

CABINET

12 February 2014

Proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014



Key Decision Number: CAS/06/13

Report of Corporate Management Team

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Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To enable cabinet to consider issues in connection with the future of Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014, and to consider the views of key stakeholders.
- 2 To consider a recommendation to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014, taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to secure sufficient school places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local areas.

Background

- 3 Discussions with the school in respect of future viability began in February 2013 linked to the very high percentage of surplus places in the school and, the falling school roll. In view of the surplus places and future projections, using delegated powers, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved the commencement of consultation on the closure of Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014. The delegated decision report is attached in Appendix 2.
- 4 Consultation documents (attached as Appendix 3) were distributed widely and a total of 20 meetings were held between 30 September and 6 November with staff, Governors, parents, pupils, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and community groups. The full schedule of meetings is attached as Appendix 4.
- 5 The Council initially allowed 6 weeks for consultation (30 September to 6 November). In determining the period of time for this consultation, the Council has referred to "Closing a Maintained Mainstream School – A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies." This document, issued by the government, strongly advises that at least six weeks should be allowed for the

statutory consultation prior to publishing a proposal to close a school. In previous consultations on school closure proposals, the Council has always undertaken consultation for 6 weeks.

- 6 On 11 October 2013, the school requested that the consultation period be extended to enable it to draw up alternative solutions to the closure proposal that would allow local provision of education to be protected. An extension of 4 weeks was granted by the Council and the consultation period therefore ended on 6 December 2013.
- 7 A full summary of the consultation responses is contained within the delegated decision report attached at Appendix 2.
- 8 The government guidance highlighted in paragraph 5 provides, "*at the end of consultation the proposer (in this instance the Local Authority) should consider the views expressed during the period of consultation before reaching any final decision on whether to publish statutory proposals. Where, in the course of consultation, a new option emerges which the proposer (the Local Authority) wishes to consider, it will probably be appropriate to consult afresh on this option before proceeding to publish a statutory notice.*" The Council's constitution provides that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services can decide to proceed to publish statutory proposals within the remit of her delegated authority.
- 9 The responses to the consultation were received and have been considered by officers and elected members in the County Council. Whilst it was clear that the majority of respondents expressed strong views in support of keeping the school open, the responses received provided no evidence that keeping the school open would address the issue of low pupil numbers.
- 10 The school building can accommodate 996 pupils. At the beginning of the consultation on 30 September 2013, there were 324 pupils on roll (including Post 16). With such low numbers it is difficult to sustain a secondary school of this size. As funding for pupil numbers reduces there is less funding available to employ teaching and support staff with the necessary qualifications, subject knowledge and experience to deliver a secondary curriculum which could meet the needs of all pupils. If subjects are to be taught by non-specialists in a specific curriculum area it would be very likely that the quality of teaching would decline and therefore pupils would not make the progress that is expected of them. The smaller the school becomes the greater the challenge of retaining teachers and support staff of a high quality as the opportunities for professional development of these staff would become increasingly limited and an increasing number would apply for more secure posts advertised in other schools. With projected rolls expected to be lower than current rolls the funding available to the school will subsequently reduce.
- 11 The government has determined that from September 2014 there is an expectation that all secondary age pupils study 8 discrete subjects which must include English, Maths, 3 English Baccalaureate subjects eg history, geography, modern foreign languages etc; and 3 other 'high quality' subjects. The government has defined 'high quality' subjects as RE, PE, art etc but subjects such as design technology and health and social care will no longer count as they are not considered to be of high enough quality. A secondary

school with a very small school roll would be unlikely to have sufficient income to be in a position to staff 8 secondary departments adequately.

- 12 Additionally secondary schools need a degree of leadership capacity to enable the school leaders to address all challenges facing a school which caters for pupils aged 11-19 years. This includes pastoral issues such as student behaviour, safety and attendance. There are a range of other duties to fulfil such as exams officer, curriculum planning and timetabling. A school which has reduced its leadership and management capacity to a minimum would find it difficult to manage all necessary areas of a secondary school's work without a direct impact on the quality of all round education offered to pupils.
- 13 Officers within the County Council, including members of the school improvement team who are trained and experienced Ofsted Inspectors, believe that educationally the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is necessary in order to further the best interests of students and their families in this area of the county. The reason for consulting on the future of the school was to address the issues of low pupil numbers, and the consequent impact this may have on educational standards and budget. A school with a more stable financial position is more likely to attract high quality applicants to vacant posts because secondary school teachers value being a member of a thriving subject department, with strong subject specialist leadership, in which they can work with and learn from others who are specialists in the same subject.
- 14 With reduced pupil numbers, and therefore a reduced budget, there could be an increasing risk of the school being unable to retain good teachers and school leaders so the school may be faced with no alternative other than to recruit temporary, supply staff to teach core subjects and to lead and manage the school. Recruiting good teachers to schools with very few pupils is very difficult as staff would face limited job security. Insufficient numbers of staff to share the responsibilities, with significant additional responsibility, could result in undue stress and pressure on existing staff. This may, in turn, lead to increased staff absence which could have an impact on the school being able to raise educational standards.
- 15 Roseberry has experienced a significant falling school roll for the past 3 years which has necessitated a downsizing and subsequent staffing reduction year on year. At present, of a teaching staff of 22.84 full time equivalent, Roseberry has 5.4 full time equivalent unqualified teachers. Officers consider that it is not sustainable for the school to continue to restructure and downsize year on year as staffing levels have now been cut to such an extent that it will be difficult for the school to offer a full secondary curriculum with a good level of choice of subjects in future and also to fully meet the range of needs of all pupils from those with special educational needs and disabilities to the most gifted and talented. Officers consider that any further staffing reduction would impact upon the quality of education provided and impact adversely upon educational attainment.

Decision to Issue a Statutory Notice

- 16 With reference to the guidance highlighted in paragraph 8, in the course of the extended consultation period, the council was not presented with details of alternative options that would address the falling numbers on roll. At that time, had alternative proposals been received that the Council believed to be viable, the Council could have taken steps to begin a separate consultation on a new option.
- 17 During the consultation, Governors requested that the proposal was changed to close the school on 31 December 2014 instead of 31 August 2014. This would enable governors to complete the application process to create a Free School. At the time, the school informed the County Council that the earliest the Free School could open would be January 2015. Governors also indicated that another scenario that the school was considering was joining with an existing Academy.
- 18 The school provided very little information about either of these two scenarios (becoming a Free School or joining with an Academy), despite being specifically requested to provide further information, and the school was advised that the Council would reconsider its position following receipt of any additional information.
- 19 As no additional information was provided, the County Council was therefore not in a position to treat the school's options in paragraph 17 as new options that it wished to consider, to address the low pupil numbers at the school.
- 20 The Council did not consider it appropriate to extend the date for closure to 31 December 2014. It is not considered good practice to close a secondary school in the middle of an academic year. Closure of an educational facility can be difficult for children, however the Council considers the effect of the same can be best mitigated by ensuring that children move to new schools at the start of the academic year, when all children move to new classes and are familiarising themselves with new locations and procedures, and new staff.
- 21 Despite the level of response to the consultation, the same concerns about the future viability of the school that were expressed at the beginning of the consultation period remained.
- 22 After full consideration of all responses to the consultation and in the absence of a new option that the Council wished to consider, a decision was taken to publish a proposal to close the School. A statutory notice was therefore published on 12 December 2013. (Attached as Appendix 5).
- 23 Once the proposal is published there follows a statutory 6 week representation period during which comments on the proposal can be made. These must be sent to the Local Authority. Any person can submit representations, which can be objections as well as expressions of support for the proposal. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Decision Maker (in this instance, the County Council's Cabinet). Once the representation period has closed, a decision on the proposal must be made within two months –i.e. by 23 March 2014.

