by the LA and not the school or Dioceses.

Mr Williamson introduced Mrs Thompson and Mrs Scanlon from the LA and Mr Fitt from the Dioceses and advised parents that they would be able to answer questions relating to the LA and Church of England.

Mr Williamson introduced Mr Thorndyke, Chair of Governors and Rev Jennifer Bradshaw the new Vicar at St Cuthbert's. Mr Robinson was in

attendance supporting the presentation and Mr Williamson introduced the Clerk to the Governing Body who would provide a minute of the meeting.

Mr Williamson also welcomed Mrs Trotter, former Deputy Head of the School.

Presentation

Mrs Thompson told parents/carers that there would be a power point presentation (See Annex 1) and that parents/carers would be welcome to comment and ask questions when the presentation concluded. The points covered were:

Explanation of the legal differences between the status of Maintained and Church of England Schools with regards to building, staffing and budgets.

Maintained Schools buildings were owned by the LA, staff employed by the LA and budgets set via the LA. Church of England Schools buildings were owned by the Church, the playing fields owned by the LA, staff employed by the Governing Body and budgets set by the LA.

The impact the Soft Federation and the Executive Headteacher had made in improvements for both Schools.

The surplus place position of both schools and the estimated percentage of surplus places currently and by 2015 indications are that there will be a surplus of 20%. The data used to project the numbers is live births within each ward.

Three options were presented for managing the position in terms of sustaining improvement at both schools and addressing the surplus place positions.

In terms of buildings, for both Schools, Option 1 would remain as they are. Bishop Harland owned by the Church and Hylton Red House by the LA.

Option 2 would incorporate a transfer of the building at Hylton Red House site from LA to Diocese and a possible transfer of the site at Bishop Harland to be owned by the LA. Neither option 1 or Option 2 would include a nursery class.

Mrs Thompson referred to the difficulties of managing budgets effectively to ensure a stable staffing structure when operating with significant surplus places. If a school could be established which operates with a minimum number of surplus places it would enable a stable staffing structure to be maintained and provide effective education for the community.

Parents/carers were aware of recent Ofsted inspections and that unless a local solution can be found, the school would possibly become an enforced Academy in the future. Mrs Thompson discussed the difficulties of managing budgets with significant surplus places and the impact on being able to offer the best education for the children. The LA was looking at what was best for the community in terms of maintaining and building on the excellent progress achieved so far.

Mrs Thompson informed parents/carers that the budget was based on pupil roll and that surplus places make it more challenging to manage budgets effectively. Both schools had successfully managed their finances well to date, but this would be difficult to maintain in the future.

Mrs Thompson explained that a preferred option would be looked at by Cabinet in October with a final decision by December. Cabinet consisted of elected members of the Council including the Leader of the Council and various portfolio holders.

The final decision would be made by The School Organisation Committee of Cabinet in December but there would be further consultation before that stage.

HR Information

Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that under Option 1 the Governing Body would declare all posts redundant. Governors at Hylton Red House Primary School would then be approached to consider the Bishop Harland Staff for additional posts on a non competitive basis. The LA would continue their duty to support the redeployment of staff.

Option 2 would declare all posts redundant within Bishop Harland and Hylton Red House Schools. The temporary Governing Body would devise a new staffing structure for the new school. Staff would be ring fenced to positions and if displaced would be supported by the LA in finding a new post through redeployment if possible.

Mrs Dobrianski noted that Option 3 would mean no staffing changes.

Diocese/Church of England

Mr Fitt set out the history of Church of England schools and spoke of the diversity that they can bring to a community.

Mr Fitt explained that the Church of England was interested in keeping a presence in the area to maintain a Church School. Mr Fitt highlighted that there were only 2 Church of England Primary Schools within the City at present and 1 secondary school.

Mr Fitt reiterated that it was in the interest of the Community to have a local solution rather than an imposed solution to the current position.

Response Forms

Mrs Thompson informed parents/carers that Response Forms were available and that all comments and feedback would need to be submitted by 28th September 2012.

Mrs Thompson drew attention to the fact that one of the questions asked for respondents to tick which is their preferred option but stressed that this was not a vote on options.

Questions

The following questions were asked by Parents:

- Q: Would teachers already employed at the school automatically get the jobs at the new School.
- A: Mrs Thompson stated that the LA would be looking to redeploy the staff.
- Q: Is Town End Farm School Closing?
- A: Mrs Thompson stated that Town End was not closing and was an Academy now.
- Q: Can I clarify will staff from both schools be redeployed at the new school.
- A: If there was a new school, the temporary governing body would establish a new staffing structure and staff would be ring fenced to posts. The LA would support redeployment for staff that were displaced.
- Q: If both schools closed and new school would open, is there a new name etc.
- A: Mrs Thompson confirmed that this would be a new school with a new name and that it would be in the current building on the site which would have some remodelling done to it.
- Q: Would the new school be an academy?
- A: No it would be a Church of England School, to offer diversity for parents.
The 1st option would mean no option for a Church of England School on the North side of the City.
- Q: A discussion over spare places at Hylton Red House and Bishop Harland took place. How are you going to accommodate all the pupils in the new School?
- A: Hylton Red House is a much bigger building and will accommodate the children from both Schools.
- Q: Can you guarantee my child gets a place.
- A: Yes all pupils currently attending the school currently would be offered a place at a new school.
- Q: What about the Nursery? What if Hylton Red House Nursery was full, where do we take our Children?
- A: LA have looked at available places and will do some remodelling to the building if necessary to meet the demand for places.
- Q: Is the main reason for this consultation around the budget?

A: Mrs Thompson stated that a local solution is needed rather than having an external solution imposed. The budgetary position is a significant factor in ensuring a sustainable school for the community.

Ms Scanlon discussed the Church of England Schools and how the Diocese would like to sustain this presence in this community.

Mrs Thompson discussed the new funding formula to be introduced to schools which would mean that small schools would potentially receive less funding.

Q: Will there be more children in each class?

A: Mr Williamson discussed pupil teacher ratios and explained the flexibility afforded in a bigger school.

Mrs Trotter confirmed that in her previous role at the School as Deputy Headteacher she had 53 children per class when she taught in the School.

Q: Would the teacher be able to get to know the children well if there were bigger classes?

A: Mr Williamson confirmed that all staff knew all of the children no matter how big the class.

Q: How can you guarantee success with Ofsted?

A: The two schools work together now and we are in the top 18 Schools in Sunderland.

Q: Smaller class sizes provide more engagement with teacher; surely the potential grades are better due to this.

A: Mr Williamson stated that it's the way the children are taught in the class that is important.

and that there would be no more than 30 children per class. There would also be the option to do intervention and support with identified individuals.

Q: Year 5 and Year 6 are currently in mixed classes. What would the plans be for a new school?

A: A new school would have 75 children in one year group, equalling 5 classes for the year group including one mixed class. There are no indications that children in mixed classes do less well.

Mr Fitt discussed how this was not about saving money regarding teachers. A lot more children would be there but in effect the two budgets would be put together and the budget would allow more flexibility and greater economies of scale.

Mr Fitt recapped on the close working with the City Council regarding options for the schools and that the Dioceses view is that the only option they could support would be Option 2.

Option 1 would mean the closure of a Church of England School, there would not be a presence in this part of the City. Hylton Red House Primary School in lots of ways operated like a Church of England School at present.

Mr Fitt discussed Option 3 and doing nothing. The Dioceses view is that there would be advantages in bringing two schools together. It would be maintaining diversity for the community.

Hylton Red House Primary was in a lot of trouble regarding standards and Ofsted. The school now is measured as a good school. Bishop Harland was also in trouble for a few years and had difficulty recruiting a suitable headteacher. Under the leadership of Mr Williamson the school is now technically satisfactory and building towards good. However, we still need to find a local solution to ensure that education in this part of the City is secure.

The Minister for Education has the power to make the School into an Academy and impose a sponsor of his choice. A local solution would be better and we need to make it sustainable.

Q What are the plans of safety for children travelling further to school.

A: As part of any plans for a new school, pedestrian and vehicle access, would be considered and addressed..

Q: Would there be a pupil bus?

A: Mrs Thompson stated that the LA cannot say for certain at present. There are 106 children with less than a mile to travel. Plans may not include a bus.

Q: What about uniforms.

A: Mr Williamson stated he would negotiate with the temporary governing body for a new uniform to be provided for each pupil.

Mrs Thompson discussed the time frames and that a decision would be made in December 2012. If the decision was that a new school was to be opened it would be in September 2013. .

Q: Can we have a new building?

A: Mrs Thompson stated that the LA does not have the finances for a new building.

Q: What if it costs too much to do any repairs can we have a new building.

A: Mrs Thompson confirmed the building had been looked at by surveyors and it is structurally sound.

Q: Parents at Hylton Red House School think it's their School.

A: Mr Williamson discussed the positive feedback from the parent's consultation at Hylton Red School. Parents expressed they were concerned for parents from Bishop Harland being isolated and wanted the best for all of the children. A lot of them want to support all of the children in the Community and that's why they were happy for me to come to this school as headteacher.

The Church wanted the community to do well, save as many staff as possible and get the best for the children. Outward bound activities were discussed and how this would be retained in a new School.

Staff had worked incredibly hard and school did not want to lose them. However, both schools were struggling with finances and could not sustain the current position.

Mr Williamson stated that he believed Option 2 presented the right way forward. The most important part of an outstanding school was all about the children, staff and parents, not about the building or where it was located.

Q: We have some signatures for you in terms of support regarding the school. Can we hand this over to you?

A: Yes, thank you. Mrs Thompson accepted the document.

