



Houghton Kepier Sports College



A Trust School

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Consultation feedback on a proposal to raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education

22 July 2009



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Executive Summary

This document summarises the feedback from the Houghton Kepier Sports College public consultation exercise. The consultation document was published on the school website on 19 June 2009 and distributed widely to consultees including parents, learners, staff, Unions, the Local Authorities and elected members across the City. A consultation meeting was held for staff and a public meeting was held at the school. The public meeting was publicised in the local library and notice boards. This document summarises the responses received for the consultation as a whole, including individual written responses in full.

A great deal of consultation has taken place with regard to these proposals.

- i) Prior to issuing our consultation document it was checked by a sample of staff to ensure it was clear and understandable.
- ii) The consultation document (copy in [Appendix A](#)) and feasibility report (copy in [Appendix B](#)) was issued on 19 June 2009 to all consultees listed in section 8 of the consultation document and published on the school website. Learners were informed of the consultation through assemblies and tutorial time, letters sent to all parents and posters were displayed in the school. The offer was made to make the document available in alternative formats.
- iii) Approximately 1350 consultation documents were distributed. There were separate staff and public meetings at the schools. Additional copies of the consultation document were available from the website www.houghtonkepier.org and copies of the consultation document were also available in school for collection.
- iv) Simultaneously with the public consultation learners in the school were consulted through tutorial time.
- v) The closing date for responses was 3.30pm on 17 July 2009.
- vi) There were 223 response forms returned from parents with 220 supporting the proposal. Only 1 response indicated they were not supportive.
- vii) There were 56 responses from members of staff of which all were supportive. In the response forms and during the staff meetings there was overwhelming support for the proposals.
- viii) There were 621 response forms returned from learners in years 7 to 10, with 438 supporting the proposal. 84 learners indicated they were not supportive and 99 were undecided.
- ix) There were 17 response forms returned from other stakeholders with 12 supporting the proposal and 5 indicating they were not supportive.
- x) Eight written responses were also received and are included in full.

The Governing Body of Houghton Kepier Sports College will meet on Wednesday 9 September 2009 to consider the responses to the consultation.

Summary of Response Forms

Consultation documents were sent to the list of stakeholders listed below:

- Parents of the learners and learners currently on the roll
- Staff currently employed, both teaching and non-teaching
- HKSC Governing Body
- Houghton Kieper Trust Board
- City of Sunderland Children's Services
- The Local Member of Parliament
- Serving local City Councillors
- Northumbria Police
- Parish Councils included in the catchment area
- Trade Unions of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Headteacher and The Chair of the Governing Body for surrounding secondary schools and partner primary schools
- Parents of learners attending HKSC from September 2009
- Learning & Skills Council
- Connexions
- Local groups and users of school facilities including nursery and child care providers, local businesses, sports and leisure groups
- Specialist Schools & Academies Trust
- Youth Sports Trust
- Adjoining Local Education Authorities, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Durham

Consultation documents were also available from www.houghtonkeper.org.uk

Based on question 1 of the response form; 'do you support the proposals for Houghton Kieper Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?' Responses were received as follows:

Parents/Carers: 223 responses; 220 positive, 1 negative & 2 undecided

Staff: 56 responses; all positive

Learners: 621 responses; 438 positive, 84 negative & 99 undecided

Stakeholders: 17 responses; 12 positive & 5 negative

Written responses were received from:

Mr Matthew Bryan representing the Rugby Football Union
Ms Michelle Meldrum representing Gentoo Group
Prof. Lynn Newton representing Durham University
Mr John Hallworth Headteacher of Thornhill School
Mr David Thornton Headteacher of Farringdon Community Sports College
Mr A Cunningham and Mrs L Walker, Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Oxclose Community School
Ms Sheila Palmerley representing Durham County Council
Cllr Peter Gibson representing the Governing Body of Farringdon Community Sports College

Response Form (Parents/Carers)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 9 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 220	No: 1	Don't know: 2
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>I support the proposals very strongly as I feel this is exactly what Houghton needs to give its children an equal chance compared to other towns e.g. Sunderland, Washington.</p> <p>The proposal enables learners and parents/carers more choice. Locally based provision removes the barriers for some families where low income prevents continuation in education due to travel costs etc.</p> <p>To fill a gap that has existed in the school children of Houghton.</p> <p>I am an American who was required to take a full 4 years High School before college. This allowed 11th and 12th grades to prepare for college maths, English & science or VOTECH. Absolutely. Would like to see my daughter study for her A levels in an academic environment which she is comfortable and familiar with.</p> <p>Strongly benefit the young community.</p> <p>Yes, no jobs available.</p> <p>No apprenticeships.</p> <p>I think it would encourage pupils to stay in higher education.</p> <p>Would encourage pupils to stay in education.</p> <p>To benefit the school further.</p> <p>It would be good to have sixth form in Houghton.</p> <p>An improving school, which achieves well, with continuously improving results. A 6th form would be well managed and would allow a continuation of education locally. An opportunity to encourage all to remain in education.</p> <p>This would be a great asset to the school.</p> <p>If a sixth form was to happen, Aimee will remain at her preferred school which is what we would like a parents.</p> <p>If the child can attend the same school it will encourage them to remain in education.</p> <p>I feel it will encourage some to stay on at school would otherwise leave.</p> <p>Brilliant school, push to stay longer.</p> <p>Push to stay longer - awesome school.</p> <p>Houghton is a fantastic school, 6th form would be an advantage, wish it had a 6th form now so my 3 children could have stayed on.</p> <p>Continued education, pupils will feel secure.</p> <p>Compact educational system.</p> <p>The school appears to set kids off on the right foot, sixth form would be a good extension of that.</p> <p>A local option for learners.</p> <p>Local school.</p> <p>I agree to further education for our children, many positive attitudes to extra tuition. My daughter certainly supports this.</p> <p>Continuity of learning.</p> <p>All education is good.</p> <p>Would be a welcome addition to the community of Houghton, bring further education close to home and better continuity of education for students.</p> <p>I think we should have a sixth form education in our local area to support our children.</p> <p>It will support and encourage learners in local area to remain in education.</p> <p>This is because I live in the area and have 2 children who may eventually attend.</p> <p>I have been keen for this to happen since my child started HKSC.</p> <p>As the location of the school is ideal, reducing the potential travel costs.</p>		

This will increase the provision in the local area, much needed provision in Houghton.
 As closer for pupils in this community to travel.
 I think it will benefit all the children in the local community.
 Continuity on from 14-16 courses.
 It would enable continuity in the childrens education.
 Yes, great standard of education to 16 & feel this standard can be achieved into sixth form education - have trust in good teaching and support of pupils.
 I think this a great idea, I think it will allow young people to consider not only college but 6th form. They will settle better in an environment they are used to.
 Would be in support providing sixth form likely to provide education to very high standard and extra capacity does not encroach on local residents.
 I think it's a good idea for the learners giving them a choice to stay at Houghton Kepier 6th form.
 This is an excellent opportunity for the learners, the community and teacher. Learners can continue their learning in familiar surroundings and teachers will have great development opportunities.
 I have supported the proposals for a while and it's a pity it hadn't started sooner - it's long overdue. No extra travel time for pupils or added expenses - children familiar with school and already know what is expected of them in terms of behaviour acceptance etc.
 Better provision for local children to continue their education in familiar settings.
 I do support the proposals for the age limit to be raised to 19.
 I think that a sixth form attached to the school would offer up a choice of staying locally with an environment they are used to.
 We strongly agree. HKSC needs a sixth form, not only for the students, but also for the local community which would also benefit.
 I strongly support the proposal, years ago we had 3 senior schools in Houghton with Houghton (grammar) school providing pupils to study A levels. At present learners have to travel to either Shiney Row, Sunderland or Durham.
 Much need because there is no sixth form locally.
 Thinks it's a very good idea.
 It would be a great advantage for the pupils as they already know the school and teachers.
 I would prefer my daughter to be able to attend sixth form in this school.
 For a better education to give a better start to working life.
 My child can attend college in our local area.
 Children stay in environment they are used to.
 Excellent idea for continuous education.
 I strongly support the proposals.
 Education is important.
 Having just been through the process of choosing a 6th form for my daughter who is just about to turn 16, I feel very strongly that it is too early for a 'child' to have to make these decisions, another 2 years to mature means they are better equipped at 18 to choose university etc and make such life changing decisions. Staying in Houghton gives them stability, safety and the chance to mature and grow, ready to face making decisions at 18 for further education/work etc.
 It will improve local learning opportunities and engage more people in higher level education.
 I feel this is exactly what is needed and the pupils deserve it.
 Familiar surroundings for the pupils wishing to extend their learning.
 I think it will benefit the kids, being able to carry on their education in a familiar setting.
 My daughter intends to go to sixth form college and she would prefer to stay at Houghton Kepier.
 To help with career prospects.
 It would be much better and more convenient not having to move schools.
 Yes. As I think children would be more comfortable and confident in the environment they

have been taught.

A sixth form college would benefit the local children, without them having to travel too far.

Better need for F.E. for 16 years and older.

Less transition for child.

I think that it will encourage more learners from the HLS area to stay on and perhaps give them better access; reduces 'competition' for places if there is more provision. Career development opportunities for staff and may attract more.

Sixth form education is essential for this area - although accommodation in the early stages, administration? (Finance for upskilling).

Need a sixth form in our area.

I work for City of Sunderland College - Bede Centre, expecting xxx to attend if going to sixth form.

Local learning centre for pupils and staff already familiar.

It provides another good opportunity for the children to continue to learn but still keeping school routines. Further education can be a big challenge to change to.

I think it's a good idea.

Pupils should be able to study further education within the vicinity of where they live.

More education can't be bad.

Students should be able to make a choice that allows them to remain in an environment they know without having to travel out of the local area.

Gives kids a extra option when leaving school.

Help to further their education.

Not sure if it would help.

It would be a good idea to have a local sixth form choice.

Would be good to have a sixth form available in Houghton.

Not one in area, great incentive for children to carry on in education.

I think it is a good idea for the children to better their education.

Keep the learners local, good rapport with tutors already.

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 212

No: 1

Don't know: 8

Comments in support of your answer:

I think the proposed range of provision seems very good, catering for all abilities. My son who is currently in year 9 has already seen courses on the list which would appeal to him.

A comprehensive range of provision is proposed.

Covers all aspects

One must help to break the poverty-benefits cycle, your provisions are excellent but as long as the stigma remains, the drive for higher education will not improve.

If possible would like to see more A level subjects made available.

A continuum.

It seems to have a lot of thought behind it.

Near home, less travel, less expense.

Should be even more range but small steps first.

To give our learners on going support to carry on to further education.

There is a variety of proposed provision which will enable the children to have a vast choice.

As long as A levels are available I'm happy.

Seems to be a wide/varied provision.

For being a specialist sports college, there doesn't seem to be any provision for some form of FE in sports.

A good range of courses will be more attractive to the students.

Allows the school to provide a varied range at college levels.
 All 16+ children should have sixth form opportunities near to where they live.
 Are the level 3 courses ie the AS/A2 Btec required for university entry?
 There is a good list of courses.
 A good range of courses providing continuity and displaying the specific needs of the students.
 Sixth form would definitely need their own "space" ie social/common room/dining etc. As for the education the range of subjects are great although I wonder if its possible to extend to further courses/Btecs to be considered ie animal care? Maybe a specialised college would have to be considered as an option.
 The courses offered are an excellent choice, which covers a wide range.
 Wide range of provision.
 The proposed provision is very comprehensive. I am particularly pleased to see level 1 and 2 courses included to provide for all learners not just those who can achieve at level 3.
 Houghton has a diverse range of people and the subjects offered need to reflect that so learners feel that there is something for everyone and they are not left out, because they cannot, or do not, want to study the more academic subjects.
 Yes I am pleased with the range of provision.
 Good range and variety of subjects available. Both vocational and traditional subjects.
 The school will be offering a wide range of subjects for learners.
 Will the 6th form provide courses for A levels?
 Provision is varied. Opportunities for more vocational learning is encouraged.
 Enables a range of learners to continue in higher education.
 This provides a good range of courses which allows the pupils a fair choice.
 Think it is good.
 Do not know of full provision range yet.