Objections to the Proposal Published on 12 December 2013 for 6 weeks (the Statutory Notice Period)

24 The Council received 104 objections to the proposal from the following groups:

- 94 pupils
- 6 members of staff
- 2 parents
- Governors of the school
- Pelton Fell Community Partnership

25 A summary of the reasons for these objections is given below:

- The school should stay open to continue to provide another school for families in the Chester-le-Street area.
- Staff are very dedicated and may lose their jobs.
- Pupils like the teachers at Roseberry College and Sixth Form
- If the school was closed pupils felt that friendship groups may be split if they had to go to a different school.
- Both staff and pupils value having a small school in the local community.
- The school is like a family.
- A lot of people use the school after school hours which they will not be able to do if it closes.
- One respondent objected to the proposal on the grounds that it would be extremely difficult for Year 12 students to transfer to other schools after 31 August 2014 as all schools do not follow the same examining boards.
- A further comment was made that the poor consideration by the Council in respect of the above seems to be at odds with the Human Rights Act. In addition, the respondent would have expected to see more information about the potential loss of community facilities and how the council plans to address this (please refer to Appendix 1 for further details regarding the implications of the proposal on Human Rights).
- One respondent objected to the proposal and provided comments relating to the methods used in and the conduct of the consultation.

Objection Submitted from Governors

26 Governors at Roseberry College and Sixth Form submitted an objection to the proposal, including their vision for Roseberry in the future which supports their view that the school should remain open as a small secondary school for the local community. The full response from Governors is attached as Appendix 7. Also attached is a letter that Governors sent to the County Council on 18 December with the Council's letter of response.

Paragraphs 27-46 of this report seek to summarise the school's vision for Roseberry College and Sixth Form from September 2014 onwards with comments and analysis from a Local Authority perspective.

27 Governors had previously notified the Local Authority that they were considering continuing to provide education as a Free School, possibly from January 2015 (refer to paragraphs 17). In the Governors' vision document,

they stated that *“it is worth noting that the pre-application registration for the establishment of a Free School at Roseberry College and Sixth Form still stands, but the stance of the Local Authority in refusing to date to contemplate extending the closure date beyond 31 August 2014 presently makes the establishment of a Free School impossible before May 2015. It is therefore inappropriate and difficult at this stage to further advance the case for a Free School as a viable alternative to the closure of Roseberry School, other than to say that this would not be the case in the event that the Local Authority were prepared to revisit their decision to refuse to extend the closure dated. However, as things stand, the Governors have agreed not to proceed with an application for a Free School in January, but remain prepared to consider doing so at a later date”*.

- 28 **Pupil numbers** – for the past three years, the intake at Roseberry has been around 40 students (current Year 7,8,9), with 66 in Year 10 and 76 in Year 11 (before the consultation started). To date, there have been 7 first preference applications for Roseberry College and Sixth Form for entry in September 2014. Cabinet should note that with the consultation on the proposal to close the school starting at the time when parents were applying for secondary school places this would have had a significant impact on this number being so low. However, if the school was to remain open and the number of applicants for September 2014 increased to a similar intake as in previous years, of around 40 each year, the total numbers from Year 7 to 11 (11-16 age range) for the next few years could be as follows:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Year 7	40	40	40	40	40
Year 8	38	40	40	40	40
Year 9	42	38	40	40	40
Year 10	66	42	38	40	40
Year 11	76	66	42	38	40
	262	226	200	198	200

This ‘theoretical’ model of what numbers could look like if the school stayed open with 40 pupils in each year group has not been used by the Council for any budget projection purposes.

- 29 It is difficult to predict Sixth Form numbers at this stage but the school believes that as there are 76 pupils currently in Year 11, this is likely to lead to a good sized Year 12 to start in September 2014 if the school remains open.
- 30 With around 200 pupils age 11-16, as highlighted in paragraph 28, it is likely that this could result in Roseberry being the smallest ‘established’ school in England. (Some schools that have recently opened with only one year group eg: Durham Free School, has significantly less than 200 pupils).
- 31 The current Admission number for Roseberry is 167. Governors have stated in their objection letter that this is too high and needs to be reduced. Their proposal is to reduce this to 60 from September 2014. The Council believes that, based on previous trends of parents choosing Roseberry for their children, there is still no evidence that parental preference patterns are likely to change to attract 60 pupils each year in the future. Sixty pupils in each year group in a secondary school is a low number and will continue to raise the

same challenges about delivering an effective curriculum with a reduced budget, as highlighted in paragraphs 10 – 15. Governors recognise that a school for about 300 pupils, age 11-16 (5 year groups with 60 pupils in each) will not require the use of all the existing premises. Paragraph 34 outlines the Governors' proposals for the site and premises.

32 The Governors' proposal of maintaining a smaller school on a smaller site has been given due consideration by the council. If the council had considered that this was a viable option it would have begun a new consultation on a new proposal to change the age range of the school from 11-19 to 11-16 with a reduced Admission number (60 instead of 167). The new proposal would therefore establish an 11-16 school with capacity for 300 pupils.

33 As the principle reason for proposing closure of the school is because of low pupil numbers (there were 262 pupils age 11-16 at the school when the consultation started), continuing to maintain a school with a similar low number of pupils for a secondary school, would not be an appropriate solution. The school would still be faced with the issue of having a reduced budget which would in turn result in the school facing the same potential difficulties that have been highlighted in paragraph 10-15 (implications on staffing). The challenge of providing pupils with a good quality education in a very small secondary school with an admission limit of only 60 pupils would be even greater than it had previously been in a bigger school, with more pupils on roll and therefore more available resources to education them.

34 **Site and premises**

Governors state:

- *“it is proposed that a comprehensive buildings survey should be commissioned with a view to decommissioning and if necessary, demolishing, surplus buildings. It is envisaged that the college could operate effectively with up to 300 students without several of the existing buildings, for example, the main three storey block (G block), the Sciences block and Ravensworth House Block. Decisions regarding which buildings to decommission would be made in association with Local Authority officers.*
- *It is proposed that most of the existing sports and cultural facilities should be retained for the use of the college during curriculum time, for extra-curricular activities and for the extensive community sports and drama provision which currently exists and should continue. This would include the sports hall and changing rooms, the gym, dance studio and fitness room, the drama studio and main hall, the artificial grass surface (AGS), running track and one football field.*
- *It is proposed that significant areas of the college site and playing fields, along with buildings, should also be returned to the County estate. This may amount to more than 50% of the current acreage of the college site and would include the car parks to the south of the site.”*

While it is possible to carry out further work to the site and buildings as suggested by Governors, Cabinet would need to be convinced that there is a strong case to establish a 300 place secondary school in Pelton before any work to look at options to reduce the size of the premises was undertaken. Officers of the Local Authority remain of the view that as

there are places available at other local schools, establishing a school of this size does not present a cost effective model for secondary education provision in this local area. Further information in relation to the need for places is referred to in paragraphs 50-58 of this report.