Mrs Trotter stood up to speak to the parents and stated her heart sank when she had heard the news. Mrs Trotter recapped on her time at the School from 1964 – 1994 and stated within the 30 years of working at the School she had loved every minute of it and that it was important to her for the School to continue as a Church School and to continue the ethos.

Mrs Trotter discussed how things changed and improved and in her opinion, Option 2 was the very best for the children. Mrs Trotter stated she endorsed what Mr Williamson said and what we feel about our children is so important. Mrs Trotter acknowledged and understood parents concerns.

The children would get used to a new building especially with the same headteacher and staff who would provide security and continuity for them.

Q: Under Option 2 will staff who transfer get to know children.

A: Miss Jarvis confirmed that the staff from both schools were already working together which included staff meetings and working together in the classrooms. A lot of the children know the staff already.

Miss Jarvis highlighted that staff were fully behind Option 2 and stated they were not considering their own jobs and that their priority was an outstanding school for the children.

Mr Williamson briefed parents on the Outward bound work that was shared across both schools.

- Q: Are the options on the response forms. Will the decision be made anyway and does our opinion matter?
- A: Mrs Thompson confirmed that the options are valid and that Cabinet will make their decision after considering all the feedback and responses from the consultation.
- Q: Hylton Red House Nursery was discussed. Is it separate under a different Governing Body.
- A: Yes
- Q: I've applied for a place in Bishop Harland Nursery will need to apply to Hylton Red House now?
- A: Mrs Thompson confirmed that the LA will arrange the transfer of admissions to nursery applications .
- Q: Are they guaranteed a place in the nursery.
- A: Mrs Thompson stated that the nursery would be expanded if necessary to meet demand from the local area. However there is never a guarantee of a place in reception but the planned admission number of 75 should be sufficient places to meet demand.
- Q: Is there a priority for allocating reception places, if they have attended the nursery do they get a place in reception?
- A: No there is no automatic transfer. Parents have to apply for reception places.

Mr Thorndyke reminded parents that Mr Williamson was on loan to Bishop Harland and that if the schools stay as they are the governing body would have the same issues as previously in terms of having to find a suitable headteacher.

- Q: Mrs Rodgers asked if things stay as they are would Mr Williamson have to stop working in Bishop Harland. .
- A: Mr Williamson said if things stay as they he could not sustain managing both schools.

Mr Thorndyke stated he felt this was a big issue as appointing a new headteacher would be difficult..

Mr Thorndyke discussed the proposals for working together and felt that Option 2 would enable a strong school to be established to serve this community and that. governors were in favour of option 2.

Mr Williamson stated that he had arranged a coffee morning from 9.00 – 10.30am on Tuesday 18th September 2012 so that parents could discuss the options. Mr Williamson stated that he and Miss Jarvis would be available for this event to answer any questions.

Parents stated they thought this was helpful.

Q: Has anyone asked what the kids want.

A: Mr Williamson said that the staff would be discussing it with children in a sensitive and encouraging way.

Mrs Thompson thanked parents for the helpful debate and confirmed that it was important to know what parents think.

Mrs Thompson closed meeting.

PUBLIC FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 6.00 P.M.

Those present: -

Local Authority Officers

Beverley Scanlon – Head of Commissioning & Change Management
Val Thompson – Business Relationships & Governance Manager
Gary Robinson – Governor Support Manager

Local Authority Councillors

Cllr R Bell
Cllr R Copeland
Cllr V Davison
Cllr P Smith

Others

Mr P De Vere – UNISON representative
Mr J Fitt – Diocesan Director of Schools – Diocese of Durham
Mrs A Hodgson – Chair of Governors -
Mrs L Watson – Acting Headteacher, Hylton Red House Primary School
Mr S Williamson – Executive Headteacher – Bishop Harland CE Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School

Together with 34 members of the public (including some school staff, parents and governors)

School Place Planning - Consultation on the future of Bishop Harland CE Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School

Beverley Scanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the officers present. Beverley explained that the purpose of the meeting was to explain options regarding the future of the two schools and to seek the views of the community as part of this consultation exercise. Similar meetings had already taken place with employees, parents and governors of both schools.

In undertaking this exercise the Local Authority had been working closely with the Diocese to secure the best possible educational provision for children in the area.

Val Thompson highlighted the differences between Bishop Harland CE Primary School (a maintained Voluntary Aided school) and Hylton Red House School (a maintained community school). Val set out the background to this exercise, drawing attention to the pressure that both schools had been under in the past and the falling pupil rolls. The progress that both schools had made as part of a federation was highlighted. Projected pupil numbers up to 2015 were illustrated.

Three options were being consulted upon: -

- Option 1 - Close Bishop Harland and transfer all pupils to Hylton Red House Primary School
- Option 2 - Close Bishop Harland Primary School and Hylton Red House Primary School and open a new Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School on the Hylton Red House site

- Option 3 - Keep things as they are, but this would mean further changes in the future

The implications in terms of buildings, finance and staffing were set out for each option. Val made it clear that option 2 did not mean that a new school building would be provided. Instead the existing Hylton Red House Primary School building would be remodelled and upgraded to accommodate the pupils from Bishop Harland.

It was also pointed out that under option 1 or option 2 the nursery class currently at Bishop Harland would not transfer, as Hylton Red House Nursery School (located on the same site as Hylton Red House Primary School) would remain a separate school and would accommodate the nursery pupils.

It was pointed out that option 3 could eventually lead to an enforced academy in the area, rather than a local solution.

The next steps in the process were outlined, which included consideration by the Council's Cabinet, further consultation and consideration by the School Organisation Committee of the Cabinet. Any closure or establishment of a school was a statutory process.

Everyone was invited to submit their views regarding the options available and it was explained that comments could be submitted using the response form, by letter or by e-mail. It was stressed, however, that whilst respondents could indicate a preference for one of the available options, this exercise was not a ballot. The purpose of the consultation was to find out people's views.

Questions and comments were invited: -

Question – What is the capacity of the Hylton Red House Primary building?

Mr Williamson - The building could accommodate 525 pupils. It had been constructed for more pupils than it currently held. There were 20 classroom spaces but some were not currently used as classrooms. If proposals were to proceed to the next stage there would be consideration of what needed to be done to the building to bring it up to the required standard.

Question – Would there be enough space to accommodate all Bishop Harland children at Hylton Red House Primary School?

Mr Williamson – It was confirmed that there was sufficient space.

Question (Mrs Hodgson, Chair of Governors – Hylton Red House Primary School) – What was the response of the trade unions to the options?

Val Thompson – The official view of the trade unions could not be anticipated, as consultation was still ongoing. However, initial views seemed positive. One member of school staff present at the meeting (who was also a GMB representative) confirmed that the views of unions were being taken on board.

Question – What will happen to the Bishop Harland site if this was closed? The closure of Downhill Primary School in 2001 was commented upon.

Val Thompson – Nothing had yet been decided about the future of the Bishop Harland site but, if it did close, options were already being looked at.

Jeremy Fitt assured those present that the church was keen to keep a presence in the area, both in the provision of education and in the community. One idea was that the building could house some community facilities (e.g. for use by young people or young mums). A land/building swap between the Diocese and the Local Authority could be arranged to facilitate this.

Question – The DFE were promoting academies as providing the best education. Why would it be so bad if an academy was established?

Val Thompson – The difference between those schools that had chosen to convert to academy status and those who were forced to become academies was highlighted. It was felt important to find a local solution rather than to have something imposed on the schools.

Jeremy Fitt added that the Diocese was not opposed to academies and there were many CE academies in existence. However this was different to enforced takeovers of schools. Jeremy also commented upon the economies of scale that could be achieved by bringing the two schools together.

Comment – In relation to possible community use of the Bishop Harland site, why was it not used for this purpose already? Also, was it affordable to provide community facilities?

Question - Would a combined school mean smaller classes?

Jeremy Fitt answered that it was important to distinguish between the size of the school building and the size of classes. There were economies of scale by having a larger single school and there was no reason why classes would be any larger than at present.

Mr Williamson pointed out that there had been cutbacks in staff in both schools due to financial pressures which had led to larger classes and mixed-age classes. Class sizes in both schools were around 25-28 but these would grow if the schools remained open in their current forms. By combining resources there had already been benefits but if no action was taken there would be difficulties for both schools.

Question – if the Bishop Harland site was used for community facilities, would the caretaker remain on site?

Mr Williamson said that it was not possible to discuss what was likely to happen to individual members of staff such as caretakers at this stage.

Comment – the former Downhill Primary School site was constantly vandalised since it had ceased to be used as a school.

Val Thompson – It would be a matter for the Diocese and the Local Authority to discuss security implications if the Bishop Harland site was no longer used as a school. This would not be disregarded and the Local Authority had a lot of experience around closing buildings. This would be part of further consultation.

Comment – In relation to possible community use it was already difficult to maintain the nearby St Cuthbert's church hall. This needed to be carefully considered.

Val Thompson - More consultation would be needed if community use was being considered for the Bishop Harland site. These discussions would include security issues.

Comment – The closure of the Southwick Primary School site had resulted in regular vandalism. The same would happen to the Bishop Harland site if it were not used as a school. The affordability of community facilities needed more consideration.

Val Thompson – Community use was just one option.

Comment – in response to the comments about future use of the Bishop Harland building, one member of the audience reminded those present that the consultation was about providing an excellent education and was not just about buildings.

There was strong audience support for this comment. A member of school staff said that the schools could not go on as they were and the decision should not be based on what would happen to a building. A union representative from one school commented that staff were prepared to risk their jobs in order to bring about the best education in the area.

Question – If the Hylton Red House Primary site was retained as the single school would there be resources to develop improved dining or sporting facilities?

Val Thompson – The site would be refurbished and improved.

