

**SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – PROGRESS UPDATE**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Strategic Priorities:** Learning City

**Corporate Improvement Objectives:**

C101 – Delivering customer focused services

C103 – Efficient and effective Council

**1. WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE COMMITTEE?**

- 1.1 The Chair has asked for a progress update on the consultation process currently underway in connection with School Place Planning for the Future to include detail on numbers attending, the consultation process, and the next steps.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The School Place Planning for the Future exercise began in November 2007. Stage One was consultation with all primary and nursery headteachers and chairs of governors on the data. Stage Two in May 2008 involved cluster meetings with headteachers, governors, staff and parents. The presentations at those sessions raised some key issues about surplus capacity in particular areas of the City.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 Stage Three of the process began with the circulation of information to schools and parents about a range of options in five clusters; Castle View, Hylton Red House, Monkwearmouth, Hetton and Houghton Kepier. Following Cabinet's agreement on 8 October, meetings were held during week beginning 20 October in schools within those clusters. Staff, governors and parents were invited to consider the options, ask questions, make comment and suggest alternative options to the surplus capacity issues at particular schools.
- 3.2 Attached at Appendix One are details of the meetings and of the numbers attending.
- 3.3 The final consultation took place on Friday 24 October. An update on the value of the consultation process and the next steps will be given at the meeting.

**School Place Planning for the Future – October 2008 consultation meetings**

*NB – numbers are accurate as far as possible. Staff and governors signed an attendance sheet. Wherever possible parents and others also signed in, but once meetings were underway latecomers were not always captured.*

Cluster/School	Staff	Governors	Parents and others
Castle View - Bexhill - Town End	21 18	11 9	30 9
Hylton Red House - Hylton Red House - Southwick - Willow Fields	42 19 16	10 6 9	110 15 97
Monkwearmouth - Grange Park	25	8	100 plus
Hetton - Eppleton - Hetton - Hetton Nursery *	23 16 19	10 8 (joint meeting with staff and governors)	111 34 28
Houghton - Bernard Gilpin - Gillas Lane	29 22	6 11	19 62

**\* At the request of the staff, governors and parents a separate meeting for parents was arranged at very short notice. An undertaking has been given to hold an additional meeting after half term should parents request that.**