- 35 **Sixth Form** – Governors have proposed that the school remains an 11 – 19 school until 2016, so that current Year 11 pupils can continue their Post 16 education at Roseberry if the school remains open. After that, Governors believe there would not be sufficient pupils to provide post-16 education, therefore the age range of the school would need to change to 11 – 16. Cabinet should note that Statutory Consultation is required to change the age range of a school and reduce the Admission Number. This could be carried out prior to the proposed change being made for September 2016.
- 36 **Curriculum and Standards** – on the basis of a two form entry school (60 pupils - 2 classes of 30 pupils in each year group), the Governors submitted a proposed curriculum model that they believe could be implemented to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all students. In addition, the Governors provided information about standards for Year 11 and 13 pupils for summer 2013 and current results achieved by pupils who sat GCSE English and Maths in November 2013 (full details attached in Appendix 7).
- 37 Officers within the Education Service including very experienced Ofsted Inspectors, have scrutinised the school's data and remain significantly concerned about the school's ability to be judged as a 'good' school. Evidence of the Local Authority's concerns about the school and response to the information provided by the school (Appendix 7), based on historical, current and future information is highlighted below:
- When the pupils that took their GCSE exams in 2013 entered the school in Year 7 they were of well below average ability compared to national figures. However, the overall GCSE results for the same group of pupils in 2013 were well below average compared to GCSE results nationally. This represents poor progress overall between Year 7 and 11.
 - With a teaching staff of 13-14, the school believes that it can offer a broad and balanced curriculum. With such a small number of specialist teachers it is unlikely that the school will be in a position to offer breadth, diversity and flexibility within the curriculum, therefore equality of opportunity with students attending a larger school is unlikely to be achieved

Achievement (Historical Data)

- Attainment and progress in English demonstrates a 3 year declining trend (not just one year). The added value that the school provides for children through the quality of teaching in English is in the 88th percentile (significantly below average); 56th percentile in 2011 and 89th percentile in 2012 – 3 year declining trend
- In 2013, attainment in Maths fell and although students' progress improved it remains significantly below average. The added value that the school provides for children through the quality of teaching in Maths is in the 92nd percentile (significantly below average); 94th percentile in 2011 and 95th percentile in 2012 – no improvement 'over time'
- The school states that English results in 2013 were disappointing; Data indicates that the Value Added measure (best 8 subjects) is below

average (not significant) but it is significantly below average for low ability and School Action Plus students (pupils with a level of Special Educational Need)

- Students' attainment at A*-C is below average in a large number of subjects
- Pupil Premium (additional funding given to schools to support disadvantaged students make more progress) 'gaps' remain a concern; although there has been some improvement, it is insufficient and gaps remain wide:
 - English and Maths Value Added for pupils who receive Free School Meals (FSM) students are both significantly below average
 - The proportions of FSM students making expected progress in both English and Maths are significantly below average.

Sixth Form (Historical Data)

- Prior attainment of students entering the sixth form is above average, therefore it would be expected that results at the end of Sixth Form would still be above average.
- Although some attainment measures have improved, overall attainment remains below national standards in key measures
- Students do not make their expected progress in the sixth form. Value Added measures are well below average in all courses (A level, AS level, BTEC Diploma/Extended Diploma). Value Added is significantly below average in
 - Sociology, English Language, Maths, Psychology at A level
 - Biology, English Language, English Literature, Health & Social Care, Sociology, Chemistry, Maths at AS level
 - Value Added is well above average in A-level Chemistry (1 x student)

Current Achievement

- Although 'early entry' Year 11 (students who sat exams in November 2013) evidences some improvement re : students' attainment and progress in English, the proportion of students making 'more than' expected progress remains well below average. In Maths, students' expected and 'more than' expected progress remains well below average
- Ofsted Criteria for good achievement:
 - *From each different starting point, the proportions of pupils making expected progress, and the proportions exceeding expected progress, in English and in Mathematics are close to or above national figures. For pupils for whom the pupil premium provides support, the proportions are similar to, or above, those for other pupils in the school or are improving.*
- *The school believes that Ofsted would now judge the school to be a 'Good' school. Inspectors will balance current evidence with standards of attainment and progress over the past few years. The historic low standards would suggest that inspectors would not judge the school to be 'Good'.*

What Roseberry College and Sixth Form Can Do

- 38 The Governor's objection and vision statement (Appendix 7) provided details to support their view that the school can:
- Set a surplus budget
 - Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum
 - Continue to raise examination performance...English 70% and Maths 57% for 2014 already.
 - Provide a hub for the local community with after school, evening and weekend activities 52 weeks of the year.
 - Continue to be the most significant employer in the local area
 - Provide a meaningful alternative educational establishment for the learners in Chester-le-Street – an alternative to the large non-Local Authority funded academies and to cease the outmigration of students from Durham County to Gateshead.
- 39 The Appendices submitted by the school in Appendix 7 of this report provides details on the following:
- Finance – the position for 2013-14 and 2014-15 (refer to paragraph 40-46 below for the Local Authority's commentary on Finance)
 - Standards (refer to paragraph 36 and 37 above and 59-66 for the Local Authority's commentary on standards)
 - Serving the wider community (refer to paragraph 69-79 for the Local Authority's commentary about the impact on the community)
 - Demographics and school places (refer to paragraph 50-58 for the Local Authority's commentary on school places)
 - Financial implications of the closure of the College (refer to Appendix 1 for the Local Authority's commentary on the financial implications)
 - Transport data prepared by the College (refer to paragraph 80-83 for the Local Authority's commentary on transport implications)

Finance

- 40 Throughout the consultation and statutory notice period the school's budget position has been revised and scrutinised by the Local Authority and the school Governors. Officers attended the School Finance Committee Meeting during the consultation period to explain the source and the figures quoted in the consultation document, which were based on the school's approved budget at that time and forward projections of Formula Funding reductions. Appendix 7 sets out 3 different budget plans prepared by the school. The first two are based on invalid pupil numbers in terms of Formula Funding projections.
- 41 The Council has noted the comments of the Governing Body in Appendix 7 and the supporting evidence in their proposed budget.
- 42 The budget for Roseberry College and Sixth Form for pupils in Year 7-11 has declined significantly over recent years as pupil numbers have progressively fallen. In 2011, when there were around 440 pupils the budget was £2,609,453. Based on current pupil numbers the budget for 2014 will be about £1,146,099. This shows a reduction from 2011 to 2014 of £1,463,354.