Question – If provision was all on the Hylton Red House Primary site, what could be done to improve safety in terms of traffic on and around the site?

Val Thompson – This would be something that would be carefully looked at during the process of planning the new site. Some preliminary work had already been undertaken.

Question (Mrs A Hodgson – Chair of Governors) – Bearing in mind the desirability of schools remaining in local control what is the relationship between the Local Authority and the Diocese?

Jeremy Fitt - There were around 5,000 Church of England schools in the country. The relationship between the Diocese and the Local Authority was strong because both parties wanted the best possible education. It was noted that Church of England schools often performed better than other schools and also added a spiritual dimension to a child's education.

Jeremy drew a distinction between Church of England schools and Roman Catholic schools. CE schools were not just for those children who attended church. Instead they served the whole community. The religious ethos was certainly never forced on to pupils.

Question – With regard to the employment status of staff in a church school, was there any variation in the terms and conditions? Also, it would cause disruption by re-organising the schools.

Mr Williamson explained that he had been Headteacher of a CE school in the past. Whilst there were some light differences in the contracts of staff the schools followed the same terms and conditions as community schools. The policies and pay were similar and there was no reason to change this.

There would be as little disruption as possible for children, and it was noted that children were very adaptable. Transitional arrangements would be put in place to make this easier.

Question – How has the uncertainty affected staff morale?

This question was answered by members of staff in the audience. They indicated that all staff wanted option 2.

Question – Why was the new school proposed to be a church school?

Mr Williamson – If the new school had not been proposed as a church school it was likely that it would be subject to competition rules. There was an exception to this in the case of proposed church schools.

Comment – There had been many questions focussing on church school provision. This exercise should not be concentrating on whether the new school was a church school or a Local Authority school. The most important aspect of this consultation was the education of children.

This comment was answered by a member of the audience who was a volunteer at Bishop Harland. She assured everyone that religion was not forced on children.

Comment – If option 1 was chosen this would mean that there was no Church of England provision in Sunderland North. This would remove parental choice.

This point was answered by a member of Hylton Red House Primary School staff in the audience. It was explained that, whilst Hylton Red House Primary was not a faith school but still covered a Christian syllabus.

Cllr Bell drew attention to the decline in pupil roll at Downhill Primary School before it closed. It reached the point that the school became unviable and for this reason he believed that option 3 was not workable. Whether it was a community or a voluntary aided school the best option was to bring the schools together to safeguard its future. The Church of England option was a safe option.

Question – Where is the nearest church primary school if Bishop Harland did close?

Val Thompson – There were two CE schools in the south of Sunderland. There were RC schools nearby at English Martyrs RC Primary School and St John Bosco RC Primary School. It was noted that it would remove parental choice if there were no CE school in the north of Sunderland.

Jeremy Fitt said that the Diocese would oppose option 1 because it would mean the loss of a church school in the area.

Mr Williamson – Church schools were good schools which worked hard to deliver provision to the local community. Mr Williamson was passionate about school provision in the area. Despite the position that both schools had been in the past they had both made progress. This was a chance to secure even better provision. Both schools already had high quality staff and Mr Williamson did not want to see a local community devastated by loss of jobs at the schools. Mr Williamson made it clear that he could not take the schools any further forward if they remained as they

were. This was why he was supporting option 2 and this was also the view of both Governing Bodies. Option 2 would bring the very best provision to the area.

Cllr Bell recalled that Hylton Red House Primary School had been in special measures and he highlighted the efforts of everyone to keep the school open. The school had now recovered from this position and was in a better position.

Question – If option 2 were chosen what would the school be called?

Jeremy Fitt – it would be a new school with a new name.

Question – What would happen to the Nursery provision currently at Bishop Harland CE Primary School?

Val Thompson reiterated that the nursery class would not transfer to the new school if option 2 was chosen. Nursery pupils would instead attend Hylton Red House Nursery School, which would remain separate.

Comment – To avoid any misunderstanding it needed to be made clear that no new build was available.

Val Thompson explained that this had been made clear at earlier consultation meetings. She confirmed that there would be investment in the building if option 1 or option 2 were chosen.

Mr Williamson acknowledged that there was some confusion around what was meant by a new school and this would be made even clearer in all subsequent discussions.

Question – If a new school was opened as a church school as proposed by option 2, did the unions have a view on this?

The GMB representative from one of the schools was in the audience repeated that staff at both schools were willing to put their jobs at risk in order to ensure the best education was provided. Staff wanted option 2.

Peter DeVere (UNISON) pointed out that church schools followed nationally agreed terms and conditions. The Diocese supported this. The only deterioration in terms and conditions was if the school became an academy.

Question – How had it been decided who would be invited to this public consultation meeting?

Beverley Scanlon – Leaflets had been distributed in the area.

Some members of the audience indicated that they had not received the leaflet and questioned whether it had been selective who had been invited. Beverley Scanlon said that there had been around 600 leaflets printed and delivered.

It was explained that, should any proposals be taken forward to close or establish a school, statutory public notices would be issued in local public buildings, post offices and in the local press. The Local Authority would try to reach as many people as possible.

Question (Councillor Davison) – Can we inform future parents of any further stages of consultation?

Val Thompson confirmed that there had been liaison with Hylton Red House Nursery School but, nevertheless, it was acknowledged that this was an important consideration and the Local Authority would try to ensure that all parents of young children in the area were informed of the next stage of consultation.

Beverley Scanlon confirmed that all of the comments and questions had been recorded and would be considered. Beverley thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Q1: Are you responding to this consultation as a:

Parent/Carer	32
Headteacher	1
Governor	7
School Staff	23
Resident	8
Staff & resident	1
Staff & Governor	2
Parent & Governor & Resident	1
Parent & Resident	2
Other	2
TOTAL	79

Q2: If you have a child at one of the school please tick which school they are attending:

Bishop Harland CE Primary	30
Hylton Red House Primary	12
N/A	37
TOTAL	79

Q3: Do you have a preferred option?

Yes	64
No	2
No answer given	13
TOTAL	79

Q3a: What is your preferred option?

Option 1	3
Option 2	73
Option 3	2
No answer given	1
TOTAL	79

Q5: Do you think there are other options that could be considered?

Yes	8
No	46
Don't know	16
No answer given	9
TOTAL	79

BISHOP HARLAND/HYLTON RED HOUSE – FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION

Consultation responses

Q4: What are your comments/views on the options?

- Option 2 seems the fairest for children and staff alike. Although we have concerns about the syllabus when the new school is formed, will this be curriculum as is now?
- This option (2) will allow us to give our children the best “academic” opportunity and take us from being a good school to an outstanding one.
- Concerned about bad state of repair and décor of Red House compared to Bishop Harland.
Worried about congestion due to excessive traffic next to Red House which is already bad.
- Good opportunities for staff and pupils to continue the work that has already been successful across the federation.
- I feel that option 2 is the best option for all members. It will still be difficult and all staff are concerned for their jobs. I also think it would be nice to have a foundation stage unit on site including nursery for continuity.
- The Hylton Red House school site is a lovely site with lots of scope for potential. Combining and merging the 2 schools should help with budgetary issues, e.g. maintenance etc and dwindling pupil numbers.
- I think option 2 is the best as HRP is a lot bigger a site and has the space for expansion.
- I only want what is best for my children and after listening to everything at the meeting, I feel option 2 is the way to take things forward for the future for my children.
- Option 1: May cause bullying being “our school” from the pupils from Red House to Bishop Harland. Plus there won’t be a Church of England school over the north side of the river.
Option 2: Keep the Church of England school over the north side and it will be everyone’s new school being a different name.
Option 3: Not really an option for the pupils
- This is the best option (2) for the children in my opinion.

- Option 2 I would prefer as it would benefit both children and staff from both schools.
- I feel that option 2 would be best for meeting the needs of the children, this is my main concern! To do nothing would leave the force of an Academy and as a result of this a lot of experienced and hard working staff would be lost from both schools. What a waste!
- A new school would put all staff and students on an even footing. A church school would ensure the ethos and spirituality enjoyed at Bishop Harland would be offered to all. A new school would ensure an able head for all pupils and ensure better roles and therefore funding.
- Option 2 is a better option for the community and the children.
- Option 1 would mean staff losing their jobs which would be terrible
Option 2 doesn't guarantee everyone's jobs
Option 3 means changes would be forced anyway
- The schools have already worked well together in the soft federation and continue to do so. This has generated opportunities for teaching expertise to be shared between both schools and to organise joint trips and events.
To merge the schools will give both sets of pupils, teachers and the community a new beginning (i.e. no taking over of one end by the other)
A new Church of England Voluntary Aided school would maintain choice on the north side of the river.
- I think option 2 is better for children and use staff expertise in both schools.
- Option 2 seems fairer to both the pupils and teachers. Also this ensures a Church of England school on the North of the river.
- I feel it is important that there is a Church of England school in the are and as we have worked together as two schools, I feel coming together as one is the appropriate and most effective outcome.
- Happy with option 2
- I have ticked option 2, but have concerns about my job and house but believe it is the best way forward.
- After speaking to staff re change, I would be happy for both schools to be brought together. My main concern was that reform would be pushed on the students.
- I think if option 1 went ahead it would be 'a them and us'. Option 3 would not benefit anyone.