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 213	No: 3	Don't know: 5
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Personally speaking, this would encourage my son to stay in education in an environment in which he is familiar and would make the transition to further education much easier for him. Yes, continuity of education in the same location is recognised a key contributing factor in the decision making process for learners and their parents/carers in their choice to remain in education. I hope a good percentage of current students access the proposed sixth form provision. Too many leave as they are afraid of going to another learning institution The welfare system is great in the UK, there is not anything to warrant a high percentage (45%) to achieve to their maximum potential. I also think it will mean more learners will be less likely to drop out. Provided the courses offered are varied and are delivered to a high standard. Something to aim for. Easier than looking for other college. Easier than looking for another college. If pupils can stay with friends and do not have far to travel could encourage them to stay on in education. If both academic and vocational options are offered. Yes as it will not frighten them attending a new school with different teachers. As they will continue with staff that they know. Know the teachers and environment etc.</p>		

Knowledge of environment.
Continuity of education.
Staying with friends.
Familiarity with staff and surroundings will keep pupils in a comfort zone.
Especially girls with the H&B.
As more hopefully will stay where they are familiar and confident.
I agree with the school environment for sixth form.
They will be in surrounding they already know.
They will already be used to the environment therefore, they will settle in better.
I think that learners that wish to continue their education will do so anyway. I don't think 6th form will change the minds of those who do not wish to continue in education.
I think that learners that wish to continue education will do so anyway regardless of the location of 6th form. I don't think 6th form will change the minds of those learners who do not wish to continue in education.
I'd like to think so.
It will encourage pupils due to the familiarity of the school.
My daughter would be very favourable of stopping on an extra year, & with a son in primary school, the option would be in place for him to choose.
Promote easy access, continuity with building, teachers etc.
The children are familiar with the school and feel comfortable with teachers they know.
Ease of access.
Being able to get to school easily, know staff and the setting is beneficial.
I strongly agree with this as some parents are put off by the cost of travel to college out of the area.
If you are interested in further education you would probably remain in it, although for those who want to continue it will make it simpler.
The learners will be comfortable in the school, as they have already been here for five years.
Some learners may want to leave and start college instead of 6th form.
In the past learners have perhaps not chosen to continue their education because of having to travel to further afield colleges, this causing emotional stress and travel costs.
No extra travelling time or expenses. Pupils will already be familiar with the school - so no major upsets in routines.
Same surroundings may help aid learners in confidence and studies, therefore better grades.
I think it will make it accessible to more young people.
We agree with a sixth form, after being at the school since the age of 11/12 it will be an easy and natural progression to continue their education in a safe and familiar environment.
I feel that learners will see this as a continuation, know the building, familiar faces, no travelling.
Very much so.
I believe this will encourage learners to stay in education, particularly those who would be put off by the expense of travelling to Sunderland or Durham and those who would find a change of institution intimidating. I also believe this will encourage learners to complete courses and reduce the chances of dropping out.
As they will be comfortable within school.
Because all learners in Houghton would be required to travel in order to continue in their education and have to integrate themselves into a new school and environment, many may be put off and decide not to do anything.
Local, familiar, less change/fear, however change can be good and broadens young peoples experiences.
Absolutely, continuity and familiarity with surroundings, teachers etc will all encourage learners to remain in education.
As it may be too daunting for some learners to start somewhere new.

My son is due to leave school next year and is interested in going to sixth form.
 Will encourage and promote further education, pupils will be able to transition more easily as no move will be necessary.
 Already made friends at school and to continue with the same friends may make them more confident.
 Availability within the community will benefit learners through easier accessibility - ie travelling.
 Further education can be a daunting prospect and allowing them to continue on at sixth form still gives them the stability that they need while still providing the required level of education.
 We live in a disadvantaged community of which the school is a big part. Being able to remain in the local area without travel costs will be a big issue for a lot of parents.
 My daughter will be staying, if available from 2010.
 Very helpful.
 Some will want to stay on, but you will get quite a lot who will want to leave to try and make some money for themselves.
 Yes - gives more time to adjust. I had a local sixth form and it worked for me.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 150	No: 3	Don't know: 8
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>I think the transition would be made easier with sixth form provision at HKSC because many families would not be burdened with extra travel costs etc, and learners would feel comfortable with the tutors and staff with whom they have spent the last five years. Continuity of provision on the same site will mean that learners will not go through an extended transition period and learning will be more effective as a result. Young adults should remain in the same school from ages jr high to 19. (we have jr highs & do not allow 11&12&13 around high school. My daughter at school does not have SEN, however, my daughter who has, has just left school and I feel this would have been an advantage to her further educational needs. Staff will be able to assess quickly if there are issues in post 16 education as the students will be well known to them. Allows time to develop life skills and independence skills before entering the wider community. Familiar surroundings, environment, teachers etc. As they are in a familiar environment. I believe it will stop learners falling into the NEET. The familiarity and continuity will help greatly. I don't have a learner with SEN but although the school SEN learner should receive support so why should 6th form be different. I think it would be a good idea. I think SEN learners need more support in the transition to post 16 and believe that that pastoral system in place can provide this support. Also teaching and support staff who have worked with the learners for five years are very well placed to give advice on courses and levels and will provide a much greater personalised offer to learners. Pupils will be known to staff and learners and their individual needs will be able to be supported more fully. Help is always good.</p>		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 174	No: 1	Don't know: 27
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>I think the rationale and aims seem to have the best interests of the learners at heart and are well thought out.</p> <p>The rationale and aims have been well defined and considered alongside the range of developments in the 14-19 agenda.</p> <p>The aims seem appropriate.</p> <p>Haven't read consultation documents.</p> <p>Never read the documents.</p> <p>Unsure.</p> <p>All education is good.</p> <p>They seem fair and appropriate.</p> <p>The consultation was very well presented and we strongly agree with the 7 key challenges.</p> <p>I strongly agree.</p> <p>It's a very good idea.</p> <p>The rationale and aims seem very comprehensive and well constructed, this has obviously been well thought through.</p> <p>The rationale and aims encompasses all that is right about having the 16-19 provision in Houghton, which meets all children's needs regardless of the ability. It is a win, win situation.</p> <p>I fully support the rationale and aims outlined in the consultation and feel it will improve all learners educational achievements.</p> <p>It all ticks the right boxes in what you want in a sixth form as a parent.</p> <p>The school is centrally located with good access by public transport for people travelling and within walking distance for most of the local housing estates. It also has the advantage of allowing children to progress their education in an environment they feel comfortable.</p> <p>The school is ideally placed and has a huge advantage of knowing the learners so can add even more to these young people.</p> <p>Fully support.</p>		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 40	No: 129	
<p>Comments:</p> <p>I only hope that everyone concerned can see the sense in the proposals and the sixth form becomes a reality. I look forward to my son attending and it makes me even more determined that his younger brother should attend HKSC and benefit from the outstanding facilities on offer.</p> <p>I would like to see more 14-19 diplomas to be introduced as the curriculum becomes more diverse to provide a vocational alternative to the core subjects.</p> <p>What will be the entry system? What will the process be - where existing pupils want to enrol for sixth form? How will pupils be selected if there are only 100 places per year group?</p> <p>The influence of the younger years 7&8 from the 12th & 12th year students. Greater amount of drugs & sexual experimentation.</p> <p>I believe it would be a good transition as pupils will already know their peers as well as the teaching staff, as well a lot of pupils will reduce the need for excessive travel, both in distance and cost.</p> <p>I think Houghton and the surrounding areas will benefit very much from a 6th form in this area.</p>		

Should of started this 2yrs ago.

A 6th form would be an excellent addition, a good idea in support of continuing compulsory education up to the age of 18 years.

The pupils within this catchment area are in desperate need of a sixth form. Their opportunity for further education is reduced considerable when having to apply to other colleges (Durham, Bede).

Personally sixth forms need less supervision and no uniforms.

My only concern would be that pupils who stay would they be encouraged to meet new people because they are staying within there safe environment; this could benefit children who prefer a home base.

Car parking.

Should be optional as some learners may want to attend elsewhere - more independence. There should be a local 6th form for Houghton as my daughter has to travel to Durham (or Sunderland).

Most young male like to work on cars/motorbikes so that should be built into a sixth form after they do a taster in the 5th (especially the underachievers).

I understand there are to be a total of 100 places which does not seem nearly sufficient for the amount of pupils that could potentially apply.

What will the uniform situation be, will learners be required to wear a uniform, what will it be etc?

Would a uniform be compulsory? As I feel that students may feel more 'grown up' if they were allowed to dress individually while attending sixth form.

I agree with all proposals and every aspect of A levels. The only personal concern is that perhaps there wouldn't be a course, Btec of other (other than A levels) that wouldn't be suitable for pupils wanting an alternative career other than the business Btecs etc. Perhaps Btec study in animal care with maybe theory based on site with practical work elsewhere?

Unsure how this could be done - just a personal thought - that may or may not be worth considering.

How will places be given if numbers exceed allowance?

As my daughter is in yr 10 it would be good if this was finally sorted so she can plan for the future ie 6th form. This has been talked about since before she started summer 2005. Please just get a decision.

8.30 start too early, should have lockers for pupils.

I think that a local sixth form is greatly needed in this area. At the present time children have to travel to Sunderland, Durham or Washington if they wish to continue their education. If they can remain in their present environment with teachers known to them I believe that this will encourage them to remain in education and hopefully do better. In addition I believe that many pupils do not have the discipline to cope in a 'college' environment and do better remaining at school.

Should have started this 5 years ago.

Would the children need to wear a uniform?

It is important for young people to get the best start in life.

I myself were fortunate to have a 6th form in Houghton when I was at schools and did not have to go through the difficult process of moving elsewhere. I have witnessed my sister having to move schools at 16, travelling to Durham and now many years later my daughter has had to do the same, she will be going to St. Roberts in Washington - a very good school, however, I am certain she would have been happier to stay in Houghton in familiar surroundings with teachers who know her and her abilities.

I think 'on the doorstep' post 16 provision will encourage learners to stay on in education post leaving age. As a parent I will feel happier for my child to attend Houghton Kepier beyond 16 both for financial reasons, as he can walk to school and won't incur transport costs and it is hard enough to make the transition from GCSE to A levels without having to get used to a new environment and new teachers and providing a 6th form at the school will

mean he can concentrate on continuing his learning without that upheaval. I am very happy with the wide range of subjects offered and feel my child will flourish better in a familiar environment where he is known to staff both academically and socially already. I wholeheartedly support the proposals and think it will vastly improve the chances for children in the Houghton area. I think providing this extra level of choice will be fantastic and can only serve to enhance and compliment existing 6th form provision in the city.

This should definitely go ahead. It will support local learning and the local community and business. Win,win!

This would be fantastic for Houghton Kepier Sports College learners and for Houghton le Spring. This would enable learners to continue their education in familiar surroundings and with teaches they will have built a relationship with, which allows the transition to post 16 education smoother, and they shouldn't have to travel elsewhere.

A level courses.

It must be ensured that provision is based around providing good and quality focussed education for learners as opposed to being target driven to attract/retain funding, although I appreciate that this is crucial to the school surviving. A learner centred approach is important at these times of educations system change. Anyone can write a good philosophy but ensuring its delivery to the expected and stated standard is the real challenge.