- 43 Budget 3, provided by the school, in Appendix 7, represents the school's proposed budget plan for 2014-15. This budget plan assumes that the school will carry forward a surplus balance of £209,000 from 2013-14 and this budget plan would result in the school carrying forward a small surplus balance of £16,000, to 2015-16. This is also dependent upon anticipated underspends of £50,000, without which the school would be carrying forward a deficit balance of £34,000.
- 44 One concern with this budget plan is the level of the projected surplus balance of £16,000 at the end of 2014-15. In effect this surplus represents the school's contingency to meet unexpected expenditure. The Council would recommend a surplus of at least £26,000 for a school of this size. This is more of a concern given that the budget plan already assumes that the school is able to underspend in other areas, which would make it harder to find additional savings to offset unexpected increases in expenditure.
- 45 A greater concern is that the plan uses £193,000 of the surplus balance brought forward from 2013-14 and it would not be possible to balance the budget in 2015-16 in this way. It should be noted that the school's pre-16 funding would further reduce in 2015-16, because of the forecast reduction in pupil numbers which is based on the number of pupils now at the school, not the numbers that were on roll before the consultation started.
- 46 Any decision taken about the future of the school is for the long term benefit of children in this area of the County, not for 2013-2016 only. Cabinet is also reminded that Finance is not the prime reason that the Council has concerns about the viability of the school, save as a consequence of the reduction in pupil numbers and changes to the funding formulae. Had there only been concerns solely as to the financial viability of the school, the Council would have approached the school in respect of these explicitly and, as is the case with all schools, supported it to find a solution. It is recognised that the Governors of the school have a good track record of balancing their budget, but that the scale of ongoing reductions makes this increasingly difficult to maintain a balanced curriculum provision / high standards of education.

Decision Making Process

- 47 Taking account of the objections received and the Governors' vision for continued education provision highlighted in Appendix 7, officers remain concerned about the educational provision at the school going forward and therefore believe it is appropriate for Cabinet to consider carefully the contents of this report to enable it to determine the future of the school. In coming to its decision Cabinet is asked to consider the factors included in the following paragraphs 48-92.

Factors to be considered by Cabinet

- 48 In making its decision on the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form, there are a number of procedural matters which Cabinet must consider (as highlighted in DfE Guidance 'Closing a Maintained Mainstream School'):

(a) Is there any information missing?

Information that Cabinet is required to consider is contained in the main body of this report and Appendices.

(b) Does the published notice comply with statutory requirements?

The notice published on 12 December 2013 is attached as Appendix 5. Officers prepared the notice as set out in the regulations and complied with statutory requirements. Legal advice was sought before the notice was published.

(c) Has the Statutory Consultation been carried out prior to the Publication of the Notice?

Full details of the consultation arrangements are included in Appendix 2. Officers applied the Department for Education's guidance "Closing a Maintained Mainstream School" which sets out the statutory requirements for consultation.

(d) Are the Proposals "related" to other Published Proposals

Schedule 2 to the EIA 2006 provides that any proposals that are "related to" particular proposals (eg: for a new school, change of age range etc) must be considered together.

The proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is not related to any other proposals.

Further Factors to be Considered by Cabinet

- 49 If satisfied that the procedural obligations have been discharged, Cabinet must then consider whether it wishes to close the school, having regard to the following:

NEED FOR PLACES

Provision for Displaced Pupils

- 50 In making a decision about Roseberry, Cabinet should be satisfied that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils in the area, taking into account the overall supply and likely future demand for places. Appendix 6 illustrates that there is sufficient capacity across the next nearest schools to Roseberry College and Sixth form (Park View Academy, Hermitage Academy & North Durham Academy). Some year groups (Year 7 – 10) have more available places than others but across the three schools there are sufficient places to accommodate all of the existing pupils at Roseberry:

Places available across Park View, Hermitage, North Durham Academy as of 30 September 2013	Number of pupils who left Roseberry between 03.10.13 and 15.01.14	Current pupils at Roseberry that could be displaced by the proposal	Places now available across Park View, Hermitage, North Durham Academy
Year 7 – 139	Year 7 – 20	Year 7 – 20	Year 7 – 119
Year 8 – 185	Year 8 – 24	Year 8 – 14	Year 8 – 161
Year 9 – 129	Year 9 – 29	Year 9 – 13	Year 9 – 102
Year 10 – 125	Year 10 – 39	Year 10 – 27	Year 10 – 89
Further discussions required with individual schools		Year 12 – 6	

Figures have only been given for Years 7-10 and Year 12 as it is expected that Year 11 and Year 13 pupils will complete their education in these year groups at Roseberry.

- 51 It is clear that for a number of years, parents who have children attending primary schools where pupils would 'usually' transfer to Roseberry College and Sixth form have been choosing other schools for their children. For entry in September 2013, Roseberry was the closest school for 114 pupils. Of those 114., only 40 pupils entered the school in year 7. The Admission Number for the school on entry to Year 7 is 167. The figures below illustrate the number of pupils on roll at the beginning of the consultation (30 September 2013). This illustrates that numbers entering the school each year are significantly less than the school can admit:

Year 7 – 40
Year 8 – 38
Year 9 – 42
Year 10 – 66
Year 11 - 76

Surplus Places

- 52 It is important that education is provided as cost effectively as possible. Empty places can represent a poor use of resources – resources that can be used more effectively to support schools in raising standards. DfE guidance¹ to Local Authorities is that they should take action to remove empty places at schools that are unpopular with parents and which do little to raise standards or improve choice.
- 53 The Council's statutory duties with regards to school places (extract below from Department for Education's (DfE) Local Authority (LA) Statutory Duty List) is as follows:

"The Education Act 1996 specifies the general duty of LAs to provide school places and the duty on LAs to secure sufficient schools in their area".

This was updated by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 giving LAs the duty *"to secure diversity of provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice"*. The LAs duty is to consider:

- the availability of school places in the area
- trends in relation to surplus and deficit places
- the extent to which parental preferences have been met with regard to school places as contained in the Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008.

- 54 DfE guidance¹ advises that the Decision Maker (Cabinet) should normally approve proposals to close schools in order to remove surplus places where the school has a quarter or more places unfilled, and where standards are low compared to standards across the Local Authority. This should be considered

¹ Department for Education – "Closing a maintained Mainstream School. A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies".

carefully and Cabinet should also consider geographical and social factors and the effect on any community use of the premises (details highlighted in paragraph 69-79).

- 55 Roseberry College and Sixth form has the capacity to accommodate 996 pupils. At the start of the consultation there were 324 pupils on roll, leaving 672 spare places (67%). Beginning the consultation on the proposed closure of the school had an immediate impact on pupil numbers. Despite the decision on the proposal not being made for 5 months after the consultation started, some parents decided to remove the uncertainty for their children by seeking a place at another school.
- 56 Current information that the County Council has on pupil numbers shows that 135 pupils (Year 7 – 13) have left Roseberry College and Sixth Form since the beginning of October 2013. With 189 pupils now on roll, there are 807 (81%) surplus places.
- 57 Each year the Council undertakes a review of school places and takes account of the following factors when projecting pupil numbers in each school:
- Data from Health Authorities – the number of children born in each locality each year.
 - Termly school census data – schools submit pupil numbers to the Local Authority three times each year (January, October, May). The October figures are used in projecting pupil rolls in secondary schools.
 - Primary school patterns of transition to secondary schools.
 - Information from neighbouring Local Authorities – transfer of information regarding pupil movement across borders and school re-organisation proposals.
 - Housing data on new build developments and demolition, programmes – additional numbers of pupils that may be seeking a place in a school from a proposed development that already has Outline Planning Permission.

From 'family type' housing developments, four houses could 'typically' generate one primary aged pupil. Ten houses could 'typically' generate one secondary aged pupil. These figures are used when projecting pupil numbers in all primary and secondary schools.

- 58 Appendix 2 illustrates that projected rolls for Roseberry College and Sixth Form will continue to fall from 324 (as of 30 September 2013) to 300 in 2018. If the existing school with a capacity for 996 pupils was still used for the projected numbers of 300, this would result in there being nearly 70% surplus places.

EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- 59 Officers believe that educationally the proposal to close the school is in the best interests of pupils and their families. Education standards at Roseberry College and Sixth Form are below both the national and county average.
- 60 The key measure currently used to assess a school's performance is the percentage of pupils achieving 5 +A* - C GCSE grades (Including English and Maths). In 2013, 44% of pupils attending Roseberry College and Sixth Form

achieved 5 or more A*-C (including English and Maths) at GCSE; the average for County Durham is 63%.

Results for the school over the last 8 years are illustrated below:

Percentages of pupils getting equivalent of 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths GCSEs								
Source: DfE performance tables								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
National	46.0	46.0	47.6	50.7	55.2	58.2	58.8	60.4
LA	40.0	42.0	44.5	48.7	55.8	60.0	62.5	63.0
Roseberry	28.0	38.0	31.0	47.0	41.0	44.0	49.0	44.0
gap: LA - Roseberry	12.0	4.0	13.5	1.7	14.8	16.0	13.5	19.0

- 61 The last three Ofsted inspections have judged Roseberry College and Sixth Form to be Satisfactory. (Grade 3 judgement. This would now be a judgement of “Requires Improvement” under the latest Ofsted criteria). The Education Service within the County Council is concerned about there being no significant improvement over time. (Refer to paragraph 36 and 37).
- 62 The majority of schools in the local area have been judged as either Outstanding (Grade 1) or Good (Grade 2) by Ofsted. The most recent judgements made for schools within a 6 mile radius are illustrated below:
- Park View School– 2.553 Miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ Dec 2012
 - The Hermitage Academy – 2.835 Miles; Ofsted ‘Outstanding’ Oct 2007
 - North Durham Academy – 3.133 Miles; Ofsted ‘Requires Improvement’ June 2013
 - Lord Lawson – 3.689 Miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ May 2013
 - Tanfield – 3.877 Miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ Nov 2013
 - Fyndoune Community College – 4.493 Miles; Ofsted ‘Outstanding’ Nov 2011
 - St Robert of Newminster RC School – 4.954 Miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ March 2012
 - Biddick School Sports College – 5.384 miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ Oct 2012
 - Joseph Swan Academy – 5.558 Miles; Ofsted ‘Good’ Mar 2010; Interim Assessment Jan 2013 judged it still to be Good

SPECIFIC AGE PROVISION ISSUES

14 – 19 and 16 – 19 Curriculum and collaboration

- 63 There are high performing schools and colleges within the travel to learn area from Roseberry College and Sixth Form that provide 14-19 education. Students who would be displaced as a result of a decision being taken to close the school would be able to continue their education at one of these other providers in the local area.
- 64 The proposal to close the school should not have an adverse impact on the

participation in education or training of 16-19 year olds in the area. In terms of learning provision, 16-19 year olds have the opportunity to access academic and vocational courses at Park View School, The Hermitage Academy, North Durham Academy, Durham Sixth Form Centre, New College Durham and Derwentside College. There are also a number of young people from the area who access post-16 learning provision in other Local Authority Areas, such as Gateshead College. In terms of the destination of year 11 students from the school in 2012, of those who continued in full-time education (80% of the cohort), a greater number went to a Further Education College rather than a School Sixth Form.

- 65 The greatest impact will be for students in Year 10 and Year 12. There are currently 6 pupils in Year 12 (first year of 6th form) out of 35 that started in September 2013 and 27 pupils in Year 10, out of 66 that started in September 2013. If Cabinet take a decision to close the school, officers in the Education Service will arrange one to one meetings with Year 12 pupils to support them in arranging transfers to other Post 16 providers so that they can continue to follow the same courses of study wherever possible. Not all schools use the same examining body, therefore, detailed discussions will need to take place to assess the options available to individual pupils in Year 12. One-to-one meetings will also be arranged for Year 10 pupils.
- 66 The proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form will not have an unduly adverse impact on young people as they progress through their 14-19 phase of education. The local population is well served by a range of high quality 14-19 and 16-19 providers who offer a broad range of academic and vocational opportunities. Schools, colleges and other learning providers in the area have a good track record of working together collaboratively to support the transition of young people at key stages through learning and into meaningful employment. It is important to note that achievement of Roseberry's pupils at Key Stage 4 is below average compared to other schools in the Local Authority. Also, participation in learning rates of former Year 11 students is also below average, compared to other schools in County Durham (e.g. 86.1% of Roseberry students who completed Year 11 in 2013 were participating in learning on 1st November 2013, compared to an average of 91.1% for other schools in County Durham). The evidence demonstrates that students from Roseberry College are not achieving and participating in post-16 learning at the same rate as students from other schools in County Durham.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION

Initial Considerations

- 67 SEN provision, in the context of School Organisation legislation and DfE guidance, is provision recognised by the Local Authority as specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs.
- 68 Roseberry College and Sixth Form is not specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs (SEN), however, there are pupils in the school with SEN. If a decision is taken to close the school, all information relating to pupils with SEN will be transferred in the usual way to their new school. The closure of the school will not, therefore, have a detrimental effect on pupils

with SEN, their needs will continue to be met at the school that they transfer to.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL

Impact on Community

- 69 Roseberry College and Sixth form is a focal point for family and community activity, providing extended services for a range of users. In considering the proposal to close the school, Cabinet should consider the effect on families and the community.
- 70 After school activities are provided at the other schools in the local area that pupils are most likely to transfer to if a decision is taken to close the school, therefore it is envisaged that pupils would still be able to continue to enjoy participating in a range of activities after school hours. Schools and parents take responsibility for the safety of pupils travelling home beyond normal school hours.
- 71 It is possible that some of the other activities that are available for the wider community, for example, fitness classes, painting, cooking, badminton, drama and netball could be run from other venues, such as primary schools, or community centres. Officers are liaising with other partners to consider possible options for activities to continue, should a decision be taken to close the school.
- 72 If the school closes, the most significant impact will be for members of the community who make use of the football facilities at the school. In 2005, the Football Foundation approved a grant offer of £144,680 towards the cost of the construction of football pitches (artificial surface). The actual amount required was £132,816. A number of local clubs use these pitches. They are well used between 4.30pm – 9pm Monday to Saturday.
- 73 If the pitches were to be disposed of as part of the school site should the school close, there is a possibility that the Football Foundation may ask for some or all of the funding to be repaid as there is a claw back period of 21 years within the terms and conditions of the grant. The Football Foundation would need to agree any disposal or asset transfer.
- 74 The County Council is exploring options to retain sports facilities if at all possible for use by the community. This would require a business case to be developed with existing groups with the support of council officers. If Cabinet decide to close the school this will not take effect until 31 August 2014, therefore there is time to develop such proposals for continued use of the sports facilities. Officers will liaise with primary schools and community centres, in an attempt to ensure that existing adult/evening/youth classes can continue to run from alternative venues, where possible.
- 75 Whilst the level of community engagement with, and use of, Roseberry is significant, Officers consider that it is not appropriate to maintain a school with surplus places mainly for the benefit of the community. The primary purpose of a school has to be the educational provision for pupils attending that school, and as such, the community benefit of the school, whilst a factor to

consider, cannot be the primary reason for maintaining the school, particularly when it may be possible for the Council to make alternative community provision.