- It is very important to combine the two schools to ensure the best possible education is provided for all pupils before resources become more depleted due to further reductions in finances.
- Both schools have worked extremely well together and combining the two together would be the best option for the children, along with major financial benefits that would be available.
- Joining of the schools will create greater opportunities financially for students and enhance a greater community ethos.
- I just think if every child had a brand new school, new start, it would benefit them.
- I feel option 2 is the fairest for all involved all children will deal with the disruption. All staff will have to reapply. I am happy that the site can accommodate all of the children.
- I am all for change. Want the best possible for my kids.
- Change is inevitable. I will stand by option 2. I am ready to help.
- Option 2 is the only viable option. Both schools coming together as one can only improve education for our children on the estate and bring the community together.
- I don't mind option 2, as long as religion is not rammed down the children's throats.
- Option 2 is the best option all round and the fairest on both schools and pupils. Also it keeps out school a Church of England VA school.
- I am a member of staff at Bishop Harland and have been for 23 years. Option 2 would be the best for the children's education as bringing both schools together the children would receive the best education due to the budget being better as if they stay the way we are money would be less in both schools resulting in staff being reduced so then the children's education would be affected. Working with Hylton Red House, we have built up good relationships with staff and worked together on numerous projects which have helped out development, this is also due to outstanding leadership from Mr Williams.
- It gives the opportunity of two brilliant schools to come together and make one outstanding school.
- I prefer option 2, because it gives two schools the chance to come together.
- I'm interested in my child getting the best education possible.

- I would like my child to have the best education possible and believe this is the best option (2).
- Having looked carefully at all options, I've come to the conclusion that option 2 is the only choice that will be beneficial for all the children and I am happy to have this happen.
- I would rather the school stay open but if there is no other option then the schools will have to merge.
- Don't want this school to close, my kids have just settled lovely in the school.
- I wish it to be known that I support the option of merger of Red House Academy and Bishop Harland school, which would ensure continuity for both students and staff.
- Having worked at Bishop Harland for 12 years, it will be sad to see the school close. However there is overwhelming evidence, in my opinion, that option 2 is the best and only option for the children on the Hylton Red House Estate. Our children deserve an outstanding education. Option 2 would enable our staff to build an outstanding church school. There are a number of reasons to support option 2:
 - Falling role numbers of both schools
 - Important to maintain church school presence in this area of Sunderland and therefore ensure parents have a range of choice.
 - Future security of the school in the changing financial and political climate.
 - Excellent chance to secure an outstanding school for the Hylton Red House Estate.
 - Build on good practice established in both schools.
 - We would be able to offer the children a wider range of experiences and learning opportunities if we had a larger, secure Church of England School.
 - This would be a local solution instead of having to look outside to support the schools
 - Option 2 provides us with a wide range of fantastic opportunities. I could not support option 1 or 3.
- I am supportive of the closure of both school and the opening of a new Church of England school on the current Red House site. I have every faith in the management team of Hylton Red House and feel confident that they will lead the transition to a very positive outcome. I would comment though that (like everyone) I am disappointed that the council is unable to provide adequate financial support to the schools due to the cut-backs. I understand that the council wishes to continue to offer diversity across education providers on the North site of the city and so it is

important that a Church of England school remains an option for parents.

My main concerns are:

- Children who are currently underperforming at Bishop Harland impact on the recent good results achieved by Hylton Red House.
 - The cost to parents (of both schools) of purchasing new uniforms.
 - The volume of traffic around the school should the majority of Bishop Harland pupils transfer to the Hylton Red House site.
 - The closure of Bishop Harland will impact negatively on the area surrounding the site, unless a suitable new purpose is found very quickly. I feel house prices and local shop revenues will be negatively affected.
- Almost all children thought that it was a good idea to create a 'new school' from the two existing schools. Some children said that they would be anxious but agreed with others that if we worked together more for activities, then making new friends and classmates would be a good idea.
- All children agreed that it was unfair to close Bishop Harland and allow teachers to lose their jobs.
- No child was concerned that a 'new school' would mean new uniform and new name. Whilst discussing this, several children referred to Townhill-Bexhill Academy and said how it had made that school better so they could see no problem with making a new school.
- All children at Hylton Red House Primary said that they would like to see their school developed and said that the dinner hall was their biggest worry because it was already too busy at lunchtime (and some of us don't have enough time to eat our lunch (service currently lasts 1½ hours)).
- About 10% pupils at Bishop Harland said that they would want to have lots more opportunities to meet new classmates, but that they were anxious to see what the school would be like, however they wanted to make new friends.
- About 90% pupils at Bishop Harland pupils had no issue with moving to the Red House site but almost all of the pupils said they would initially feel sad to say goodbye to their school. They recognised that it would be a good challenge though and wanted new opportunities.
- I think there is no other option.
 - I just feel bigger class sizes need to be looked into.
 - Obviously option 1 enables staff at Hylton Red House to keep their posts – Option 2 would result in some staff possibly losing jobs – however I do think having Church of England school is feasible option.
 - Option 1 can be the only option as Bishop Harland couldn't accommodate the children from Hylton Red House and why the need to build a new school when Hylton Red House could accommodate

both schools. As for Option 3 – if student numbers are down then surely this needs to be addressed now.

- Option 3 – it would be better for children to stay where they are used to. I don't think parents were given enough information on what would happen if the school was made into an academy just that we wouldn't have any say in how the school was run. I don't think most parents have a say anyway especially if not at the school regularly.
- I believe that it is imperative that a Church of England school presence be maintained north of the river. Both schools are equally uneconomically viable, but one would work well and effectively in the current federation agreement, but we know this cannot last due to economic considerations. The schools share a progressive, dynamic and inspirational Christian Headteacher and the option above enables us to build on the strengths of both schools will support from Church of England.

Q5: Alternative Options:

- The possibility of adding a nursery to the new Church of England school proposed.
- A completely new school could be an option but not on the Hylton Red House Primary site as the Juniors side of the school is prone to flooding in bad weather. I'm not sure where the new school could be built.
- I suggest a brand new school built on a different site. I know this is going to cost a lot more money but it has been done in the surrounding areas of Sunderland and in Newcastle too. There is a site in the middle which does not hardly get used, behind Pickersgill House.
- Bringing the Nursery in as part of the plan making it all Church of England from the start.
- Possible inclusion of a Nursery.
- New build in the middle of two schools.
- I feel that a separate nursery school is important to the area as I understand that it offers a more flexible provision than a nursery that is attached to a maintained school, and that the current nursery school is having an extremely positive impact on the progress of pre-school children.
- Not at this time.

General Comments:

- Our main concern is what would become of the Bishop Harland site. Our daughter attends Hylton Red House school, although we live in close proximity to Bishop Harland school. Obviously if this site closes what would this bring to the community/area? In today's disruptive society, would the desolate site invite vandalism etc you see around other estates. It would be put to better use as park land/play areas for the children.
- If either option 1 or 2 are chosen, I would like reassurance that staffing issues are decided ASAP to us a fair chance of getting satisfactory employment for next September.
- My concern is that there will be no Church of England Nursery attached to the new Church of England school – is this something that could be possible in the not too distant future?
- We have every faith in the staff's ambitions and drive for the future of our children. Therefore we agree with option 2 as it does seem to be best for all children concerned, as well as maintaining relevant staff all of our children are used to, saving money also. I asked my daughter her opinion on the consultation and she thought it was a great idea. She said "a nice way to make more friends!" It is also bringing the best of both schools into one.
- I think the staff of both schools should keep all children informed of changes in case of some children getting upset about any changes in school, routines etc. Hopefully everything done in the future will not disrupt the pupils.
- Further parking facilities would be required if joining the two schools together as it is a nightmare at the moment travelling past Red House school being just one.
A school bus for traffic purposes since people would be travelling from Downhill could be an option, which would also help the above point.
- I don't drive and am concerned about getting my children to school safely because of traffic/roads etc. Also I am concerned about the walk to school in the rain/snow. The kids will be soaked by the time they get to school. Will this be considered with regards to uniform (waterproofs possibly)
- Even though I believe option 2 is the best choice, I also empathise with the views of the local residents of Bishop Harland estate. Leaving a school empty would be damaging to a community and encourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Decisions need to be made about the building quickly to put the residents minds at rest.

- The schools are both on a much firmer footing this year with Steve Williamson's lead and the good co-operation of the staff. To have a new Church of England aided school would consolidate his leadership, the staff co-operation and the Church input has proved so valuable to people.
- The children must come first we (staff) wouldn't have a job if there were no children. Also needs to be fair to all employees to have a job in the new school if that option is chosen.
- I feel this option will benefit children's education. If both schools continue to work together the result will be an outstanding school and all staff will benefit.
- Hopefully if the new school goes ahead, I would like to see an attached Church of England Nursery in the very near future.
- It would be a shame to lose both schools – it would be wise to have them both at the same site.
- I am personally pleased that the proposals do not include a nursery class. I feel that if we had a nursery class, it would be detrimental to both the nursery class and the nursery school to be competing for roles and funding, therefore placing them in the same position as the two current primary schools. I feel it would be best for the children (if a new school went ahead without a nursery class) for all authorities involved, including the new school, to support the nursery school in any way possible to help the children through transition.
- Worried about travel options (weather conditions)
- Would there be any scholars buses provided to get the children to school safe and dry?
- I would like to see the Harland site converted into a youth project, however I think this needs to be set up quickly for the community as the building will certainly be vandalised. I'm sure the community would not want this to happen.
- As a member of staff and shop steward of GMB, I feel and am willing to put my job at risk for the children to have the best education and I can speak for my members they all feel the same. This is a great chance to build up on what both school have to offer and to work alongside the church and community.
- The winter months are bothering me, it takes me a good half hour to get my children to school now when icy conditions and I only live a 5 minute walk away, so will there be any transport/help to get the children to school.