Encouragement of Y10 learners (as of June 09) to continue education on site. Information to parents as to 'house' extension. As a parent, I am in full support, although persuasive information (if my child is to be within the 1st intake) as to educational benefits. Fully appreciate 'on-doorstep' scenario.

Why should Houghton children travel outside of the area to get further education? FE is a big step to take and being able to do it in a known environment can only be a positive. Why should we have to wait for the new centre proposed by the council (LSC are removing funding so who will pay) when the local school can satisfy a need immediately.

Needs to be flexible, just the same as a college.

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

Yes revert back to jr schools and allow 15yrs - 19yrs to attend school together.

Will there be links with alternative providers?

These forms could be filled out online therefore saving on paper and speeding up the process, also negating the possibility of these forms not reaching you.

Driving theory.

Response Form (Learners Year 7)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 134	No 13	Don't know 19
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>It would be great to stay with friends.</p> <p>It would be nice to stay with friends and teachers.</p> <p>It's good for some and not for others.</p> <p>It would be good having one and still having all the teachers.</p> <p>It will save people going to college.</p> <p>Because you know the teachers and the school if there is a sixth form here.</p> <p>Because it will be good.</p> <p>I think it would be good because some colleges might be far away.</p> <p>Because it would be good and easier for people to come to than travelling to Sunderland or Washington.</p> <p>Because you might not want to go to sixth form.</p> <p>Because if you go to the Sixth form, you won't have to spend money taking the bus to a college.</p> <p>Because you might want to go.</p> <p>Because it is good.</p> <p>I will go there.</p> <p>I want to go to 6th form after school and I would rather stay here at sixth form than go to Sunderland.</p> <p>Because people might want a good job and get A's then go to university.</p> <p>Because it is a chance to do A levels at somewhere which you know it good quality.</p> <p>Because if you want to stay you can.</p> <p>Because it is easier than going to college and trying to get in.</p> <p>Because then we won't have to travel far.</p> <p>Because it would help with transport to other colleges and help with education.</p> <p>Because people might want to learn more.</p> <p>It wouldn't because there are 6th forms that are not far away that would do the same job.</p> <p>Because it's not too far for some people instead of going elsewhere.</p> <p>I think that because of my career path that I want to pursue this would be a good, helpful attachment? For the school.</p> <p>Because at least you would have the opportunity otherwise you would have to go to a different place and make new friends.</p> <p>It would be good because we wouldn't have to start a new school.</p> <p>It would mean you wouldn't have to move from the school.</p> <p>So people wouldn't have to go somewhere else and you could stay with friends.</p> <p>Because you don't have to make new friends.</p> <p>Because you don't have to go somewhere else.</p> <p>There is more education for learners</p> <p>Get more education.</p> <p>Because you would have to make new friends.</p> <p>So you don't have to leave and make new friends.</p> <p>Save travel. Stay with friends.</p> <p>So you don't have to keep going to new schools.</p> <p>You could get more education.</p> <p>As people know the school.</p> <p>Because I might change my mind.</p> <p>Maybe the school is too small.</p>		

Maybe it will be bad to stay at school longer.
 Because you shouldn't stay at school till you're 18 - 19 because some people might have girlfriends and they might have their own house and they will want to stay away from school.
 Because there is a choice.
 Because it will help to get better jobs.
 Because people might want to go and some might not want to.
 It will help people get a better education.
 It would help people get a better education.
 I'd like to stay here when 18.
 I'd like to stay here, it is a good school.
 Yes because it is more education and it's better than going to a different school.
 Because you would get you're a levels and get a better job.
 It saves going to another school.
 I don't want to be here til I'm 18.
 Good because if you can't go to college you will go here.
 Because it would be easier.
 Good for further education.
 Because it can help people get further in education
 Saves us having to move school
 Saves us moving school
 Yes because people might want to come here and no because people might go somewhere else.
 Because I would stay with my friends.
 Because it will encourage people in education.
 Because you can be with your friends and because it would be easier.
 Yes because it will give us a better education.
 I don't want to be here till I'm 18.
 Because without a sixth form, there will be difficulties and people will have to find somewhere new.
 Because we get more education here. I would like to stay here till I'm 18.
 Because we get more education
 It will be easier to stay because you are still with friends.
 Because they might need more education.

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 115	No 9	Don't know 38
<p>Comments in support of your answer: Because quite a lot of people want to go to sixth form. Lots of people might want to go to sixth form. I think there is enough subjects. There are plenty of subjects. Because it would help with your education. I don't know as it would depend on what would be proposed. Because again you would have an opportunity because you could study something you wanted. Because there should be a variety of options Yes because you could then get better grades. So people have a different range of subjects to do. So people can do more than just Maths English and Science. Better with different lessons. Learn more and about different ideas.</p>		

Because you can choose.
 So people don't get sick of school as much.
 I haven't seen the ranges yet.
 I haven't seen what's on offer.
 Yes because if you only need other subjects you can pick them.
 Don't know what you are going to teach.
 Yes because you need all the education you can get.
 Because it could be a teacher that does nothing and you learn nothing.
 Because you are given extra support in them 3 lessons.
 Because they will teach you the same thing.
 Don't know what they are going to teach
 Languages and RE aren't necessary.
 Because people can do extra courses as well as usual.
 Extra learning.
 Yes because you can get what to choose.
 Because we can choose our lessons.
 Because it allows pupils to choose the subjects that they think they can do well in, find they will be more enthusiastic if it is something they want to do.
 Yes because it is good now.
 Because you learn what you want more.

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 131	No 13	Don't know 22
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>So they get cleverer. Because if they remain in education for longer, they will have a better chance of getting a job they want. Yes because people who would like to go to 6th form may have no means of getting elsewhere except Houghton. In case they find it hard to find another. Because it is closer and you don't need to go to Durham. Because again it's not too far away. Because most people would have to travel to Sunderland when they would be able to go here. Because people won't have to travel as far. Don't know for the same reason as I said above so it would depend what's in it to see if it would encourage people. A lot of people don't go because it's too far. Because it would be closer for people to go. Because I would like to learn more skills for the future. Because it would be more supportive. Stay in education to do better. No need to go to college. Yes I think learning more will be better and encouraging. Know the teachers. Yes it would because they wouldn't have to move away from Houghton and could stay with their friends. Because they know people from school. Because I will get sick of travelling to somewhere like Sunderland. Yes, they will stay at school. It depends if some people like travelling</p>		

Because it is closer to home and I don't have to go as far.
 Because it's easier.
 Because I want to move schools.
 Because it saves a lot of hassle.
 It all depends.
 Because people will not go and some will.
 Because they're at school.
 Because it may help other people get jobs.
 Yes because it may help other people get better jobs.
 You don't have to travel a long way.
 It would be easier.
 Because they won't have to travel around as much if there is a sixth form locally.
 Because they might need to travel a long way.
 Yes because they might want a really good job.
 Yes because then they will get a good job.
 Because they'll say look they've done better.
 Because they will be able to stay with friends.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 19	No 5	Don't know 17
Comments in support of your answer: It would be a good idea. Because it's just along the road.		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 73	No 7	Don't know 41
Comments in support of your answer: Because if we go to sixth form, we could stay near our friends for longer. Because you would at least know what the rules are and you would know the teachers. Because we would know the pupils and teachers. It will be better than starting a new one. I don't really want to stay at school longer but I might later It will help pupils.		

5. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 44	No: 89	
Comments: I think it will be good to have a sixth form because people can have a choice to stay or not and if you stay you will be able to stay with friends. I hope that sports options are available. I think we shouldn't have to wear uniform for sixth form. I think that at 6 th form they shouldn't have to wear a uniform. I think it would be good to have a sixth form. If Houghton Kepier get a 6 th form you will need good teachers.		

I think it is a good idea to have a sixth form at HKSC.
 Because if they want to stay they can.
 You shouldn't need to wear school uniform.
 I think if we have a sixth form we should have a parent and children day where someone will show us around it.
 Sixth form should have more time for lessons and harder lessons.
 I think it would be good to have a sixth form because it is closer than Sunderland.
 You shouldn't need to wear school uniform.
 Do music and performing arts.
 I think that when they do the sixth form they should have teachers that are there for the pupils all of the time when they have to sit exams.
 You should have a sixth form so people get better education.
 No school uniform/smart clothes. Plenty of courses.
 No school uniform. Sixth form block.
 No school uniform. Sixth form block.
 Should be no school uniform.
 Should be no school uniform. Chill in sixth form. Computer courses.
 The uniform, social areas.
 I think it should be non school uniform.
 Not wearing school uniform.
 Making the school bigger.
 Non school uniform.
 Non school uniform.
 Non school uniform.
 Non school uniform. If not from this school, learners would not come.
 Non school uniform. Sixth form block, apprenticeships on site.
 Should be non school uniform, sixth form block.
 You should be able to wear whatever you want but sensible things.
 I think it is a good idea because you get more education and get better jobs.
 I think it is a good idea because you will know everyone.
 Where would you build the sixth form? It would be good cos you wouldn't have to travel.
 It's good because there is hardly any jobs left in the world.
 Because we would get a better education.

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

Apprenticeships on site.
 Sixth form block, apprenticeships on site, non school uniform.
 I think it's a good idea because it will help people get a better education.
 The school will be more packed that already. They could wear non uniform.
 I think it will help you to get a good job that's permanent.
 Would you wear uniform?
 I suggest that you advertise the benefits which can be gained from attending sixth form to make learners more enthusiastic about attending.

8 Response Form (Learners Year 8)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 103	No: 31	Don't know: 29
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Help make life easier as it is closer.</p> <p>I think it will help and make life a lot easier for me and others.</p> <p>Yes it will be a lot easier for me and others.</p> <p>Because I think there would be more choices if I don't go.</p> <p>I'd rather go to college because I would like a wider range of choices.</p> <p>I'd rather go to college.</p> <p>For the job I want I need as much information as possible so this is a chance to get that extra information.</p> <p>Because it will enable us to have a better perspective of what we want to be when we go for a job.</p> <p>I think a sixth form would be good because you could just stay at the school.</p> <p>Because it's better than going to Sunderland or Newcastle, it's closer to home.</p> <p>Because it's a better idea so you can get better levels.</p> <p>There's more choices at college than at Sixth form for the various jobs that I would like to do.</p> <p>Because then I can come here instead of getting the bus everyday to college.</p> <p>It is a good idea because some one might not get into college.</p> <p>Because some people might not want to stay at school.</p> <p>No because there will be 11 year olds and 19 year olds around the school.</p> <p>Because if it doesn't work (sixth form) I will have to take a bus to Sunderland. It is closer.</p> <p>Because the school would be more crowded with 19 year olds and I would rather go to college because there is more choices.</p> <p>It will give us a better education.</p> <p>It's a good idea but why do we have to stay.</p> <p>It's a good idea but why do we have to stay.</p> <p>I would rather move on to a college to meet different people.</p> <p>Because most people will want a change.</p> <p>Yes it is good because people in this area won't have to travel.</p> <p>So you don't need to travel so far.</p> <p>It would take too long to get to Durham or Sunderland.</p> <p>It would be easier to get to sixth form.</p> <p>Because if you want to come you would only have to go to the same place in Houghton.</p> <p>So you won't have to go to Durham.</p> <p>So you don't have to travel far.</p> <p>Yes because it would be great to see your friends, teachers and to stay at your school and you will get higher grades if you stay on.</p> <p>I support the sixth form but not upping the limit.</p> <p>Because all the years that have left have not done this.</p> <p>It will help cut down on expenses such as bus fares and fuel.</p> <p>People get a better education but older people will be walking round the school.</p> <p>I think it will be a good idea because it will get your grades higher and get to see friends etc.</p> <p>Because some people will get a better education.</p> <p>Because I need to think about it and see what it would mean.</p> <p>Because I need time to think about it.</p> <p>For a better chance to go onto further education.</p> <p>Because people might want to go to different sixth forms.</p> <p>Don't understand.</p>		

Because some people might want to get a job or go to college.
 Some people might want to go to sixth form, some might not.
 No-one likes to stay to Year 11. People cannot wait to leave like my brother. He has been bullied throughout school and no-one's sorted it out.
 It gives you more of an option.
 It gives you more of an option.
 Because we are able to stay on with people we know.
 It would be good.
 I don't know because I wouldn't want to go here but to a different college.
 I think that it is a good idea because it can help your future.
 Because it is a good opportunity.
 It would be good for others.
 Because the people who want to go to sixth form can stay until they're 19 but people who want to go to college can.
 Yes, I think it would be good for others.
 Because if people don't go to college people can still see their friends and it gets more money for the school.
 It helps people better cos they know their friends and teachers.
 Yes we should because it will be better.
 Because I would rather go to college.
 Yes because people will not have to travel far to come to college and it will encourage more people.
 Yes because more people would go to 6th form because it isn't that far away.
 It would be a good idea because it gives people a chance to stay on at this school.
 Because if you do stay you will be in surroundings with people you know.
 It is pointless you can just go to college.
 I think it is too much fuss and people might get teachers that they don't like and won't learn much.
 I do not wish to stay there another two years.