- 76 Cabinet is asked to refer to the information that the Governors provided in Appendix 7 about other strategies which promote healthy living and community use of local facilities. Examples include, the 'Sustainable Community Strategy', and the Durham County Council 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy'. If the school facilities were lost to the community this could effect the opportunities families have to engage in physical activity. This should be balanced against the concern that the Council has about the low pupil numbers being educated at the school. The school has informed the County Council that there are up to 1,500 community users who use the school premises out of school hours each week. This is broadly five times more than the number of children who are educated at the school.

Equality impacts and community cohesion

- 77 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the proposal to close the school. There are potential impacts in relation to age, gender, disability and race/ethnicity for pupils and parents/carers resulting from changes to a new school, increased travel or changes to transport arrangements which may incur a cost. Pupils affected are aged between 11 and 18 years, almost 52% of those currently attending the school are male and 48% female with just over 97% of pupils from a white British background. There are also potential impacts on staff who may be at risk of redundancy, the majority are female and almost 20% are aged over 55 years. People living in the local community may be affected by the loss of leisure and other activities which are currently held in the school. There was no evidence of a particular impact on transgender, religion or belief and sexual orientation.
- 78 Impacts identified in the consultation responses included concerns about the effect of change on pupils, additional travel and walking distances to alternative schools, costs of buying new uniforms, loss of a community facility and local activities. The responses in support of the proposal included the potential for increased choices and opportunities for study at alternative schools. The assessment also included mitigating actions intended to reduce potential impacts. These include appropriate transition arrangements at the receiving schools and reasonable adjustments for disabled and special educational needs pupils, providing information on entitlements within the home to school transport policy, ensuring fair treatment for staff and investigating alternative options for community activities.
- 79 The majority of pupils attending Roseberry College and Sixth Form live in the following areas: Pelton, Grange Villa, West Pelton, Beamish, Pelton Fell, Newfield, High Handenhold, Ouston, and Perkinsville. Officers are aware that there are already children living in these communities who attend other secondary schools, including some outside the Durham County Council boundary. Whilst closure of the school would potentially affect existing relationships and contact, pupils will still have the opportunity to go to a school that is attended by other pupils from their own local community area. The next nearest three schools for those currently attending Roseberry are, for most families, not further than 4 miles away from their home. Transition plans

in receiving schools will consider the impact of change on community cohesion. The loss of a community facility can also impact on community cohesion by reducing opportunities for local social contact, work to investigate alternative provision will consider the need to promote participation and support community relationships.

Travel and Accessibility for All

- 80 There are five alternative schools in the local area all of which are within 4 miles of Roseberry College and Sixth Form. The distances from Roseberry College and Sixth Form to the other schools are as follows:

Roseberry to Park View School = 2.55 miles

Roseberry to The Hermitage Academy = 2.84 miles

Roseberry to North Durham Academy = 3.13 miles

Roseberry to Lord Lawson = 3.69 miles

Roseberry to Tanfield School, Specialist College of Science and Engineering = 3.88 miles.

Despite the distance from Roseberry school being within 4 miles, the actual distance from some families home address may be longer to these alternative schools.

- 81 Although the journey time for many pupils travelling to alternative schools may be longer than they currently spend travelling to Roseberry, the journey times are not considered unreasonable in respect of pupils accessing a secondary school. Some pupils will be entitled to free home to school transport in accordance with the Council's policy. The potential increase in transport costs will not be significant in comparison to the improved opportunities pupils will have for educational attainment if they attend other schools. To date, the increased costs for transport to other schools for those who have left Roseberry since October 2013 is £19,440.

- 82 The County Council's relevant Home to School Transport Policy and "Extended Transport Rights" will be applied to determine whether displaced pupils will be eligible for free home to school transport to the alternative school. Where a pupil will be attending the nearest suitable school the County Council may have a duty to provide free travel where the distance is less than the maximum walking distance and where the home to school walking route has been assessed as unsuitable. All measures will be used to help reduce car usage where possible.

- 83 Whether free transport is provided will depend on the year group the pupil is currently in. This is because the County Council amended its home to school transport policy from September 2012. The following shows the effect of this on each individual year group:

Current Year 7 and Year 8 Pupils

For current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 3 miles. This is in accordance with the new policy which became effective from September 2012.

Current Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 Pupils

For current year 9, year 10 and year 11 pupils, free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 2 miles. This arrangement is based on the previous Home to School Transport Policy, prior to the changes in September 2012.

Current Year 12 and Year 13 Pupils

Year 12 and Year 13 pupils who, in the view of the County Council are unable to travel independently, eg: are unable to access a viable pupil transport system or by reason of a medical condition, will receive assistance with transport. They will also have the option to apply for a concessionary seat on a school vehicle operating to a school with sixth form provision.

For all Current Pupils in Year 7 – 11

The “Extended Transport Rights”

In addition to the Council’s policy, for pupils who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum of Working Tax Credit, under national “extended” transport rights, free transport will be provided to one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the pupil’s home.

Rural schools and sites

- 84 In considering statutory proposals to close a rural school, DfE ¹ advises that the Decision Maker should have regard to the need to preserve access to a local school for rural communities. There is therefore a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and the proposals clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.
- 85 In the case of Primary Schools, DfE ¹ advises that Decision Makers refer to the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) 2007, to confirm that the school is a rural school.
- 86 In the case of Secondary Schools, it is the responsibility of the Decision Maker to decide whether a school is to be regarded as rural for the purpose of considering proposals for closure under DfE guidance ¹. The DfE’s register of schools includes a rural / urban indicator for each school in England. Cabinet should have regard to this indicator. The indicator for Roseberry College and Sixth Form is that it is an urban school.
- 87 Officers recommend that Cabinet does not classify Roseberry College and Sixth Form as a rural school when considering the reasons for the proposal to close the school. There are at least five other secondary schools within a four mile radius of most pupils home address.

¹ Department for Education – “Closing a maintained Mainstream School. A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies”.

OTHER ISSUES

Views of interested parties

- 88 Cabinet should consider the views of all those affected by the proposals or who have an interest in them including: pupils, families of pupils, staff, other schools and colleges, local residents, diocesan bodies and other providers, other Local Authorities. This includes statutory objections and comments submitted during the representation period (refer to paragraph 24).
- 89 DfE guidance advises that Decision Makers should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representatives made on proposals. Instead, they should give greatest weight to representations from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.
- 90 The report attached as Appendix 2 provides full details of the responses received during the consultation period from 30 September – 6 December 2013. The majority of respondents do not support the closure. In summary:
- 108 written responses were sent to the County Council from:
 - 52 parents
 - 12 pupils
 - 4 members of staff in schools
 - 5 residents
 - 3 representatives from Parish Councils
 - 22 representatives from community groups
 - 8 in 'other' categories including grandparents, ex-pupils
 - 2 Trade Unions
 - 2 petitions were also submitted (one with 89 signatures and one with 77 signatures). Of the 108, 8 are in support of the proposal and 100 are not in support of the proposal.
 - 91 people responded using the online response form (DCC website). This response form was the same as the one attached to the consultation document. From the 91 responses received online, 6 are in support of the proposal, 81 are not in support of the proposal and 4 did not say whether they supported it or not. The 91 responses were from the following groups:
 - 36 parents
 - 8 pupils
 - 9 members of staff in schools
 - 13 residents
 - 3 members of staff in schools
 - 1 local member
 - 1 School Governor
 - 1 Trade Union Representative
 - 19 'other' respondents including grandparents and former employees of the school.