- Myself and my children all attended Bishop Harland Primary school – it would be very sad to see the school close but after discussing all the options, option 2 is the better – this means there will still be a Church of England school (which is important)
- I think putting both schools together with the help of the dioceses will put our new school on the map!
- Just hope the upheaval doesn't distract the kids and hope they're still with their friends.
- Option 3 cannot be considered due to falling numbers in both schools.
- I think Hylton Red House School is the best option as it is the core of the community – with parents taking their children to school and meeting older people as our estate has lost its post office which was always a hub of activity. The school if needed has lots of land which could be used to build on if necessary – it is now one of the only green belts for the areas and is in an ideal location – pleasant to look at and I feel unnecessary to pull down and rebuild.
- I don't think the children from both schools will mix easily together there's already been suggestions that parents from Red House don't want to mix with parents from Bishop Harland, and also that they don't want children from Bishop Harland that live on Downhill to go to Red House as that was one of the reasons they didn't put their children in Bishop Harland as they didn't want them to mix with children from Downhill. Although the teacher, council and diocese want option 2 they don't live in the area so don't realise fully what concerns children and parents have about moving schools and the disruption it will cause.

DRAFT

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Tuesday^{23rd} October 2012 at 3.45pm.

Those present were:-

(a) Governors

Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(b) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Melissa Dobrianski, Senior HR Adviser, LA
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle
Union Representation
Staff at Hylton Red House Primary School

50F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Staff to the meeting and confirmed that this was the 2nd phase of the LA Consultation process. Mr Williamson introduced LA Representatives and Mrs Nicholson from the Diocese.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed.

Other issues the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the decrease in birth rate

across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded Governors that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Governors that the petition received from Parents at Bishop Harland CoE School which was against the closure of the school that was handed to the LA at the Consultation was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. The Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the Staff at both schools is at risk of redundancy but ring fenced to the posts of the new School. A Temporary Governing Body would be set up and their priority would be to look at the staffing structure. Posts would be looked at and staff can be slotted in against some roles, others may have to have non competitive interviews and others displaced would be supported by the LA regarding redundancy.

Mrs Scanlon discussed Cabinet and stated that a group of 8 Senior Elected Members considered the proposals and a report was produced. Mrs Scanlon highlighted to staff that Mr Williamson has a copy of the report and that a copy will also be emailed to staff in due course.

Mrs Scanlon discussed some of the issues raised in the 1st stage of the consultation. Overall there was a lot of positive support for Option 2 due to the concerns over the stability of the Schools and having a strong School in the community was a priority. Mrs Scanlon discussed the importance of having a good school in the community and for it to be vibrant for the future.

Access has been measured as an issue against the Hylton Red House Site. Traffic congestion is being looked at through the LA and work will be

completed before the new school opens. Mr Williamson discussed that there would be a possibility of staggering time by providing after school activities etc to do this.

Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon discussed representations and confirmed that if none are received/presented this can be delegated to Director of Children's Services. If there are objections they would go to the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet, this meeting is open to all to attend and representations can be made at this time. Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA were hoping to have a decision by December 2012 however due to the consultation period and Christmas period it may possibly go on to early January 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that detailed planning between the LA and Diocese and Temporary Governing Body would be carried out before new school opens in September 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Questions

The following questions were raised:

Q: Will staff be tuped over into the new School Staffing Structure.

A: Some staff will still be at risk and that staff who do not obtain a place in the structure would receive support from HR regarding redeployment.

City Services would be considered by the Governing Body as to whether they want to continue to buy into the contracts. The City Services Staff would be redeployed by the LA.

Q: Will we find out before Easter about our contracts and risk of redundancy.

A: Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that the staff will be informed no later than 31.5.13, however as soon as the decision has been confirmed the Temporary Governing Body will work on the staffing structure. Staff and Unions will be consulted once this has been established.

Q: Why do we have to wait from December 2012 until May 2013 for a decision.

A: Mr Williamson assured staff once the decision has been made the Temporary Governing Body will consider the staffing structure as a top priority.

Mr Williamson also discussed funding arrangements for Schools and asked staff to consider this as it is also challenging to the Governing Body regarding the new School budget.

Q: What if the proposal is rejected, how long is the time frame.

A: A decision will be made either way. January 2013 at the latest.

Mrs Nicholson stated that the Church of England like to treat people the way they want to be treated and confirmed the staffing structure was a priority.

Q: Can roles be doubled up due to the site change and increase pupil size. We do a lot of work already.

A: The Governing Body will look into this as part of the Staffing Structure.

Q: What about lunchtime assistants.

A: Mr Williamson stated that as an example there would be 500 children and they will need supervision during this time. Leadership will look at the provisions we use now to accommodate this and discuss with the Governing Body.

Q: Can the Temporary Governing Body be established now.

A: Mrs Scanlon confirmed that it could not until a decision was made.

Q: Will the LA look at staff favourably as you have done in the past.

A: Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA, Diocese and partnership between the two Schools work together.

Mr Williamson confirmed that there would be lots of opportunities for development and training as they are now regarding CPD.

Q: Are you confident that the School will be ready for September 2013.

A: Mrs Scanlon stated that a lot of planning was involved and that it was a top priority to ensure the School was a safe environment for the children.

Q: Will you complete the buildings work in the summer. Asbestos is harmful.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed some of the work will be completed in the holidays however some work may have to be completed in term time. The Children will not be affected by this as they would be placed in other parts of the School for their health and safety.

51F/12 Publication of Minutes – Confidential Items

The meeting was declared confidential and the minutes would not be made available to members of the public.

Signed _____
Mr S Williamson
Executive Headteacher

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Tuesday^{23rd} October 2012 at 5.00 pm.

Those present were:-

(c) Governors

Cllr R Bell (Acting Chair), Mrs C Carling, Miss V Hedley, Mr M Partridge, Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(d) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverly Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Melissa Dobrianski, Senior HR Adviser, LA
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle

52F/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence was received from Mrs A Hodgson (Chair), Mrs S Humble and Dr T Quincey.

Governors agreed to accept the apologies.

53F/12 Election of Chair for the Meeting

Cllr Bell was elected to stand for Chair of the meeting. Governors supported this decision.

54F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Governors to the meeting and confirmed that this was the 2nd phase of the LA Consultation process. Mr Williamson introduced LA Representatives and Mrs Nicholson to the Governors.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed. Other issues the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the decrease in birth rate across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded Governors that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Governors that the petition received from Parents at Bishop Harland CoE School which was against the closure of the school that was handed to the LA at the Consultation was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. The Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the Staff at both schools is at risk of redundancy but ring fenced to the posts of the new School. A Temporary Governing Body would be set up and their priority would be to look at the staffing structure. Posts would be looked at and staff can be slotted in against some roles, others may have to have non competitive interviews and others displaced would be supported by the LA regarding redundancy.

Mrs Scanlon discussed Cabinet and stated that a group of 8 Senior Elected Members considered the proposals and a report was produced. Mrs Scanlon highlighted to Governors that Mr Williamson has a copy of the report and that a copy will also be cascaded to Governors in due course.

Mrs Scanlon discussed some of the issues raised in the 1st stage of the consultation. Overall there was a lot of positive support for Option 2 due to

the concerns over the stability of the Schools and having a strong School in the community was a priority. Mrs Scanlon discussed the importance of having a good school in the community and for it to be vibrant for the future.

Access has been measured as an issue against the Hylton Red House Site. Traffic congestion is being looked at through the LA and work will be completed before the new school opens. Mr Williamson discussed that there would be a possibility of staggering time by providing after school activities etc to do this.

Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon discussed representations and confirmed that if none are received/presented this can be delegated to Director of Children's Services. If there are objections they would go to the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet, this meeting is open to all to attend and representations can be made at this time. Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA were hoping to have a decision by December 2012 however due to the consultation period and Christmas period it may possibly go on to early January 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that detailed planning between the LA and Diocese and Temporary Governing Body would be carried out before new school opens in September 2013.

Miss Hedley asked if the information could be published on the Council's Face Book page. Mrs Scanlon stated she would look into this.

Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Questions

The following questions and discussions were captured:

Q: Mr Partridge asked if staff would be allowed to access the LA Switch Team.

A: Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that the staff within the Schools were not applicable to be considered into Switch. Mr Williamson discussed the natural waste and how the School was running on minimum staff at present.

Cllr Bell discussed the funding formula and bringing the budgets of the School together.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the Church of England Schools Status and confirmed by choosing Option 2 the CoE would have a Primary in the North of Sunderland.

The Bishop Harland building was discussed and Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA would be looking into the future of the site and as a possibility there have been suggestions of the CoE renting back the site to utilise for the community. Options will be explored.

Mr Williamson informed Governors that the fixtures and fittings can be transferred to the new School from Bishop Harland. Cllr Bell acknowledged how this would be beneficial for the School and to get rid some of the old furniture.

Mr Williamson discussed the Nursery and that discussions are already taken place with the Headteacher of the Nursery School, plans to extend are a possibility.

Cllr Bell stated that the Nursery was a pre-fabricated building and would need looking at.

Cllr Bell discussed the Pathfinder places and the staffing to accommodate this at the Nursery.

Mr Williamson confirmed that he would be jointly working with the Headteacher to meet the needs of the Community. Mr Williamson expressed that this partnership working was important.

Cllr Bell discussed the Breakfast Clubs and the need of a joint solution to meet the needs of the Children from the new School and the Nursery.

Mr Williamson briefed Governors on the University and the support they offer to the Academy and that they could possibly support the

School. Mr Williamson recapped on the Outstanding Teacher Project with the University and that Professor Bridget Cooper was part of this.

Mr Williamson discussed the local Church, Vicar Jenifer Bradshaw and Venerable Bede Staff who have expressed they wanted this estate to do well.

Miss Hedley discussed the messy play at Church that she has been attending and stated she recommends this be promoted.

The Welfare Trust was discussed and how they support communities and families.

Cllr Bell highlighted that children will be impacted regarding EYFS.