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 79	No: 9	Don't know: 62
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>I haven't seen the choices. Because they are all very similar. It depends what subjects you can do. Because you can do A levels. The chance for further education should be given. Gives you a bigger chance of a better education. Gives you a bigger chance of a better education. I want them. Learners need them. It will help your future. It is a good opportunity. Good for people who want to go. Because it might help people get a better education or better job. Because people will get better jobs rather than sitting in the house. Yes because people might/will get better jobs than just sitting in the house all day. Yes because people can have better jobs.</p>		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 118	No: 15	Don't know: 29
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Pupil will be in surroundings they know</p> <p>Because it will be close and they will know everyone.</p> <p>It will be just as easy to get to the sixth form as the school.</p> <p>It will be just as easy to get to the sixth form as the school.</p> <p>Because people who don't want further education won't go.</p> <p>Because people who want to get education will try and someone who doesn't will not.</p> <p>Because they would rather leave to go to college.</p> <p>But only for the people who want good jobs.</p> <p>But only if there are things which will help you get good qualifications.</p> <p>I think some people will want to stay but some don't.</p> <p>Good for you</p> <p>Because it is a good opportunity for you.</p> <p>Because people who don't know what they want to do in the future will stay for further education.</p> <p>They get to stay at HKSC.</p> <p>Because if they don't have to travel as far people may consider more.</p> <p>Because there is no changes.</p> <p>Because there is not change of surroundings.</p> <p>Because some learners will want to go to college or just get a job.</p> <p>Because people won't change their opinions just because they can stay for a few extra years.</p> <p>Some will some won't depending on the experiences they have had in the school.</p> <p>Because people might not come.</p> <p>Because it will be close to your home and they will be able to stay with some of their friends.</p> <p>It would be easier for people to get access to a sixth form instead of having to travel so far.</p> <p>Because there is more education than normal</p> <p>Because they will know the school well.</p> <p>Because they will want to see people for longer and it will help your revision and be brainier in you life.</p> <p>Because people will get better jobs.</p> <p>Because we will have the facilities to do it.</p> <p>If the education is nearer, the chance is higher that people will continue.</p> <p>People might not want to go.</p> <p>Yes but people might not go.</p> <p>People might not want to go.</p> <p>People want good jobs/qualifications.</p> <p>Don't understand.</p> <p>Yes because they can stay at their school.</p> <p>It might do, some people might stay.</p> <p>Because most learners leave school and do not go to college. However a local sixth form in our school will encourage learners to remain in education and get their grades and jobs they wish.</p> <p>If they enjoyed their first 5 years at HKSC, they will enjoy more.</p> <p>Because they might and they might not want to.</p> <p>I think some people would like to move on and try somewhere new.</p> <p>Because people would get better jobs.</p> <p>Because instead of the travelling to college, they can just come to school.</p> <p>Yes people would stay.</p>		

Because they may want to go somewhere else with their friends.
 Because it might be easier to come here.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 54	No: 8	Don't know: 15
Comments in support of your answer: Because many people may not want to but some people might! Sixth form is just another option. Again, only for the people who want good jobs. But only to help you get good qualifications and jobs. Because it will be like not moving school. Because it won't feel like you have left school. Because it won't feel like you've left home. Because they will feel like they haven't left school. Because then if people don't want to go to college then they can stay at HKSC. It will help them a lot with their education. It puts too much pressure on anyone.		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 54	No: 7	Don't know: 38
Comments in support of your answer: It helps children get a better level in their GCSE's. Because more people will want good GCSE and A levels. Because loads of schools have sixth form You could put a 6 th form anywhere. Because I haven't seen it. Don't understand. To make it easier for people to access a sixth form and be able to carry on at the same school.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 22	No: 85	
Comments: You should send a letter out about what things you are giving us and the choices. Put in a chill out room for the sixth form. We should have separate breaks between the college and school so the school is not overcrowded at break. How long will lessons be? Have less lessons, how long will lessons be? This school is already over-crowded. Will the school be made much bigger if another year group is added? If people do not want to go it's a waste of money building one. No because most people might not go.		

If people don't want to go, would they have to?
 Yes I think you should lay off the Year 11 and 10's so they don't stress and do wrong.
 Some people might not like it when they come so they might want to drop out.
 It would be a good idea because students will know how far to travel and they would not be late.
 It's up to you if you want to go.
 I would like to feel mature at 16 and not want to be taught with Year 7's nearby. If you travel to Usworth, you can meet new friends and be independent and use your bus pass on a weekend.

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

No uniform.
 Don't understand.
 The sixth form should have it's own campus on another location.

8 Response Form (Learners Year 9)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 89	No: 33	Don't know: 42
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Because it gives us another opportunity when we leave school. It gives you another option after school. Because it gives you another option after school Gives you another option after school. Because it's easier for people to get there. 19 is too old, 18 would be better. So people don't need to travel and another option instead of college. So people don't need to travel. Because it means it will encourage more people. It depends if they want to stay. It would give a better education It depends how good it would be. Not sure how it's going to work. Will be less students becoming NEEPs? Yes, because then there will be less chances of students becoming NEEPs. This will help all the younger ones to get a better education. You will not need to travel. It is close to where we live. Because you don't have to find another sixth form. So you don't need to travel. So we don't have to travel far to get to another sixth form. Because people will be more educated. People can get better education elsewhere. Rather leave at 16. To provide education for people who want to carry on. Because people will be able to get more education. It will help learners. As children will be educated. Because it is easier.</p>		

Some might not want to but some might.
 Easier for students to get straight in.
 I don't know if I would want to come here.
 Because it is easier.
 Because it is easier.
 It gives people the option to stay close to home if they wish.
 Because some people might not want to go on to further education and might just want a job.
 Students will not have to think about going to different colleges or sixth forms as they would have an easier option. Other pupils from schools can join so people from this school will meet more people.
 Because it would be more education for the school and the community
 Because you can get more education without going to college.
 Because you get better education.
 I don't think many people would go.
 I think people would rather go elsewhere.
 It gives us another option after school
 Because it gives you a better education.
 Because you should be able to move on and make new friends somewhere else instead of being with the same people.
 So you don't need to change travel plans.
 Because more learning and for cooking.
 Because of more education.
 Increase chance of a better job you like.
 It will mean people can keep going to local education rather than having to find somewhere new to go.
 Better education to get a better job.
 Because some schools in the area offer better all round education
 Because you don't have to go all the way to Gateshead.
 Because you don't have to find a college.
 Better education for the younger society.
 Because we get enough education up to 16
 People want to experience college.
 Because it would be boring not being in school.

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 70	No: 22	Don't know: 68
Comments in support of your answer: It's a wide range. Wide range. Wide range. What is that? No it's not good. It would be easier to get there. I don't quite understand it. Yes however I would like to see more. I don't know what they would offer. I don't know what courses are available. There is enough for everyone to be happy and if they want to go to university, they could continue studying those subjects and additional ones. Yes because it will be better to get into education. Because people can stay in school if they want to.		

Yes because after you're 19, you may want to go to college.
 Because it will be better to communicate.
 I don't know what it means.
 Yes because they give us the chance to choose sixth form.

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 100	No: 26	Don't know: 38
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Easy to get to. Easy transport. Good opportunity. Because it will help them. Because it is local. It depends on what they want to do. Because it means that they have to stay at school. Some want a good life and some aren't bothered. Depends if they want to stay. If it is there people will go for further education. People might not want to stay here. It depends on their choice. Because it is local. Because it is local Because it is local. Yes as it isn't long to go. Because you don't have to pay to travel to another one. Because it would be closer than other sixth forms. Because some learners might not want to go or understand. Just because it's local doesn't mean more people will come. They may not provide the subject they want. Because many of people's relations are already at different 6th forms and they want to go to the same ones. Some people might not want to go. Yes good education. To get a better education. Easier for people in the area. I think more people might go because it's local. I think that if there is a local sixth form, some people might be encouraged to stay on. Yes, some people. Some people go to sixth form to be with their own age and older not to be with Year 7's People will not need to travel as far and it would be easier to attend the sixth form. It will encourage more people to study further. It would be good because you won't have to go anywhere else. Yes because some people will want to go to a Sixth Form. It will to some to learn more. Yes because they would know their way around already. Because other people might not have this opportunity and might want to go. Easier for the people around the area. I think there are better options available. I think a lot of people will anyway. Some people like school and want a good job, others don't. Yes because they can continue to only have to go along the road for education.</p>		

Means pupils don't have to travel as far to another 6th form or college.
 It's local
 Because it's close.
 Lots of opportunities and information.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 51	No: 11	Don't know: 59
Comments in support of your answer: As children get more education and they can get a good job. Because I think that we should have more opportunities. They'll be with their friends. Some people need extra help. The SEN department in this school is very bad and would need improving if a 6 th form was to be made.		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 53	No: 14	Don't know: 85
Comments in support of your answer: Don't know, I haven't read the consultation. Gives you a target. I haven't read the consultation. A lot of people have grades. A lot of people have goals. Yes as a lot of people have goals to meet. Because they are very good and would support it. I'm not sure if it's a good idea. Don't know what it means. Don't know what it means.		

7. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 19	No: 107	Not a choice but chosen: 5
Comments: Have more subjects like which go in science. Bigger school. Some people won't want to go. The possibilities that doing a sixth form will be great and you will be helping people can get higher grades. You will be helping people who don't have enough money to get a bus to come. Would sixth form be like college? Would it be like college? Sixth form, trips to jobs wanted, pick teacher.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

Need water fountain in PE block, water machine
 Some people might not want to go to it from this school and they already know where they want to go.
 Will you build a little building to make the school bigger as it is small?
 There will be too many people in this school and you will have to build another building.
 Make corridors bigger, extend the building.
 Only come in school for lessons.
 Not to start school until 9.30 in the morning until 1.10pm.

