

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

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

Contact details

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

Sunderland City Council
PO Box 101
Civic Centre
Sunderland
SR2 7DN

Hylton Red House Primary School
Rotherham Road
Red House
Sunderland
SR5 5QL

Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School
Ramillies Road
Red House
Sunderland
SR5 5JA

Implementation

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

31 August 2013

Consultation

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

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

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

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

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

5. The objectives of the proposal.

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

However, both schools have significant levels of surplus places which present challenges to the sustainable delivery of effective education moving forward. The projections up to 2015 show that the level of surplus places between the two schools will continue to be significant.

This proposal outlines our intention to discontinue Hylton Red House Primary School and Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School. This proposal is directly related to The Durham Diocesan Board of Finance's proposal to establish a mainstream CE VA school from September 2013 (the "New School") on what is currently the Hylton Red House Primary School site. We consider the outcomes from this proposal will be: :

1. To ensure that the significant progress made at both schools thus far is underpinned to allow the improvement journey to continue.
2. To minimise the number of surplus school places (projected at 128 across the two schools in 2013) creating a more sustainable level of educational provision for families in the areas serviced by the two existing schools.

Standards and Diversity

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

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

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

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

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

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

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

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A

Need for places

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

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

places)

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

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

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

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

Current School Information

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

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

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

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

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

Displaced Pupils

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impact on the Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

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

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

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

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

Related Proposals.

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

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

Rural Primary Schools

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

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

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

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

N/A

Maintained nursery schools

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

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

N/A

Special educational provision

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

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

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

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

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