- The school also collated responses on behalf of various groups:
 - 169 response forms
 - 942 objection letters
 - 129 community response forms
 - 392 petition signatures
 - 1,420 Facebook support messages
 - 782 signatures on 38 Degrees petition
- The 169 response forms were from the following groups:
 - 9 parents
 - 119 pupils
 - 20 members of staff in schools
 - 7 residents
 - 2 governors
 - 11 members of community groups
 - 1 Elected member

It was not possible to categorise groups that submitted objection letters.

Summary of Responses from those in support of the proposal

- 91 The following information provides a summary of the issues raised by those in support of the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form:
- Responses referred to the fact that it is common knowledge that the school has been failing for years and the reputation of the school is inadequate. This is why parents have chosen other schools for their children.
 - Concerns were raised about the standards of education over past years and the fact that there are some very poor teachers at the school.
 - Class sizes do not justify the school remaining open.
 - Lack of option choices in the 6th Form
 - Parents concerned that Roseberry is their nearest school but has a poor reputation. Parents are prepared to send their children to other schools even if they have to travel further.
 - A comment was made that some people are too full of nostalgia. Times have changed now and it's not the same school that it once was.
 - Based on current and projected numbers there is ample alternative provision in other schools so Roseberry is not needed.
 - Support for the proposal has been based on the facts that have been given about the school.
 - Although support has been given for the closure of the school, keeping the community activities would be welcomed.

Summary of Responses from those not in support of the proposal

92 The following information provides a summary of the issues raised at consultation meetings and in written responses from those who do not support the proposal:

- There was significant support for the school to stay open.
- Some stakeholders believed that the consultation was flawed because the information being quoted by the County Council, particularly regarding the school budget is incorrect, in their view. It was frequently claimed that the school does not have a budget deficit and the County Council should have known that.
- Some stakeholders reported that there are insufficient places at other secondary schools apart from North Durham Academy.
- Concerns were raised during the consultation that North Durham Academy has worse education standards than Roseberry College and Sixth Form yet the County Council wants to send pupils there.
- A number of stakeholders believed that the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form was aimed at filling up the empty spaces at North Durham Academy and that the size of that school was deliberately set so that it could take Roseberry pupils.
- Concerns were raised by staff, parents and pupils that the timing of the proposal was wrong because Year 10 and Year 12 pupils had just started their Key Stage 4 and Post 16 courses and Year 7 pupils had just started at the school and parents had paid for school uniforms.
- There was concern from stakeholders that the County Council had not provided sufficient support to help Roseberry college and Sixth Form raise standards and improve the quality of education.
- Stakeholders felt there should have been other options considered apart from closure.
- The Governing Body of Roseberry College and Sixth Form stated that they are exploring other options to try and secure the future of the school.
- There was concern from parents and pupils that the courses of study available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form are not available at other schools.
- Stakeholders were concerned that the other schools in the local area were too far for pupils to walk to.
- Stakeholders believed that the housing developments planned for the area had not been considered when calculating future pupil numbers.
- There were concerns from stakeholders that the community facilities which are very well used will be lost if Roseberry College and Sixth form closes.

- Parents, pupils and staff were concerned that the Cabinet Members had not attended any of the meetings to gauge for themselves the level of discontent at the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form.

Recommendations and reasons

- 93 This report summarises the concerns that the Council has about the significantly low pupil numbers attending Roseberry College and Sixth Form. The low pupil intake has been the pattern for a number of years as families are choosing other schools for their children. There are other schools in the local area that can accommodate the pupils from Roseberry College and Sixth Form. In addition, in the view of officers, the existing educational performance is of significant concern. Pupils at the school achieve results that are below the County average and the national average.
- 94 The Governors' proposal of maintaining a smaller school on a smaller site has been given due consideration by Officers of the council. If the council had considered that this was a viable option it could have begun a new consultation on a new proposal to change the age range of the school from 11-19 to 11-16 with a reduced Admission Number (60 instead of 167). The new proposal would therefore establish an 11-16 school with capacity for 300 pupils. As the principle reason for proposing closure of the school is because of low pupil numbers (there were 262 pupils age 11-16 at the school when the consultation started), continuing to maintain a school with a similar low number of pupils for a secondary school, would not be an appropriate solution. The issues of a falling pupil roll, the impact of this on the school budget and educational provision must be considered alongside the significant community use that there is at the school.

In considering proposals for a school closure, as Decision Maker, Cabinet can:

- Reject the proposals;
- Approve the proposals;
- Approve the proposals with a modification (eg: the school closure date); or
- Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition as set out in the regulations and guidance. Further information could be provided to Cabinet if required.

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Consider the contents of this report, specifically in relation to concerns relating to pupil numbers and the school's future viability balanced against the strong feeling of the Governors, staff, parents, pupils and the local community to keep the school open; and
- (ii) Take all the factors into account in this report, and approve the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014 without condition.

Background papers

- Appendix 2 - Delegated Decision Report – 9 December 2013
- Appendix 3 - Consultation Document
- Appendix 4 - Programme of Consultation Meetings – 30 September 2013
– 6 November 2013
- Appendix 5 - Statutory Notice
- Appendix 6 - Places available at local schools in the area
- Appendix 7 - Governors' objection to the proposal and their vision for the
school from September 2014 onwards
- Appendix 8 - Equality Impact Assessment

Contact: Sheila Palmerley Tel: 03000 265731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Funding may be required to demolish the school building if no County Council Service or private organisation wishes to use it. Costs would be met from the Capital Maintenance Grant provided from the Government. These will be one off costs which can be offset against any re-development of the land.

There is also likely to be additional transport costs if pupils are now receiving free transport to attend another school. Already an additional £19,440 has been incurred on transport for pupils who have left the school since October 2013. These costs are being accommodated from within the County Council's Home to School Transport budget.

There will be costs associated with any redundancies, as well as costs associated with the termination of contracts at the school, together with the repayment of any grants that may have been provided to the school in the event that the terms of grant are breached. An example of such is the grant funding provided by the Football Foundation highlighted in paragraph 72 (£132,816).

In the event, there will be costs associated with any legal challenge to the process undertaken leading up to any decision to close the school. There will be a cost associated with defending the same, as detailed below.

Staffing – Staff likely to be displaced if a decision is taken to close the school would be considered for alternative employment through Durham County Council's existing scheme and the School Brokerage Scheme. At present there is a total of 51 staff employed by the school in a range of posts.

Risk – The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the school becomes unviable and pupils education is affected as the budget available is reduced as a result of low pupil numbers which will prevent a suitable curriculum to be delivered for all students.

The risk of proceeding with the proposal is that it is subject to a successful legal challenge, which may delay the implementation of the closure of the school, which is likely to produce an adverse effect on the educational attainment of the pupils.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – As a public body, the council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics".

An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 8.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

It is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on those with protected characteristics, and in fact, implementation of the proposal may have a positive impact given the wider educational opportunities that would be available to pupils.

Accommodation – If the proposal were to be implemented, it is likely that a substantial part of the school site, if not all of it, would be surplus to requirements and would be dealt with accordingly. Some parts of the site may be retained to enable community provision to be sustained (eg: sports facilities) provided these could be appropriately managed.