8 Response Form (Learners Year 10)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 112	No: 7	Don't know: 9
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Might be good for other people but not me. It's something I would be interested in Because people want different things and some might not want to go to Sixth Form. I think the Sixth Form is a good idea and I would be interested in going. I said yes because it would be good to get a better education Because I would be willing to go if there was sports. Good idea. Some would be interested. Yes it will encourage more people to take further education. Some students may remain here for further education. For further education. Because it gives people a better chance at a GCSE. It's no good. Too harsh. Yes because it will help people from around the area to get a better education. Easier access to higher learning. Don't have to travel far. I don't want to leave school. I think I could get more out of sixth form. It means that people can stay local rather than Sunderland or Newcastle. It will help people who have issues with travel and direction. More options to stay in further education. Good to have a Sixth Form nearby. The school is too small. For convenience. Additional education on the same location will comfort new 6th form learners as they are in a familiar environment. Because the school will get a good reputation. I think it will help students to get better jobs and a better future. Because I think it will help people More local. I think a lot of people would use it. I think a lot of people would use it after they left school. Easier to access, and there isn't really any need to travel. I would come.</p>		

Because some people want to go to college and don't want to waste 3 years.
 I think it will be a good idea because then the sixth form could run with age limit up.
 I think that it would be a great idea as I know a lot of people would benefit from it.
 Yes it would give students a chance to stay and gives them more options.
 It is a good thing but there are already colleges out there that take in 17 to 19 year olds so what might be the point.
 Locals will not have to travel for miles.
 Because sixth form will we a good idea.
 I'd like to stay at this school.
 I think it will be a good choice for future learners.
 I think it's a good idea however personally, I would not go.
 For a better education.
 Because further education is important.
 Because I think further education is important.
 Because you don't have to get a bus so far away.
 I don't think it's a good idea unless you have a choice to stay on or not.
 It gives people another option in the area.
 It seems to be a good idea, however there doesn't appear to be enough room for the students they're expecting.
 It's a good idea for others but not for me.
 Local 6th form for learners.
 I think it could benefit certain people.
 The school is not big enough and is not going to be as good as others.

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 102	No: 3	Don't know: 22
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Good Range</p> <p>I would be interested in the range of courses.</p> <p>There is a good range of subjects available.</p> <p>There's a wide range of lessons available. I'm hoping to go to Durham Sixth Form. However if my second application was to here, I would choose to continue on my learning of History, French and Media Studies.</p> <p>There was a lot of choices that you could study and a good range of different ones.</p> <p>I agree because it will be good.</p> <p>Because they have a good range.</p> <p>Good range.</p> <p>The options should be attached to this page.</p> <p>Don't know what it is.</p> <p>I don't have enough information.</p> <p>More A levels.</p> <p>Wider variation.</p> <p>I'd like to know that this is available to me as I live close to the school.</p> <p>I think Dance should be on the curriculum.</p> <p>Yes but I think Dance should be on the lesson plans.</p> <p>I do think the curriculum is good but dance would be a good thing.</p> <p>Again, I don't know whether it should be built so I'm in two minds about it.</p> <p>A wide variety.</p> <p>Because they'll like it.</p> <p>They're good.</p> <p>They have a wide variety.</p>		

There are varied choice of subject.
 Better options and wide range of options.
 Because they changed some that most people wanted to go on.
 There is a wide range of lessons to choose from.
 Yes there is a wide range of lessons to choose from.
 Good variety.
 I thought there would be a lot of courses that would be very interesting.
 Good variety of courses.
 I would be interested in the courses.
 Because I would like to do a lot more of a range of subjects.
 Because I would really like to do psychology and a few more subjects.
 I'm not sure what they are.
 There is more to choose from at other sixth forms.

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 101	No: 10	Don't know: 19
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Maybe some people but not everybody. Yes to get more qualifications. Some people just might not be interested in staying in education. It is close and they don't have to travel far. They are also familiar with the school. I think it will because more people will enjoy that. Because they would prefer to stay in 6th form which is nearby. So people don't need to travel far to get to Sixth Form. As more people have access to the sixth form. Because they may enjoy the lessons. It's up to them. Because they will not need to go to other places. Not far to travel, can stay at home and still get higher learning opportunities. Some may not want to leave. Less time and effort spent on travel. I'm not them. Easier to get to for some people. Because learners who want to carry on in education will do that and this might encourage them. Closer for people. Closer. They would want to go to a sixth form nearer to home. Because it is there choice. I do because it will give a chance for people who want to stay close to home. I think it would because it would be easier to travel rather than to Sunderland etc. Yes it is less travel for learners. Yes of course. Local education is ten times better than travelling. I'm sure people would rather come back here than go somewhere else. Because they might not like school. It would be easier for some people. Higher education is important. It depends whether or not they would prefer a new start. The education will be closer. It keeps them intrigued in education. Because it is local and it will encourage more people.</p>		

They know there is a place close enough to go.
 Yes as pupils can have a chance to stay in the area and you can have further education.
 For further education.
 Because people who have already come to this school know it and they know how to get here.
 I think it will as it is just as close as school.
 People who want to go into jobs straight after school, they will still do that if there is a sixth form in the area.
 I personally don't think students especially from our school would choose to stay.
 As they don't have to travel far.
 They may want a change.
 Because it will be just like walking/travelling to school.
 Local and know teachers, friends etc. New lessons make it interesting.
 Travel fees would be low.
 Because they may not have to travel as far.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 66	No: 5	Don't know: 17
Comments in support of your answer: It would be good for kids to go there from the area. Because it will be nearby and they know where it is. It would be ideal. This varies to their lives/quality of education. Further education. Don't know what transition means. Because there are better places to go.		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 103	No: 7	Don't know: 20
Comments in support of your answer: I don't know what it means. I tend to disagree with schooling systems. It would give the school a great publicity. Further education. Because further education is important. Further education. Help you get good grades for jobs. Because local people who can't get lifts to far away places can go the Houghton Sixth Form. It gives people another option.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 18	No: 77	
Comments: Suitably qualified teachers? We need accurate information about what these courses contain,		

Really would like to do hair and beauty.

Swimming Pool?

I think that a range of courses should be there but also Dance should be on because I know many people would go. Also I think we shouldn't have a uniform - this will discourage some learners.

I definitely think dance should be an option, I know I would take it. I think it is a good idea and many students would take the chance to come here.

Not enough room - new building would be ideal straight away not within a couple of years as many people will not want to come therefore it would be unsuccessful.

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

Hair and Beauty.

I think that the next level of BTEC Dance should be available in the sixth form because I know a lot of people would have to take a half time course at college.

8 Response Form (Staff)

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 9 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 56	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>A 6th form will greatly benefit the learners, staff and community. Raising aspirations. This will without doubt raise aspirations and attainment. I strongly believe that the provision of a sixth form would have an extremely positive impact on key stage 3 and 4 learners. Excellent opportunity for kids and staff. Yes, the more pupils staying on in education the better for the area. The sixth form will be positive for the local area. Inadequate 6th form provision in the area stops many learners staying on. Great for aspirations. Think it provides a good opportunity for the learners in the Houghton and surrounding area. Valuable asset to the community. Will benefit children greatly as well as school.</p>		

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 56	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Covers a good mix of levels and academic/vocational. The range of provision is suitable for learner of all academic ability and interest. Good range offered with capacity to expand. Yes, its wide ranging and will increase with time. Learners in year 11 and below will undoubtedly look up to the sixth form, and this will present the staff with a huge opportunity to raise their expectations and change attitudes to higher education. I think there is a gap. Yes I feel the range of provision suits the needs of a wide range of learners. Focus across broad curriculum. It'll do for a start. Conversations with current year 10 learners have highlighted that many of them are considering a move to further education to pursue courses that are listed. A good range and level of courses to suit all.</p>		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 54	No	Don't know: 1
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>A lot of learners are comfortable here and would like to continue/fear of change. I think it will encourage a greater up take of AS/A2 level courses as well as re-sits as some learners are put off by a new environment and travel. I believe it will not only encourage learners to continue their education, I think it will help those who might drop out after the start of their course. Lots of learners express interest in staying here.</p>		

Most certainly. A 6th form would provide extremely positive role models and encourage higher expectations throughout the school.
 It's a familiar known environment.
 Many do not stay on - I think that with a 6th form many more will stay on.
 Learners at present travel very long distances to gain post 16 education.
 Ease of access.
 Due to commuting and lack of support at sixth form/college there are a number of ex HKSC learners who have either failed to attend or dropped out of further education. Having a local provision with the support outlined in the proposal would help to remove these barriers.
 Especially those who don't like change and are more vulnerable might choose to further their education at HKSC.

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 18	No	Don't know: 1
Comments in support of your answer: SEN learners particularly struggle with change I think it will provide a supportive continuation of SEN provision and enable vulnerable SEN learners to remain in post 16 education. The current set up is very good and I am sure transition will be just as good.		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 49	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: The aims, rationale and challenges are very relevant, particularly encouraging the levels of literacy and numeracy. Great way forward. A number of learners have low aspirations when it comes to FE. They also lack the confidence to access it. I believe having the provision at HKSC would certainly give more learners in the area to not only access post 16 education but also succeed in it.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes: 6	No: 31	
Comments: Having spent my school career at HKSC I understand from a personal perspective how necessary a sixth form is to the learners currently at HKSC. Having worked closely with learners/parents and carers and having discussed provision after leaving school in the past I believe that if a sixth form provision was approved it would benefit the local community hugely. Staff training to deliver courses. A lot of families in the area struggle financially. I am often informed that parents were unable to send their child to school as they did not have the money. I believe that for some families the cost of sending their children to another site would be too big a barrier and that they would therefore choose to opt out of post 16 education. Parking.		

Purely on a personal level - the impact a 6th form and its related assessments/exams will have on my workload. It's a positive move which is welcomed (ie 6th form) but I feel that I would need support in role.
Long time in coming! It will benefit all learners. As a teacher of PSE/career I know how much learners want to stay with us.

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

AS critical thinking

Response Form (Stakeholders) - Also see the attached written responses

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 9 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes: 12	No: 5	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer: Good opportunity for students. Need for post 16 education is high in local area. Too many leavers either drop out of education or attend 'out of city' locations. Local provision of a 6th form in this coalfield area is key to economic development, housing and regional retention of skilled personnel. There is currently no post-16 provision in the area and not surprisingly the staying-on rate is low. I would have rather stayed here till I was 18/19.</p>		

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes: 11	No: 6	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer: Proposal gives a broad choice to students and covers all levels and ability. This broad range of provision is just what the area needs.</p>		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes: 14	No: 1	Don't know: 1
<p>Comments in support of your answer: Creating availability also. Having worked in 11-18 and 11-16 I know that retention post 16 is better when in 11-18. Current college system is visibly failing the Houghton and Hetton areas. It is much easier to retain students in education with a seamless, onsite, local 6th form provision. We have far too many NEETs in the area and having to travel so far and leave their friends undoubtedly puts many off continuing their education. It may encourage some learners to remain in education, the learners that care about their future.</p>		

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision
 Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes: 8	No	Don't know:
<p>Comments in support of your answer: This is a key provision within the proposal and retains students in mainline education.</p>		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes: 13	No: 2	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: Conforms to all government policies and guidelines and delivers it in a well managed proven environment. The aims coincide with national and local policies for post-16 provision and should be widely welcomed. Will help local students for a better future and less travelling to sixth form education which is not possible at this time.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?


Yes: 7 *	No: 6	
Comments: The schools development has been continuous, constantly improving and achieves consistent audit reports of an excellent quality. The management team is recognised as one of the best in the north, the resources/funding are well managed and structured to support the schools development plans fully. This proposal ticks all the boxes, is sustainable, low cost, deliverable in the shortest timescales and conforms to local requirements going forward. It is almost 20 years since there has been any post-16 provision in Houghton and there can be no doubt that the aspirations and achievement of the town have suffered as a result. These proposals are long overdue.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

None - this is the best answer to post-16 provision for the Houghton area and has very broad support from the local community.
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* Please note: one comment has not been included as it refers directly to a member of staff on an unrelated matter.