Mr Williamson stated that there are benefits regarding Church Schools and they promote structured family work.

Mr Williamson emphasised that what works gets people interested. Cllr Bell agreed with Mr Williamson and stated that local welfare is a priority.

Mrs Nicholson highlighted to Governors the presence of a Church School and informed them that it was not a faith School. Mrs Nicholson recapped on the history of the Church of England and confirmed that their priority was to offer a free education and reinvent the challenging and problem areas of communities.

Mr Williamson highlighted it was important to work with families and expressed he saw this as vital to tackle literacy at an early age. Issues raised in the community regarding welfare such as sleep and diet is of great value to Church Schools and the impact for the future.

55F/12

Publication of Minutes – Confidential Items

The meeting was declared confidential and the minutes would not be made available to members of the public.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF HYLTON RED HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Tuesday^{23rd} October 2012 at 6.30 pm.

Those present were:-

(e) Governors

Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(f) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle
Parents

56F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Parents to the meeting and confirmed that this was the 2nd phase of the LA Consultation process. Mr Williamson introduced LA Representatives and Mrs Nicholson from the Diocese.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed.

Other issues the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the decrease in birth rate across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded Governors that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Governors that the petition received from Parents at Bishop Harland CoE School which was against the closure of the school that was handed to the LA at the Consultation was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. The Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the Staff at both schools is at risk of redundancy but ring fenced to the posts of the new School. A Temporary Governing Body would be set up and their priority would be to look at the staffing structure. Posts would be looked at and staff can be slotted in against some roles, others may have to have non competitive interviews and others displaced would be supported by the LA regarding redundancy.

Mrs Scanlon discussed some of the issues raised in the 1st stage of the consultation. Overall there was a lot of positive support for Option 2 due to the concerns over the stability of the Schools and having a strong School in the community was a priority. Mrs Scanlon discussed the importance of having a good school in the community and for it to be vibrant for the future.

Access has been measured as an issue against the Hylton Red House Site. Traffic congestion is being looked at through the LA and work will be completed before the new school opens. Mr Williamson discussed that there would be a possibility of staggering time by providing after school activities etc to do this.

Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not

want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon discussed representations and confirmed that if none are received/presented this can be delegated to Director of Children's Services. If there are objections they would go to the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet, this meeting is open to all to attend and representations can be made at this time. Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA were hoping to have a decision by December 2012 however due to the consultation period and Christmas period it may possibly go on to early January 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that detailed planning between the LA and Diocese and Temporary Governing Body would be carried out before new school opens in September 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Questions

The following questions were captured:

Q: Who will choose the name of the new School?

A: Mrs Nicholson confirmed that children, parents, staff and community would have the option to give suggestions and this would be presented to the Diocese. The names would be short listed and from there the children, parents, staff and community vote.

Q: I've heard the new school uniform is purple, is that right?

A: Mr Williamson confirmed this was not correct and that the new school colour would need to be established with the help from Parents.

Q: Uniforms are expensive what if I already have suitable attire for my child in the current colours.

A: Mrs Nicholson confirmed that each child with the exception of reception children would be kitted out with a basic kit.

Mr Williamson reminded parents that the new School was on Hylton Red House Site and would not be a new building. Mr Williamson asked parents for their support to get the message out to other parents who were unable to attend the consultation.

Q: Miss Hedley asked about a School Bus Service.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed that pupils live less than 2 miles away from the School therefore this was not an option.

Q: What is the impact of a Church School.

A: Mrs Nicholson discussed the historical background of the Church of England and confirmed that it would not be a faith School. Mrs Nicholson discussed the set of values and rules of Christian Faith such as how people want to be treated, justice, sharing and looking out for one another, honesty and truth.

All children will be valued individually and collective worship would be offered. Religious Education is important for all children to learn about all the faiths and for the children to make their own decisions based on their knowledge and understanding. This would impact on their lives for the future.

Mr Williamson stated that Hylton Red House Primary School already work to the values of a Church of England School and that there wouldn't be much more difference.

Q: I've heard people are going to remove their children because it's becoming a Church of England School.

A: Mr Williamson acknowledged this comment. Mrs Nicholson stated she would prepare a document that could be cascaded to parents to provide them more knowledge of a Church School.

Q: What are the class sizes.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed that no more than 30 children per class.

Q: How many vacant places are you looking at when both Schools amalgamate.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed on average 24 places will be spare.

Q: Can a Church of England School celebrate Halloween.

A: Mrs Nicholson confirmed that the School could celebrate as they do now but to take into consideration the terminology and be sensitive to people's beliefs. The celebration name could be changed to Happy Apple Day or Trick or Treat.

57F/12

Publication of Minutes – Confidential Items

The meeting was declared confidential and the minutes would not be made available to members of the public.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF BISHOP HARLAND COE VA SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 3.45 pm.

Those present were:-

(g) Governors

Mr Thorndyke (Chair), Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(h) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Melissa Dobrianski, Senior HR Adviser, LA
Jeremy Fitt, Diocesan Director of Education
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle
Staff from Bishop Harland COE VA School
Union Representatives

58F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation (Phase 2)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed staff to the meeting. Mr Williamson recapped on the 1st stage of the consultation and the LA proposals and introduced representatives from the LA and Diocese to the Staff. Mr Williamson highlighted to staff that this was a LA Statutory Presentation, Phase 2. Mr Williamson confirmed that staff employed by City Services was also in attendance who are contracted to work in Bishop Harland CoE VA School.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed. Other issue the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the

decrease in birth rate across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see. Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded staff that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Staff about a petition from the parents which was against the closure of the school was handed to the LA at the Consultation. The petition was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

Staff at both schools is at risk of redundancy but ring fenced to the posts of the new School. A Temporary Governing Body would be set up and their priority would be to look at the staffing structure. Posts would be looked at and staff can be slotted in against some roles, others may have to have non competitive interviews and others displaced would be supported by the LA regarding redundancy.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland staff is employed by the Governing Body and that staff would be employed at the new school by the Governing Body. Union Representatives asked if this would mean Tupe transfer. Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that that the staff would be tuped over and continuous service would continue under the new contracts.

A discussion over the City Services Staff took place. Mr Williamson confirmed that the Governing Body would look at contract services and to make a decision as to continue or to run them through the School. Mr Williamson highlighted that City Services Staff will be treated fairly.

Union Representatives confirmed that Catering staff would be tuped over from City Services if the Governing Body decides to do the catering themselves and if the Governing Body decides to use another

provider the staff will be typed over by that provider. If not the staff will be redeployed by City Services into another School.

Mr Williamson discussed the Nursery. Mrs Scanlon stated that the children will potentially transfer to Hylton Red House Nursery. Mr Williamson stated that his intention was to work closely with the Headteacher to encourage this to happen.

Mrs Scanlon discussed Cabinet and stated that a group of 8 Senior Elected Members considered the proposals and a report was produced. Mrs Scanlon highlighted to staff that Mr Williamson has a copy of the report and that a copy will also be emailed to staff in due course.

Mrs Scanlon discussed some of the issues raised in the 1st stage of the consultation. Overall there was a lot of positive support for Option 2 due to the concerns over the stability of the Schools and having a strong School in the community was a priority. Mrs Scanlon discussed the importance of having a good school in the community and for it to be vibrant for the future.

Access has been measured as an issue against the Hylton Red House Site. Traffic congestion is being looked at through the LA and work will be completed before the new school opens. Mr Williamson discussed that there would be a possibility of staggering time by providing after school activities etc to do this.

Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon discussed representations and confirmed that if none are received/presented this can be delegated to Director of Children's Services. If there are objections they would go to the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet, this meeting is open to all to attend and representations can be made at this time. Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA were hoping to have a decision by December 2012

however due to the consultation period and Christmas period it may possibly go on to early January 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that detailed planning between the LA and Diocese and Temporary Governing Body would be carried out before new school opens in September 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that a suggestion of publishing this information on the council's Face Book page was discussed at the Hylton Red House consultation. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that she was looking into this to see if this could happen.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Questions

The following questions were captured.

- Q Mrs Bryan asked what the title was on the parental petition received at the last consultation?
- A Mrs Scanlon confirmed it was titled keep Bishop Harland open. Mr Williamson confirmed that some of the parents had changed their mind once they had attended the consultation and that they were unaware of the rationale of the process.
- Q What if I was put into a job I didn't want. Can I reject the offer and take redundancy.
- A Mrs Dobrianski confirmed it would depend on the personal specification etc.
- Q Mr Brown highlighted that the Statutory Proposal does not state without Nursery. Mr Brown stated this was wrong for parent's perception and needed to be changed to reflect this.
- A Mrs Scanlon stated that she would explain in the Parents meeting and confirmed when the notice is published the LA will be clear about not having a Nursery.
- Q Union Representation stated that CoE School should contain clear, open and transparent information relating to CoE School Status.
- A Mrs Scanlon discussed non statutory provision and confirmed when published the article would provide information relating to 3 and 4 year old children and that there would be places at the

Hylton Red House Nursery Site. Mr Williamson agreed that this should be clear.

Q Why has LA proposed to close the School why not the Diocese.

A Mrs Scanlon confirmed that it was the LA's decision to close the School. The Diocese would open the new school. Mrs Nicholson stated it was a linked proposal. The new school would be supported by the LA.

Q Will Teaching staff be ready for the opening of the school.

A Mr Williamson discussed terms and conditions and confirmed that these would not be changing. The School management and Leadership will make this happen. Leadership have no such restrictions and already plan well so there will be no disruption.

Q Mr Williamson asked the Staff what their main concerns were?

A Staff stated that the Transition for the children is of concern.