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No 	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: The broader aims from the perspective can be achieved through joint collaborative sixth form provision which will have additional benefits for learners.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes	No	
Comments: Whilst the feasibility study undertaken was not a consultation, I was disappointed not to be asked about the pre-existing provision and how that is planned to develop.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

<p>The Headways Sixth Form is a formal partnership that Houghton Keping School has an open invitation to join as a full partner (without any reservations). The Headways operates with tutors from the partner schools delivering pastoral guidance and post 16 courses (vocational, AS & A2). In September 2010 local delivery is planned for most courses, and with the addition of Houghton Keping to the partnership this would further strengthen the offer. Where minority subject are not viable students will have access to courses at the Bede Sixth Form with all transportation provided. In this way The Headways will be able to offer the widest possible range of courses to the learners from the coalfields area. In addition it is envisaged that where particular strengths lie within partner institutions they may take a lead in delivery for The Headways students.</p> <p>This partnership offers the best option for developing post 16 learning in the area. It is predicated on what is best for the learners, which will then define the operation and structure of the provision. The students will see the consistency of approach from some of their familiar teachers with tutorial and pastoral care being provided by staff they know and trust.</p>

We believe it will restrict choice and provide a narrow curriculum offer and experience for young people. The partnership has effective transition tutor arrangements and young people can access outstanding Additional Learning Support post-16 This support includes regional specialisms - e.g. Visual Impairment support. The partnership provides a better range of curriculum and progression routes for learners with SEN.

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: We do not believe that the development of this sixth form is in line with the vision outlined in the City's 14-19 strategy. It is not a collaborative model, we do not believe it will promote impartial advice and guidance and, most importantly, we do not believe it will provide young people with choice and diversity and small numbers may result in a poor educational experience.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Comments: As part of the 14-19 strategy in the City to increase post-16 participation and to provide a focus for the Government's 14-19 agenda, within what is a 'tertiary' City, the College and the Local Authority have committed themselves to the development of genuinely shared sixth forms across the City. This development is now almost complete with the establishment of Bede Sixth Form Academy, Usworth Sixth Form College, St Peter's Sixth Form College and the newly established Headways Sixth Form College for the Houghton/Hetton area of the City. This development, in partnership with the sixth form provision at St Aidan's and St Anthony's, provides the City with a planned, sustainable, cost effective provision across the City, offering high quality comprehensive provision at all levels of learning across the City. Understanding the complexities of sixth form provision as we do, it is difficult to understand how the proposal outlined in the consultation document could be delivered without the benefits of a substantial student cohort, which is not the plan under the present proposals. We believe that these proposals will restrict choice for young people and provide a poor education experience due to very small class sizes. The curriculum offer outlined in the consultation could only constitute 'an offer', it could not be deliverable in practice as it would prove too costly. This, we believe, will result in a much narrower curriculum choice with young people taking up a second or third choice of preferred options. For this reason we do not believe this development will improve or increase student choice at 16, indeed we believe it will restrict choice.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

The College, in partnership with Hetton school and with Seaham school in Durham, has launched a new sixth form called Headways. The sixth form has been developed in response to the need for sixth form provision in the Houghton/Hetton area. The sixth form will be located in the Bede Academy in year one, with transport and some

provision being provided with the school. The partnership delivers 26 'A' levels and the full range of vocational from entry to level 3. This development, we believe, will offer a real option for young people in the Hetton/Houghton area. We are exploring options for premises in the area in order to further develop the sixth form.

We would urge you to reconsider your position and invite you again to join Hetton, Seaham and ourselves in the development of this sixth form which is designed to benefit children of all abilities and backgrounds from Hetton/Houghton and provide real choice and diversity for young people.

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes	No	Don't know X
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Participation post 16 has risen across the country in a variety of education and training contexts. It is difficult to say, with certainty, whether these rates of increase would have been affected positively or negatively had different options for delivery been pursued in any individual area.</p> <p>The Sunderland model is predicated on the idea that a dispersed model is the most appropriate model for the City's Sixth Form provision and that this model can promote increased participation. The collaborative V1th Forms are currently located in 3 areas of the City, at Usworth, at St Peter's and at Bede. Until 2008, the Bede Campus accommodated two Sixth Forms, the St Peter's Sixth Form and the Bede Sixth Form. From September 2009, there is an intention to locate the Headways Sixth Form and the Bede Sixth Form at the Bede Campus. Participation post 16 has increased year on year within this arrangement. The College provides a "non denominational" provision within which chaplaincy services can be delivered to those students who seek them. The faith Sixth Forms provide 3 distinct learning environments in that 2 are single sex and 1 is co-educational. The collaborative V1th Forms have gained the support of virtually all of the schools. As far as we are aware, only Houghton Kepier is seeking to implement a separate arrangement. In Sunderland, the Academies have also been developed as "up to 16" institutions in recognition and support of the established model.</p> <p>Given the degree of choice that currently exists, we do not believe that there is a need to extend the range of V1th Forms serving the City beyond these 7.</p>		

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision
Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p>		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes X qualified in comments	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Whilst we support the objectives of the proposal in respect of encouraging participation, supporting achievement and enhancing progression, and whilst we also support the adoption of the 14-19 Strategy's Vision, strategic priorities and challenges as the basis for developing the proposal, we are not convinced that this development is an appropriate response to progressing those priorities and meeting the challenges. As stated earlier, our primary concerns relate to the position of this development within the Sunderland context, the falling demographics, and the need to ensure breadth and quality of provision within a value for money model. This last relies to a significant degree on being able to bring together a critical mass of learners.</p>		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes X	No	
Comments: We would be interested to understand more clearly why the school remains reluctant to explore the collaborative model as an option for developing VIth Form provision for young people in the coalfields area.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

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Response Form

Please return any response to the school by 3.30pm on Friday 17 July 2009.

Please circle, are you a:

Learner

Parent/Carer

Staff member

Stakeholder: please state

Sunderland Secondary

School _____

Name: Dr Ed Yeates

email: Edward.yeates@venerablebede.co.uk

Address: The Venerable Bede Scjchool, Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		
Fully support the proposal, it will provide additional choice and diversity for the young people in Houghton and the surrounding areas		

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		
Builds on the needs of the young people and includes evidence of partnership working with others		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		
It should improve both recruitment and retention rates and impact on the number of NEETS currently within the city		

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision
Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes	No	Don't know

Comments in support of your answer:

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: A well devised proposal		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes	No	
Comments:		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

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Response Form

Please return any response to the school by 3.30pm on Friday 17 July 2009.

Please circle, are you a:

Learner Parent/Carer

Staff member Stakeholder: please state

Director of Children's Services

Name: Dr Helen Paterson email: helen'.paterson@sunderland.gov.uk
Address: PO Box 101, Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>I do not support the proposal for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 for the following reasons:</p> <p>This development would challenge, undermine and potentially destabilise the current 14-19 arrangements across the City.</p> <p>I do not believe that the proposal would result in a reasonable curriculum range for the youngsters from Houghton Kepier School.</p>		

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>Given that I do not support the proposal this question does not apply. However, the proposed curriculum outlined in the documentation is not affordable and therefore not feasible.</p> <p>I cannot locate an evidence based analysis by the consultant who carried out the feasibility study, nor a conclusion as to what is and isn't feasible.</p>		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes	No	Don't know
<p>Comments in support of your answer:</p> <p>A full range of appropriate 14 -19 learning pathways delivered collaboratively to the youngsters of the City will encourage youngsters to remain in education and training. The 14-19 Partnership in Sunderland was recently judged by OFSTED as having outstanding capacity to deliver the Government's 14-19 Reforms and so it is through this partnership provision that we will collectively increase the number of learners engaged in learning post 16.</p>		

4. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		

5. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer: Clearly, I could not disagree with an aim to reduce NEET and provide first class learning opportunities. However, a single school working alone cannot expand the range of educational and training opportunities. An alternative method of governance does not increase choice and diversity for young people. There are opportunities in the current collaborative arrangements for staff from schools to teach post 16.		

6. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes	No	
Comments: 1. We have exceptionally strong and mature partnership working in Sunderland and I am disappointed to note that the formal 14-19 Partnership has not been included as a consultee. I would have expected this partnership to be a key consultee and I understand that there is a sense of disappointment and concern that this has not been the case, particularly given that Section 2 of the Rationale aligns the thinking of the school with the vision of the 14-19 Partnership.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

<p>In 2006 the governing body of Houghton Kepier School agreed to the proposal below and a joint committee was formed. Some months later Houghton Kepier decided to leave the partnership. Since then, Hetton School and Seaham School from County Durham have continued to work together and have established a joint sixth form with City of Sunderland College – ‘Headways Sixth Form’. An appropriate site for this provision, which is temporarily located at Bede Centre on Durham Road, is actively being sought in the vicinity of the original preference. I understand that the Seaham- Hetton Partnership are keen for Houghton Kepier to rejoin them and I would willingly broker a meeting to re-establish this link. I believe that this option would be in the best interests of the learners from Houghton Kepier School for reasons such as viability, choice, fit for purpose accommodation etc.</p> <p>Original proposal “The preferred option would be to develop 16-19 provision on land to the rear of the McEwan Centre and on a corner of the current Hetton school site, adjacent to Hazard Lane. These</p>
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centres would have separate entrances (both from B1284) and be clearly separate from both Hetton and Houghton Kepier Schools. '

Response Form

Please return any response to the school by 3.30pm on Friday 17 July 2009.

Please circle, are you a: Learner Parent/Carer

Staff member Stakeholder: please state
Chair of 14-19 Partnership

Name: Lynda Brown

email: Lynda.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

Address: PO Box 101, Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN

1. Do you support the proposals for Houghton Kepier Sports College to increase the upper age limit to 19 to enable the provision of sixth form education?

Yes	No	Don't know
The 14-19 City-wide Partnership does not support the proposal on the basis that such an addition would be inconsistent with the fundamental basis of the partnership. There is a very real risk that the proposal will undermine the strong collaborative arrangements that are in place to deliver choice and quality provision to all of the young people 14-19 in the City.		

2. Do you support the proposed range of provision?

Yes	No	Don't know
The proposed range of provision set out in the documents is not viable. Much of the provision listed is available from other providers in the City.		

3. Do you agree that local sixth form provision will encourage learners to remain in education?

Yes <i>*in part and with the proviso below</i>	No	Don't know
The partnership has always supported the development of local provision. Sixth Form provision has been available in the area at Shiney Row since 1989. Provision will only encourage learners to remain in education if it meets need, offers genuine progression opportunities, is part of a full and complementary programme, is affordable and is delivered from fit for purpose facilities. The feasibility study does not properly consider these issues and there is no detailed cost analysis. On the information that is available the proposed curriculum offer does not appear viable.		

3. Parents/Carers of learners with SEN provision

Do you agree that sixth form provision at HKSC will support learners in the transition to post 16 education?

Yes	No	Don't know
Comments in support of your answer:		

4. Do you support the Rationale and Aims as outlined in the consultation?

Yes	No	Don't know
In that the aims and rationale include a commitment to offering high quality learning opportunities the Partnership would, of course agree. However, the failure to include the 14-19 Partnership in the consultation process is a cause for concern, particularly given the reference to the current draft strategy.		

5. Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you think we should consider?

Yes	No	
Comments:		
The 14-19 Partnership would wish, once again, to invite Houghton Kepier Sports College to reconsider and rejoin the existing partnership of schools in the area that is putting in place collaborative provision for the young people of Seaham, Houghton-le Spring, Hetton and surrounding areas.		

7. If you have any alternative proposals please summarise them below.

See above

Matthew Bryan
Rugby Football Union
Gateshead International Stadium
Neilson Road
Gateshead
NE10 0EF
Tel: (0191) 477 2959
Fax: (0191) 477 2959
Mob: 07711 185219
E-mail: matthewbryan@rfu.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Following recent consultations regarding Houghton Kepier Sports College's proposal to raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education, I am delighted to offer endorsement and support of their proposals. The increased provision of sixth form education fits well with our strategic aims of involving young adults in lifelong activity. In addition, being able to provide opportunities at a more local level will also ensure that we succeed in our aim of placing young adults with local clubs.

If you require any further information then please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Kind Regards



Matthew Bryan
Rugby Development Officer (Durham)



This matter is being dealt with

by: Michelle Meldrum
Direct Line: (0191) 525 5208
Fax: (0191) 525 5201
E-mail: michelle.meldrum@gentoogroup.com
Your Ref:
Our Ref: MM
Date: 18 June 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I can confirm that Gentoo Group fully support the proposal to introduce 6th form facilities at Houghton Kepier Sports College.

We feel this is an excellent opportunity for the young people attending Houghton Kepier to continue their learning in surroundings they are familiar with. A 6th form facility will also present them with an opportunity to further develop their learning relationships with current peers and tutors.

From a personal perspective, as a former pupil at Houghton Kepier, I did not have the opportunity to progress my 6th form study within this establishment which caused me and my fellow students immense disappointment at the time.

As well as the proposal offering benefits at a personal level for students, there are a number of added community benefits a 6th form facility would offer.

At Gentoo, we are looking forward to this exciting development in an area where many of our customers will experience the benefits of a 6th form facility.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Meldrum

Deputy Director (Gentoo Sunderland)



Durham
University

School of Education

Shaped by the past, creating the future

June 24 2009

To whom it may concern

The University of Durham as a Trust partner with Houghton Kerpier Sports College, fully support the proposal to raise the upper age limit to provide 6th form education. As a University we are committed to raising the expectations and aspirations of young people, especially in our local area.

Professor Lynn Newton
Chair of the Board of Studies
School of Education
Durham University

Leazes Road
Durham, DH1 1TA

Telephone +44 (0)191 334 2000 Fax +44 (0)191 334 8311
www.durham.ac.uk/education

Judith Forster

From: john.hallworth@edcom.sunderland.gov.uk on behalf of
john.hallworth@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Sent: 29 June 2009 13:46
To: Judith Forster
Subject: Sixth Form Consultation
Attachments: john_hallworth.vcf

Dear Mr Forster

I wish to have recorded my strong objections to the proposal to raise the upper age limit at Houghton Kepier School and offer post 16 education as :

1. The proposal does not enhance the provision already available across the city as there currently exists sufficient 16 - 19 provision in school sixth forms.
2. The curriculum offer available elsewhere is far broader than that proposed by the Houghton Kepier 16 - 19 programme. Therefore the proposal limits choice for any student attending Houghton Kepier rather than extending choice.
3. The proposal risks long term damage to neighbouring schools by distorting intake profiles and drawing children from primary schools not partnered with Houghton Kepier.
4. The proposal as it stands with the range of subjects on offer and cohort size would appear to lack viability as such small groups could not be sustained. Either that or the curriculum offer would effectively be much reduced from that stated.
5. The proposal is counter to the wish of the majority of secondary schools in the city partnership. This partnership working Houghton Kepier has hitherto professed to support.
6. The proposal contradicts the local authority 14 - 19 area wide development plan which does not support additional school based sixth forms. This is evidenced by the extensive and protracted negotiations with DCSF to ensure the new academies are 11 - 16 institutions.

Yours sincerely

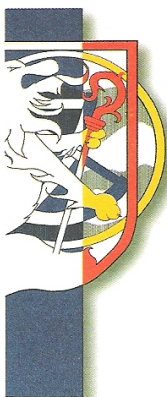
J Hallworth
Headteacher
Thornhill School

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29/06/2009



FARRINGTON COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE & Bede Sixth Form Academy

EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Allendale Road, Sunderland SR3 3EL Tel. 0191-553-6013 Fax. 0191-553-6017
farrington.school@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS:
CLLR. P. GIBSON
HEADTEACHER: MR D. C. THORNTON B.A (HONS)

CITY OF SUNDERLAND
CIVIC CENTRE, SR2 7DN
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES
TELEPHONE 0191 5531000



14 JUL 2009



13th July 2009

Mrs Hyland
Headteacher
Houghton Kepier Sports College
Dairy Lane
Houghton le Spring
DH4 5BH

Dear Mrs Hyland and Chair of Governors,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposal that Houghton Kepier Sports College raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education. I object to the proposal and offer the following information for your consideration.

My objection is not to the provision of sixth form education on school sites in principle, rather that in the current educational setting within Sunderland opening a sixth form provision at HKSC would not be appropriate and could indeed be damaging for the wider educational partnership in Sunderland.

I am sure you are aware that the development of a sixth form provision on the HKSC site is not supported by the majority of secondary schools within the city. Many Headteachers and Governors agree that the proposal could have a destabilising influence on partnership working across the secondary sector. A number of schools regard this proposal as a threat to the current status quo and a disregard for the existing post 16 arrangements and framework. Put simply, if the HKSC proposal were to go ahead other schools may feel forced to follow. If that were the case I believe the current post 16 arrangements in Sunderland would end with a consequent detrimental effect on the majority of young people across our city.

For many years the majority of Sunderland's Community Secondary schools have agreed with the principle that they would remain 11-16 schools. Joint sixth forms would be provided by clusters of schools working in collaboration with the City of Sunderland College. Four new joint sixth forms have been established in recent years with the latest being the Headways sixth form for the Coalfields area. Each sixth form offers a wide range of courses and reflects many of the values and principles which you aspire to achieve in your consultation document. I believe that the new sixth forms have succeeded in providing high quality education for our students and provide equality of opportunity for all. Schools are very much involved in the running of the sixth forms with joint Governance arrangements and Associate Principal roles given to Heads. Students who attend give very positive accounts of their experiences and are successful in their studies.

The current arrangements were encouraged by the Tomlinson Report and the Local Authority 14-19 Area Development Plan. Both documents promote partnership working 14-19. Indeed, the desire for schools in Sunderland to adhere to the principals of partnership working influenced the 'Sunderland Model' for the new academies opening within the city. The Academies have agreed to operate within the existing 16-19 partnership arrangements. The concern would be that were HKSC to go ahead with its proposals, the new academies may well be forced to review that commitment with a consequent effect on their neighbouring schools.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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I am not convinced that the HKSC proposal would provide 'an alternative model of sixth form provision' as suggested in the proposal. The proposal details a very similar model of provision to that already provided within the existing sixth forms. Indeed, the course offer replicates much of that which is already provided within the partner sixth forms. The stated aims and rationale of the proposed sixth form reflect those already established within the existing partnerships. I question the extent to which the HKSC proposal would be unique or different or be a 'more diverse, varied and relevant learning experience'?

I have some practical concerns relating to the viability of a sixth form provision at HKSC. Falling secondary school roles across Sunderland including the coalfields area has inevitably reduced the number of students looking for post 16 provision. In some subjects for example languages, there are currently concerns that there are too few students to make courses viable within existing institutions. I believe this will continue to be the case in 'shortage' subjects and that to open an additional facility at HKSC will threaten the viability of existing courses in other sixth forms. Given the reduced current demand I would question the need to add further 'supply' by opening a new provision.

The statutory changes for schools to provide training and education for all 16-19 year olds in the near future will of course create some additional demand particularly for level 1 and 2 courses. However, partnership working offers the best opportunity to provide a sustainable and viable range of courses for those students. Schools are currently developing specialist provision in partnership with COSC to ensure high quality courses at level 1, 2 and 3. This provision is best provided and sustained by combining resources and 'pooling' students to ensure course viability. The HKSC proposal replicates that provision and arguably, offers nothing new. The student numbers given in the HKSC proposal give cause for concern since it is difficult to see how the full range of courses quoted in the proposal could be maintained. I would expect some reduction in the offer made to HKSC students given the low numbers generated, unless of course there is an expectation that courses will be supplemented by students from outside HKSC. This would threaten the viability of the courses and provision currently being offered.

Further, the proposal would appear to suggest that the schools falling 11-16 role and consequent reduction in budget, could in some part be 'off set' by the increase in students numbers post 16. The proposal suggests that spare capacity in staff and resources intended for 11-16 delivery could be re-directed to post 16 provision. It is my understanding that this would not be acceptable given that revenue and capital funding intended for 11-16 provision should be spent on 11-16 students and not used for post 16 provision. This would seriously call into question the proposals set out in the feasibility study, in particular the assertion that no capital funding would be required since the original capital funding was awarded for 11-16 students.

The benefits of sixth form working for staff and students, is accepted. However those benefits already exist in the current situation where school staff teach in the joint sixth forms and continue their professional association with student's post 16.

The wishes of parents are of great importance when considering the range of provision a school makes for learners. In this case however, I am concerned that the information given to parents about post 16 opportunities has been limited. I would ask that full information about the current partnership arrangements with COSC is provided to parents, staff and students to enable a full understanding of all the options open to HKSC students within the existing arrangements. The feasibility study appears simply to be a justification for the schools desire to open a sixth form rather than a full consideration of all the factors involved.

I would urge the Governors at HKSC to consider again the offer to join the Headways Sixth form, or indeed any of the existing sixth form arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Mr D.C. Thornton
Headteacher

Mrs S Hyland,
Houghton Kepier Sports College
Dairy Lane
Houghton Le Spring
DH4 5BH

08 JUL 2013

Consultation on a proposal to raise the upper age limit to provide a sixth form education

There are many challenges to engaging young people in long-term successful education and many solutions to achieve this aim. Within our City we have a shared vision, as alluded to in your Rationale and Aims, within our 14-19 partnership, which includes our Community Schools, Academies, denominational sixth forms, The City of Sunderland College with our local area sixth forms alongside your own school. We believe that strength lies in keeping that position stable and managing the partnership for our City. Houghton Kepier Sports College has acknowledged that its' students benefit from that partnership working and that they make their contribution to that collaborative partnership.

Having read and considered the documentation we would like to object on the following grounds:

We are sure that at every school parents express the view that they would like their child to stay on the same site. In reality the curriculum offer at KS5 would be limited for many as demonstrated by your own survey results which show some very small groups such as German, Textiles and Politics at AS/A2 BTEC. The feasibility of the KS5 proposed college based curriculum offer, is in our view, unconvincing. Similarly the vocational offer and your stated intention to continue partnership working would still require some movement from the site, thus negating the same site view.

The COSC have been in talks to establish a joint sixth form for some time and this option would offer your young people more options, more flexibility and offer greater opportunity for a personalised curriculum at 16+ for all young learners within the Houghton Kepier Sports College community.

A real and fully focused commitment to the partnership of schools would, in our view, provide a more efficient and effective mode for delivering the high standards and the extensive provision you suggest is required for Houghton Kepier students. We believe this is the case both educationally and financially.



Oxclose Community School

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A wider, broader view of provision across the city would provide a commonality of provision that would deliver the equity and excellence desired for all young learners. Houghton Kepier's plans are rightly focussed on the localised needs perceived by the college but we believe they pay insufficient regard to the impact such a localised provision will have across the City. The perceived benefit to learners within Houghton Kepier Sports College are put before the possible damage such plans may have to learners across the City.

Reassurances regarding the College's commitment to partnership and collaboration working across the City inevitably appear to us as flawed. A true partnership is about working collectively with shared aims and purposes with every member of the partnership working with equal vigour and focus. A partner that appears to be both in and out of a partnership effectively undermines and weakens the provision for everyone else.

Many young people travel distances for concerts, sports opportunities, shopping as well as meeting friends so travel is often not an issue for them in these circumstances. Although we accept that costs can be a challenge, there will still be costs for some regardless of the site of post 16 provision. From a personal development position many young people are ready to move on and welcome the fresh start that college offers. This is mirrored at the end of Y6 when young people have 'outgrown their environment' and need to move to a new facility, many at Y11 need a new start, particularly those who have not had a positive experience. If we shelter young people to KS5 the challenge to move to HE can become more problematic.