Mr Williamson discussed how both Schools are experts at managing the Schools successfully. Building work may possibly be outside of the 6 weeks and we are good at this and our children still improve. Mr Williamson stated that management won't be asking anyone to work outside of their conditions.

Q Classroom assistants are not paid in the holidays.

A Mr Williamson confirmed that there may be opportunities within the new School. Staff are at minimum just working and cannot sustain for ever. Mr Williamson discussed how Janine Macintosh is volunteering to pick up some of the work at Hylton Red House Primary School at present as Mrs Carling, Burser is leaving. School numbers combining and there will be the same rough number of staff. The Temporary Governing Body will look at the staffing structure straight away.

Q I am concerned about not knowing and uncertainty, should I be going for another job? We don't want to leave but we can't wait around.

A Mr Williamson discussed promotion and stated that there are a few staff members who want this and whether it is in another School we welcome personal development. We cannot say everyone can be fitted in the new structure but the majority will be.

Mrs Scanlon discussed timeframes and Mrs Dobrianski stated that at the latest 31st May 2012, however as soon as a decision was made the Temporary Governing Body could meet before Christmas to prepare for the decision.

Q Unions raised the staffing structure as a priority and noted that there was a priority for the caretaker and possible alternative housing needed to be sought. Mrs Bryan discussed Gentoo and there is sometimes a lengthy process involved.

A: Mr Williamson acknowledged this and confirmed that it was a priority the Governing Body would be looking at. Mr Williamson reminded staff that the Vice Chair at Hylton Red House was a Senior Member of Staff at Gentoo.

Q Who will finance the payment for loss of housing regarding Statutory Law. Mrs Nicholson confirmed the LA funds schools, undoing of that would fall on the LA to provide funding arrangements regarding housing.

Q What Part time positions will be available and will there be competition against full time positions.

A: Mrs Dobrianski stated the structure would accommodate number of posts not necessarily all full time.

Q What about the January spaces in Nursery. Will these children be guaranteed a place in September at Hylton Red House Nursery. Does Hylton Red House Nursery know about our figures and subscriptions.

Janine stated that the School have told parents to put names down at Hylton Red House Nursery. Mr Williamson stated that he would pick this up with the Headteacher at the Nursery to discuss further.

Q I have heard that other nurseries are over run with children, my concerns are 3 year olds with no education.

A: Mrs Scanlon stated that she has heard other schools are full but we cannot say for definite. Hylton Red House Nursery will be expanding and the LA ensure child care provision is available and that there are enough spaces available.

Q Unions asked about the arrangements in the background for the Temporary Governing Body. Will Governors will be identified.

A: Mrs Nicholson confirmed that VA Schools Foundation Governors have to overshadow and the Diocese and Board of Education would be working together and a possibility of the

Chairs of current Governing Body maybe part of the Temporary Governing Body.

Q Mr Brown discussed staff representatives on the Temporary Governing Body and that there was none at Venerable Bede.

A: Mrs Nicholson discussed an amalgamation of the two Schools she lead the project on and confirmed that the Two Headteachers attended the Governing Body and the Diocese would look at constitution and appoint places.

It was noted that Key people in the local community is important to obtain a balance of skills and don't want the process to be slow.

Mr Williamson confirmed that Governors would want to have good knowledge staffing issues in terms of conditions and in terms of Tupe across so they can assist the speed. Mrs Nicholson stated that parents are also anxious and hope that the staff is treated fairly.

Q When the School closes what if this creates vandalism in the area. There are Alcohol issues with youths on Friday in this area therefore the LA own the School and is there problem.

A: Mrs Scanlon stated that this was raised in the Consultation and the LA are looking into what happens to the building once the school closes. Mrs Scanlon stated that a lot of options were to be discussed and one option could be the Church may want to want to lease the building back from us for community.

Q Will there be another set of consultation meetings or would one to one meetings happen with staff.

A: Mrs Dobrianski confirmed that The Temporary Governing Body would look at a staffing structure and this would be shared with unions in first instance and all staff. Sufficient time would be given to unions to speak with members.

Mr Williamson discussed the leadership and stated that Emma Jarvis and Louise Saunders were able to take on leadership of the School providing smooth running of this during his absence.

Q: Who chooses the new School name.

A: Mrs Nicholson confirmed that in the previous project the CoE asked the children, parents, staff and community for suggestions and shortlisted 6 names. The 6 names were then published for all to vote upon.

Q: What about uniform costs.

A: Mrs Nicholson discussed how the Diocese would accommodate all parents except reception class and provide them with a basic kit containing a sweat short, polar shirt etc. Parents were pleased with this.

Mrs Nicholson recapped on the day the School opened and how the children looked fabulous. The New school would have to discuss the colour of the new uniform. Mr Williamson stated parents would be involved with the discussions.

Q Unions asked about the New School and highlighted that Government Policy states any new School has to be an academy.

A: Mrs Nicholson and Mr Williamson confirmed Section 10 2011 of the Education Act and highlighted that other options favours VA Schools as an opt out clause.

59F/12

Publication of Minutes – Confidential Items

The meeting was declared confidential and the minutes would not be made available to members of the public

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF BISHOP HARLAND COE VA SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 5.20 pm.

Those present were:-

(i) Governors

Mr Thorndyke (Chair), Mr M Atkinson, Mrs M Edmundson, Mr J Farnsworth, Mrs E Rodgers, Mrs E Watson, Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(j) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Melissa Dobrianski, Senior HR Adviser, LA
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle
Jeremy Fitt, Diocesan Director of Education

60F/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs A Bain. **Governors agreed to accept the apologies.**

61F/12 A School Place Planning Consultation (Phase 2)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Thorndyke welcomed Governors to the meeting and confirmed that this was a formal Governors meeting. Mr Thorndyke introduced LA Representatives to the Governors.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed. Other issue the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the decrease in birth rate across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see. Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded Governors that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Governors that the petition received from Parents which was against the closure of the school that was handed to the LA at the Consultation was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the Staff at both schools is at risk of redundancy but ring fenced to the posts of the new School. A Temporary Governing Body would be set up and their priority would be to look at the staffing structure. Posts would be looked at and staff can be slotted in against some roles, others may have to have non competitive interviews and others displaced would be supported by the LA regarding redundancy.

Mrs Scanlon discussed Cabinet and stated that a group of 8 Senior Elected Members considered the proposals and a report was produced. Mrs Scanlon highlighted to Governors that Mr Williamson has a copy of the report and that a copy will also be cascaded to Governors in due course.

Mrs Scanlon discussed some of the issues raised in the 1st stage of the consultation. Overall there was a lot of positive support for Option 2 due to the concerns over the stability of the Schools and having a strong School in the community was a priority. Mrs Scanlon discussed the importance of having a good school in the community and for it to be vibrant for the future.

Access has been measured as an issue against the Hylton Red House Site. Traffic congestion is being looked at through the LA and work will be completed before the new school opens. Mr Williamson discussed that there would be a possibility of staggering time by providing after school activities etc to do this.

Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to

Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

Mrs Scanlon discussed representations and confirmed that if none are received/presented this can be delegated to Director of Children's Services. If there are objections they would go to the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet, this meeting is open to all to attend and representations can be made at this time. Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA were hoping to have a decision by December 2012 however due to the consultation period and Christmas period it may possibly go on to early January 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that detailed planning between the LA and Diocese and Temporary Governing Body would be carried out before new school opens in September 2013.

Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that a suggestion of publishing this information on the council's Face Book page was discussed at the Hylton Red House consultation. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that she was looking into this to see if this could happen.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Questions

The following questions were captured:

Q: Mrs Watson asked if responses can be individually or as a Full Governing Body.

A: Mrs Scanlon advised that responses can be either way.

Q: Mr Farnsworth asked if anyone can respond.

A: Mrs Scanlon advised any individual can respond.

Q: Mrs Rodgers pointed out the public notice on the post New traffic order and stated that the School was named as Bishop Harland RC School. Mrs Rodgers asked if this would be corrected.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed he would address this.

Mrs Scanlon advised about the Governing Body. And Mr Williamson created by the Diocese to run the new school whilst the others continue to exist. Chairs of the two existing members of the gov bodys foundation majority, dioces would work to populate that. What model they want. Expect smallest as can be. Soon as poss, some work can be done beforehand.

Mr Thorndyke reminded Governors that the current Governing body still had responsibilities.

Questions

The following questions were raised by Governors:

Q: Mr Atkinson asked about the site?

A: Mrs Scanlon playing fields is the LA anyhow but that the building would transfer to the LA. A suggestion of the Church renting it back for other provisions for the community has been raised.

Mr Thorndyke recapped on St Pauls closing and renting back to the LA for the community.

Mr Williamson discussed the Hylton Red House site and how a lot of asbestos had been identified as other 1960s buildings. The LA keen to commit to ensure invest in what ever they need to do to support.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the H&S works and what was best for the children.

Q: Mrs Watson discussed contract comeback if LA don't do what they say.

A: Mrs Scanlon confirmed it would be the responsibility of the Governors and Diocese once transferred.

Q: Mr Farnsworth asked about survey.

A: Mr Rowan stated that this would be discussed at the meeting on 6th November 2012.

Q: Mrs Edmundson asked Mr Williamson why are you waiting and why not doing something now with regards to the asbestos, safeguarding and electrics.

- A: Mr Williamson discussed how in February 2012 the Federation Committee agreed to oversee the premises.
- Q: Mr Atkinson stated that he felt the Temporary Governing Body needed to be set up asap.
- A: Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this had to wait until a decision is made.

Mr Atkinson expressed this is a problem lack progress in for the building and was concerned about this matter

- Q: Mrs Edmundson asked if a meeting will be held or will the plans be publicised for us to see what is happening i.e. traffic etc.

Mrs Edmundson also asked if Governors will be able to assess if this is good enough for our children to move into and confirmed that looking at something is not doing something about it.

- A: Mr Williamson stated that these issues were raised and would be absolute certain.

Mr Thorndyke recapped on the state of the Bishop Harland building numerous years ago and confirmed it was in despair.

62F/12

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CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF BISHOP HARLAND COE VA SCHOOL

A Local Authority School Place Planning Consultation was held on Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 6.30 pm.

Those present were:-

(k) Governors

Mr Thorndyke (Chair), Mr S Williamson (Headteacher)

(l) Clerk to the Governing Body

Lisa Hutchinson (Representing Children's Services)

(c) In Attendance

Beverley Scanlon, Head of Commissioning
Alan Rowan, Business Relationship and Information Governance Manager
Margaret Nicholson, Project Manager, Diocese of Durham and Newcastle
Parents

63F/12 LA School Place Planning Consultation (Phase 2)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr Williamson welcomed Parents to the 2nd Phase of the Consultation Process and thanked them for attending.

Mr Williamson introduced Mr Thorndyke, Chair of Governors and recapped on the Governing Body being the employers of staff within the School. Mr Williamson also introduced LA and Diocese representation.

Presentation

Mrs Scanlon confirmed that this was the 2nd Stage of the Consultation and final stage. Mrs Scanlon recapped on the challenges of Ofsted and discussed the Soft Federation agreement between the two Schools noting the hard work the Executive Headteacher had completed. Other issue the Schools faced were roll number, in particular Bishop Harland CoE VA School. Mrs Scanlon discussed the decrease in birth rate across the City and highlighted that financial resources are reduced against roll numbers.

Mrs Scanlon stated that the LA are hoping to sustain one good school in this community and after many discussions between the LA, Diocese and Federation it was deemed appropriate to identify a local solution.

Mrs Scanlon recapped on the 3 options available in Phase 1 and the majority of the 81 responses received supported Option 2. There were 75 responses for Option 2. Mrs Scanlon stated that she felt this was an overwhelming number of responses and wasn't something you generally see. Mrs Scanlon stated that the responses were giving a flavour for preference but reminded parents that they were not measured as a vote. Comments from responses were important and on the whole Option 2 was supported.

Mrs Scanlon informed Parents that the petition which was against the closure of the school that was handed to the LA at the Consultation was passed to cabinet as part of the consultation and proposals process.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the buildings, finances and staffing situations for all Options. Mrs Scanlon recapped on how Bishop Harland is owned by the Diocese and playing fields are owned by the LA. Hylton Red House building and playing fields are owned both by the LA. The sites would transfer in ownership as part of Option 2.

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Distance was a concern raised by some of the parents. A parent noted that it was a pleasant walk to the new School but it was the weather that was of concern as her child was considerably wet from the rain. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that some children who attend Bishop Harland live closer to Hylton Red House and vice versa. All children live less than 0.5m away from Hylton Red House site.

Mrs Scanlon discussed the future of Bishop Harland Site and confirmed that concerns have been raised by the public and residents and they do not want to see the site being open to vandalism. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that the LA will consult further on this.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted the next steps of the process and stated that a statutory legal notice will be produced on 5th November 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that the notice will be published in the Echo and Mr Williamson will also place on the school fences so people can observe. A six week consultation process will be carried out until 17th December 2012.

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Mrs Scanlon stated that responses can be via letter, email and all responses are to be received by 17th December 2012. Mrs Scanlon stated that a suggestion of publishing this information on the council's Face Book page was discussed at the Hylton Red House consultation. Mrs Scanlon confirmed that she was looking into this to see if this could happen.

Mrs Scanlon highlighted that responses can be reused and submitted again unless you have changed your mind.

Mr Williamson highlighted to parents that this is new School was not a rebuilt new school; the site at Hylton Red House would be refurbished. A top priority is to have a safe site for children.

Questions

Mr Williamson opened the discussion and asked how parents were feeling about the process.

Q: Is there any transport available.

A: Mr Williamson stated that there was virtually nothing we can do regarding the distance and transport has been looked at and something we cannot provide. By law children would have to live 2 miles away from the School to access transport and costs and figures show this wouldn't apply to anyone at the School at present.

Statistics confirm that 80% of Children at Hylton Red House come to School via foot. Groups of parents may group together and share cars and this strategy is known to work well. Mr

Williamson stated that it was important we listen to what people are saying and are open to suggestions to get parents together.

A Trial to educate children up at the Hylton Red House Primary Site for one week could be a possibility.

Q: Why did you choose not to extend this school.

A: Mr Williamson discussed that the School could have been extended but recapped on the flood in summer. Mr Williamson confirmed that the site was less ideal than Hylton Red House Primary School's site.

Q: When the Staff move to new school will we know which child will be working with which teacher.

A: There will be a balance per teachers per class.

Q: Are there any Diabetic children at Hylton Red House Primary School.

A: Mr Williamson confirmed that there are children with medical needs and highlighted that there was an increase in area. Mr Williamson confirmed that the School want the best for the children and best training for staff to accommodate these needs.

Q: What about the Uniform, who decides on the colour. What about the name of the new School.

A: Mrs Nicholson stated the CoE would ask parents, children, staff and community for suggestions for a new name, 6 names would be short listed. The names would be published for all to vote upon. Mrs Nicholson stated it was important for people to contribute ideas and feel involved.

Mrs Nicholson discussed uniforms for the new school and acknowledged that a new identity would be expensive for parents. Mrs Nicholson discussed her last project whereby the Diocese gave the children a basic kit with the exception of reception children.

Mr Williamson discussed the price of sweatshirts and stated he was open to discussion for example if the local supermarkets stocked these items for cheaper costs this would be better for parents.

Mr Williamson stated that the Governing Body would be looking at grants and other funding for uniforms.

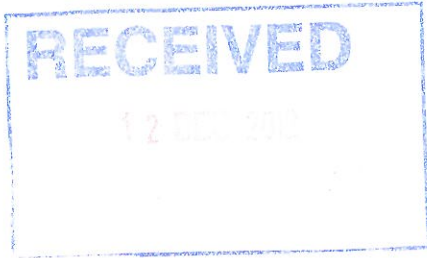
Q: I prefer a church school name, can we keep it that way to differentiate from other community Schools.

A: Mrs Nicholson stated that the Children often come up with best names.

64F/12

Publication of Minutes – Confidential Items

The meeting was declared confidential and the minutes would not be made available to members of the public.



Appendix 5

Free.
Letter forwarded
12/12/12.

12 Bainbridge Holme Close,
Tunstall,
Sunderland,
SR3 1YX

Tel: 522 7721

Mr K. Moore,
Executive Director of Children's Services,
Sunderland City Council,
P.O.Box 101,
Civic Centre,
Sunderland,
SR2 7DN

7th December 2012

Dear Mr Moore,

Re: Proposed Merger : Bishop Harland CE VA School and Hylton Red House Primary School

Thank you for the copies of the Sunderland City Council and Durham Diocesan Board of Finance notices about the proposal to establish a new voluntary aided school. I would like to take the opportunity to comment on this proposal, as invited, as part of the consultation.

Speaking as a Governor of Bishop Harland CE VA School, I am all in favour of the suggested option of discontinuing both schools and opening a new Church of England VA primary School on the Hylton Red House site. As noted in the proposal notices, this proposal will establish a new school operating at full or near full capacity and therefore afford the school greater stability and flexibility to respond to the future needs of all of the pupils from both of the original schools.

The two schools have already worked well together in the soft federation, and continue to do so. This has generated opportunities for teaching expertise to be shared between both schools and to organise joint trips and events. To merge the schools into a new entity will give both sets of pupils, teachers and the community a new beginning and create a stronger platform for progress. A new Church of England Voluntary Aided School will also maintain choice on the north side of the river.

Please accept my comments above in favour of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Watson

Eileen Watson (Mrs)



Rotherham Road,
Sunderland.
SR5 5QL
Tel: (0191) 553 5580
Fax: (0191) 553 5581
hrh.primary@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Executive Headteacher: Steve Williamson M.A.

17th December 2012

Re: Statutory Representation: Establishing a new Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

I am delighted to lend my full support to the proposals to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary and establish a new VA school.

The discontinuance of the two schools is essential in order to address school place planning and to assist the Local Authority in cutting unnecessary budget expenditure, whilst at the same time resolving school budget issues caused by running two sites.

Since coming to Sunderland in November 2009 I have witnessed a rapid improvement in the quality of children's education in the Redhill Ward. This, in part, is due to the significant focused support provided to me by the Local Authority which enabled Hylton Red House Primary to be removed so successfully from Special Measures and become, as it is today, the 8th most improved school in the country. Similar support received by Bishop Harland CE VA school has resulted in significantly improved results and in 2012 the progress made by pupils from their starting points placed them in the top 5 schools in Sunderland for that measure.

It is for that reason that the gains made at the two schools must be built upon and investment in a new VA school which would continue to serve the local community makes sense. The very positive response to the initial consultation is indicative of the strong bonds and partnerships between Local Authority, Diocese of Durham and the school community. It is unusual to see such levels of support from all parties involved especially during significant school reorganisation and I urge Cabinet to take note of this phenomenon.

That we can ensure the highest standard of education for our pupils and community is of no doubt considering our track record. But it is imperative that we do this in partnership and I am delighted that the Local Authority and Diocese have been able to support plans so effectively in anticipation of a positive decision of the School Organisation Committee. The possibility of a new VA school demonstrates that working together Sunderland schools can increase their resilience and impact even within the current national political climate. I look forward to Cabinet's wholehearted endorsement which will enable us to move forward confidently in providing a local solution.

Steve Williamson
Executive Head Teacher