In conclusion, we strongly disagree with the plans for Houghton Kepier Sports College to raise the upper age limit to provide a sixth form education. Our objections are firmly based on the belief that the City partnerships of schools and COSC has demonstrated its success in delivering high quality educational provision for all 16 years olds across the City and our desire to see that continue for all schools, all partners and all students wherever they may be located.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A C Cunningham
Headteacher



Mrs L Williams
Chair of Governors



Judith Forster

From: Sheila Palmerley [Sheila.Palmerley@durham.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 July 2009 10:17
To: Judith Forster
Subject: Response to consultation

Dear Ms Forster

I am responding on behalf of Durham County Council to the consultation on the school's proposal to raise the upper age limit to provide sixth form education.

Having read the consultation document and the rationale which has led to the proposal, unfortunately we are not in a position to support this proposal.

We believe that implementing the proposal would have a negative impact on traditional recruitment patterns to County Durham schools with sixth form provision, most significantly at Durham Johnston School and Durham Gilesgate Sports College and Sixth Form Centre.

Thank you for circulating the consultation documents and providing us with the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Palmerley
School Places Strategy Manager

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17/07/2009



FARRINGDON COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE & Bede Sixth Form Academy

EXCELLENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

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farringdon.school@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS:
CLL. P. GIBSON
HEADTEACHER: MR D. C. THORNTON B.A (HONS)

CITY OF SUNDERLAND
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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES
TELEPHONE 0191 5531000



22 JUL 2009

16th July 2009

Mrs Hyland
Headteacher
Houghton Kepier Sports College
Dairy Lane
Houghton le Spring
DH4 5BH

Dear Mrs Hyland and Chair of Governors,

The Governing Body of Farringdon Community Sports College unanimously oppose the proposal to raise the upper age limit at Houghton Kepier Sports College to provide sixth form education.

It is the view of Farringdon Governors that opening a sixth form provision at HKSC would not be appropriate in the context of the current post 16 provision in Sunderland. As in a number of schools, Governors at Farringdon agreed some years ago that they would not support new sixth form provision on secondary school sites designated as 11-16 schools. Governors believed then as now, that in the best interests of young people across the city a preferable alternative would be for schools to work in partnership with the City of Sunderland College to provide post 16 education. Governors at Farringdon put aside any consideration of provision on our own school site in favour of the collaborative agreement and partnership working. It was our understanding that this was the accepted arrangement across the city. We are disappointed therefore, that the Governing body at Houghton Kepier Sports College have decided to break from that agreement and pursue an independent sixth form.

The Governing body at Farringdon regard this proposal as a threat to the current status quo and a disregard for the existing post 16 arrangements and framework in the city. We fear that the HKSC proposal, were it to go ahead, could have a detrimental effect for some young people in our city. Schools may be forced to consider their own position regarding sixth form provision on their school site. We feel this could result in some schools offering a sixth form and others not. This would create 'winners' and 'losers' across the city. The overall effect would be that some schools and some young people would be disadvantaged. This would be a most unwelcome development.

We have a particular concern regarding the opening of three new academies in the city. While we accept that all current academy Headteachers, their Governing bodies and sponsors are committed to the existing post 16 arrangements we fear that they may be forced to reconsider their position in the future. We believe that the development of post 16 provision on school sites will change the educational landscape within Sunderland to such an extent that the Academies may well follow suit. That would be detrimental to partnership working across the city and would negate the heavy investment in time and resources which resulted in the 'Sunderland Model'.



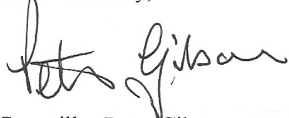
Governors believe that the current sixth forms offer a wide range of courses and provide high quality education for our students together with equality of opportunity for all in Sunderland. Through the joint Governance arrangements and Associate Principal roles given to our Headteachers, we feel that we are able to influence the strategic development of post 16 development and ensure high quality outcomes for students. It is our belief, that the sixth forms currently operating are successful and worthy of our continued support. We have every confidence that the newly established Headways sixth form would provide the same benefits for students at Houghton Kepier.

Governors are concerned that the proposal details a very similar model of provision to that which already exists within the joint sixth forms. We believe that many of the courses planned for delivery at Houghton Kepier would not be viable unless additional students were recruited from other schools. The effect would be to threaten the viability of existing provision across the city. Governors believe that partnership working offers the best opportunity to provide a sustainable and viable range of courses for all students.

Governors suggest that Houghton Kepier Sports College reconsider their plans for post 16 provision and look again at the benefits a joint sixth form arrangement for their students. We understand that there is an acceptance by COSC to locate the new Headways sixth form in the coalfields area. Governors believe that this would provide a suitable platform on which to build a sustainable and integrated post 16 partnership which would benefit all young people in the area and indeed across Sunderland.

We ask that the Governors at HKSC consider again their proposals and as an alternative join one of the collaborative sixth forms already established.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Peter Gibson

On behalf of the Governing Body at Farrington Community Sports College.

Staff Meeting on Consultation 22 June 2009

- Q. I presume we have enough accommodation.
- A. We have capacity due to the falling roll; we have mapped out free rooms and the capacity will be built into the timetable. Our largest number on roll was 1350, we are not down to 1220; this will fall to 1150 in the coming years.
- Q. Presumably staff conditions will not be affected; staff won't be forced to teaching outside of their subject.
- A. Absolutely not, staff will not be expected to teach outside of their comfort zone, we are looking to up skill staff and several have expressed an interest in further training. We see this as an opportunity for staff for professional development and stability. Teaching staff pay and conditions will not be affected. Built into the proposal are extra teaching and support staff especially to support the pastoral system and the examination process.
- Q. What is the feeling amongst other secondary Headteachers?
- A. The response will not be positive; predict they will feel that our provision will threaten numbers in their sixth forms. The guidance from the DCSF is very clear that it is the responsibility of the LA to manage this and this should not be taken into consideration when the decision is made. When we went through consultation for Foundation and then Trust status all the Headteachers were concerned about was our plans for sixth form.
- Q. What about car parking?
- A. The operational decisions have not been made yet; things like car parking, uniform etc will be discussed once we have the go ahead; although car parking is likely to be restricted for learners.

Public Meeting on Consultation 1 July 2009-07-20

Present: Mr S Haigh, Headteacher Hetton School
Mr D Thornton, Headteacher Farringdon Community Sports College
Mr R Giles, Assistant Headteacher, HKSC
Mrs J Taylor, Deputy Headteacher, HKSC
Mr G Bell, Bursar, HKSC
Mr M Shepherd, Deputy Headteacher, HKSC
Mrs S Miller, Assistant Headteacher, HKSC
Mrs K Welsh, Assistant Headteacher, HKSC
Mrs J Forster, PA, HKSC
Mrs S Hyland, Headteacher, HKSC
Dr PDB Collins, Chair of Governors, HKSC
Ms B Scanlon, Sunderland City Council
Mr D Francos, Governor, HKSC
Mr A Slassor, Parent
Mrs L Slassor, Parent

1. Dr Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited any comments or questions regarding the consultation.
2. Mr Haigh invited Houghton Kepier Sports College (HKSC) to join the City of Sunderland College/Hetton/Seaham partnership and confirmed the intention to relocate the Headways Centre to the coalfields area. Mr Haigh stated that in his view this was the best way forward to maintain strategic goals and stressed the positive work which was being undertaken pre key stage 5 to aid learners post 16.
3. Dr Collins confirmed that the Governing Body had previously considered joining the partnership some two years ago but had rejected the idea as not fulfilling the schools aims.
4. Ms Scanlon, representing Mrs Lynda Brown, confirmed a formal response will be provided but also reiterated the invitation to join the partnership.
5. Mr Thornton asked how the HKSC proposals would enhance provision across the city.
6. Dr Collins advised that this was a matter of providing choice and HKSC are responding to what learners and parents want for the area. HKSC wish to offer a choice to learners who wish to stay in the area for post 16 education; it is not expected that all learners will wish to remain at HKSC and when appropriate the school will collaborate with other providers to ensure learners have the most appropriate education and will therefore be a part of the total provision across the city.
7. Mrs Hyland added that our location was also a consideration; learners either need to travel to Sunderland or Durham, often this is viewed as inconvenient and incurring extra costs. The current situation in Durham with the introduction of Academies was causing uncertainty. Post 16 provision based at HKSC was appeal to a lot of families due to the ease of location but in particular would give the school the opportunity to devise focussed packages for the NEET group.
8. Mr Thornton agreed with the aims and principles but restated his view that this offer was in place across the City and asked how specifically HKSC would enhance the existing provision when the aims and objectives can be met within the City; and added that post 16 education is a shrinking market with reduced demand, why increase provision and what impact will this have across the City.

9. Mrs Hyland responded that HKSC would be offering diversity and choice to the learners in the Houghton Le Spring area and advised that DCSF guidelines for the Decision Maker are clear that impact on existing provision should not be taken into account; the proposals should be judged on their own merit.
10. Mr Thornton queried the demand for additional provision when the range of courses proposed are being offered elsewhere in the City, other than the benefit to HKSC what extra diversity would be offered.
11. Dr Collins stated that this was about offering an increased choice post 16, and added that school based sixth forms were a viable option for the majority of secondary schools.
12. Mr Thornton stated that although choice was important, in his opinion a lot of school based sixth forms were not sustainable.
13. Mr Haigh added that the Headways Centre had shifted parental perceptions and that this does offer genuine choice in the area. Also, partnerships in County Durham were attracting learners wishing to access provision. Working in partnership would also address other issues such as the provision of a skills centre in the area. Mr Haigh stated his concerns that HKSC not working with the partnership could bring 11-19 development under question and could ultimately be detrimental.
14. Mrs Hyland reminded him that there are a number of schools who operate successful sixth forms without a negative impact across the City.
15. Mr Haigh added that working together would add weight and strength to the partnership and be an opportunity to move forward.
16. Mr Giles stated that HKSC are working with the 14-19 partnership, looking at level 3 courses to be delivered at the skills centres and St Roberts CLC, but also at level 3 sport and leisure courses to be delivered at centres of specialism.
17. Mr Haigh stated that significant investment was in place and quality facilities are available within the partnership; common timetabling allows staff from Hetton School to deliver at Headways, all of which can be accessed via an integrated transport system.
18. Mr Shepherd added that the Catholic schools within Sunderland operated their own sixth forms and does this not create unequal opportunities and restrict parental choice. Students with low aspirations are the ones unlikely to travel to access post 16 education.
19. Mr Thornton queried the credentials of the consultants and also the remit for the feasibility study. Adding that there is no information on existing provision mentioned in the report.
20. Mrs Hyland advised that the consultants have considerable experience working within education particularly with BSF and Academies in the South of England. The report was produced to examine the feasibility of sixth form provision at HKSC.
21. Mr Thornton queried the parental survey supporting the proposals; were parents given a range of options?
22. Mrs Hyland confirmed that the survey only made reference to HKSC but that parents and learners were informed of a range of options within the existing system.
23. Mr Haigh pointed out that this survey was undertaken before the Headways centre was established.
24. Mrs Hyland noted that it would be the parental responses to this new consultation that would inform the decision of the Governing Body.
25. Mrs Slassor commented that sixth form provision in Houghton Le Spring had been available as part of the previous Houghton School and could not understand why this could not be available now. Mrs Slassor added that in her opinion there would be many learners who would be desperate to remain in the school with teachers they have known since year 7, particularly the learners who are not confident; and that the community needs this provision in Houghton.

26. Dr Collins confirmed this is exactly what the Governing Body are addressing and this is the type of parental point of view HKSC are responding to.
27. Dr Collins thanked everyone for attending and advised that the Governing Body will meet in early September to consider the consultation responses and make a decision whether or not to move on to publish Statutory Proposals.