Crime and Disorder – Care would be taken to ensure that any loss of facilities used by the community caused by the closure of the site would not result in an increase in crime and disorder.

Human Rights – The Human Rights Act 1998 enshrines basic human rights in legislation. It is not considered that the following rights are infringed should a decision be taken to close the School:-

- Right to Life – Article 2
- Prohibition of Torture – Article 3
- Prohibition of slavery and forced labour – Article 4
- Right to liberty and security – Article 5
- No punishment without Law – Article 7
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion – Article 9
- Freedom of expression – Article 10
- Freedom of assembly and association – Article 11
- Right to Marry – Article 12
- Prohibition of Discrimination – Article 14
- Restriction of political rights of aliens – Article 16
- Prohibition of Abuse of Rights – Article 17
- Limitation on use of restrictions on rights – Article 18

It is possible that Article 6 (Right to a fair trial) and Article 8 (Right to respect for family and private life) are engaged.

Article 6 provides that everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his civil rights. To ensure it meets this duty, the Council has complied with the statutory procedure and the restrictions within its own Constitution in respect of decision making. This report has been published in advance of the Cabinet meeting at which a decision will be made. Cabinet members have not formed a view on the decision in

advance of the meeting, and will make the decision impartially based upon relevant information, ignoring irrelevant information.

Article 8 provides (so far as is relevant) that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence, and that there should be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. It could be asserted that, if a decision is taken to close the school, the Council is interfering with pupils private and family life by requiring pupils to be educated at a school which would be further away and may have a different culture. However, the responsibility to determine the provision of education within the local authority area has been delegated to local authorities by Government, with appropriate procedural safeguards and appeal mechanisms. As such, it is not considered that any challenge on this basis would be successful. The report confirms that individuals whose education may be affected will be consulted on an individual basis where appropriate, thus minimising the impact of the decision.

Consultation takes account of the requirements of individuals and their views by providing a variety of methods for staff, pupils, Governors, members of the public to participate and respects human rights in line with legal requirements and current case law.

The Second Article of the First Protocol enshrined in the Human Rights Act 1998 provides that no person shall be denied the right to education. This right does not mean that a school cannot be closed however, as alternative access to education is being provided – education is not being denied. In fact, the reason for the decision being taken is to promote access to wider educational opportunities for all pupils at Roseberry. Thus it is not considered that any decision to close Roseberry would infringe the Human Rights Act. Parents will remain able to ensure education and teaching of their children in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

Consultation – Details about the consultation undertaken are included in the main body of the report.

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – An equality impact assessment has been carried out which includes disability issues. Should the school close, the needs of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs would be considered where appropriate in transition arrangements. Specific provision for disabled pupils is included in the home to school transport policy.

Legal Implications - Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires a Local Authority to publish statutory proposals where it is considering discontinuing a maintained school. Section 16 of the Act requires the local authority to consult such people as they feel to be appropriate and to have regard to Guidance published by the Secretary of State, before publishing such proposals. The current Guidance is “Closing a Maintained Mainstream School: A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies (2010)” (“The Guidance”). The process for publishing statutory proposals is set out in the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. Those Regulations

only apply to schools maintained by a local authority and not to Academies which are independent of the local authority. The Guidance sets out requirements for consultation in paragraphs 1.1 – 1.8.

At Stage One the Council is required to consult interested parties and in so doing must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance. The report sets out how those requirements were met.

The Guidance sets out requirements for Stage 2, Publication, in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.10 and for Stage 3, Representations, in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2. At Stage 2 the Council is required to publish a statutory notice containing specified information in a local newspaper and to post that notice at the main entrance to the school and some 'other conspicuous place' in the area served by the school. The notice was published in the Durham Advertiser newspaper covering the Chester le Street area on 12 December 2013. A copy was posted at the entrance to the School and posted on the Council website and on the County Hall notice board.

It was also sent to other local schools, Elected Members, MP, Trade Unions, neighbouring Local Authorities, Colleges / Universities, Durham Association of Secondary Headteachers, local Children's Centres, libraries, doctor's surgeries, Post Offices, Community Centres and Parish Councils / local groups via the Area Action Partnership.

A copy of the complete proposal was sent to the school, the Roman Catholic and Church of England Dioceses and the Secretary of State for Education as required.

There are no 'related' proposals as defined by law or referred to in paragraph 2.5 of the Statutory Guidance. The County Council is the 'Decision Maker' following the publication of notices to discontinue the school.

During the consultation period, the school instructed solicitors to communicate their concerns about the process. In most cases the legal points raised are really claims that the County Council's decision to consult is based on information or assumptions which they feel to be incorrect. These points have been responded to directly and any difference of opinion has been highlighted in the report.

Notwithstanding the above, it is possible that the process undertaken leading up to any decision to close the school could be challenged by way of Judicial Review.

REF No. 1

DECISION RECORD*Please complete all sections***DECISION MAKER**

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Under the County Council's constitution, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to:

- 1.4 The Council's role as Local Education Authority and its role in commissioning 14-19 education as determined by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and any subsequent legislation and training for young people.

SUBJECT

To ask the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, to:-

- consider the attached report on the outcomes of consultation on the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014,
- issue a statutory notice on a proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.

DECISION

If Key Decision insert No. CAS / 06 / 13

Following expiry of the Statutory Notice, Cabinet will need to discuss this key decision and determine whether to close the school or not.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

Pelton

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS and DATE

Consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Local Members on 9 December 2013.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMB

N/A

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information. **If it's a Key Decision insert the No.**
5. **List the electoral division/s that will be affected by the decision**
6. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
7. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".

A NOTE OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE IN RELATION TO THE ABOVE CONFLICT

N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)
YES

Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test

BACKGROUND PAPERS

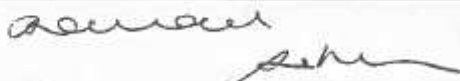
Delegated Decision Report – Outcomes of Consultation on the Proposal to Close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT NO.

03000 265 731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY**DATE**

9/12/13

This form must be sent electronically to delegations@durham.gov.uk within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

8. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".
9. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
10. **List papers used which the decision was based – see limitations on use. If used must be forwarded along with the delegated decision form, and report.**
11. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
12. Enter the date the decision was made.

9 December 2013



Outcomes of Consultation on the Proposal to Close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

Report of CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Service

Purpose of the Report

30. To provide details on the outcomes of consultation which was undertaken between 30 September 2013 and 6 December 2013 (10 weeks), in respect of closing Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014, and to seek approval to move to the next stage in the statutory process, which is to issue a statutory notice.

Background

2. The Council's constitution sets out how its responsibilities will be discharged. It provides that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to 'The Council's role as Local Education Authority and its role in commissioning 14-19 education as determined by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and any subsequent legislation and training for young people.'
3. Discussions in respect of the viability of the school began in February 2013 in relation to the very high percentage of surplus places in the school, the falling school roll and the future sustainability of it. Officers met with the Headteacher at the time. In a report dated 23 September 2013 (attached as Appendix 2), the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved the commencement of consultation on the closure of Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014. The decision to commence consultation was within the remit of the Corporate Director's delegated authority.
4. Consultation documents (attached as Appendix 3) were distributed widely and meetings were held between 30 September and 6 November with staff, Governors, parents, pupils, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and community groups. The full schedule of meetings is attached as Appendix 4.
5. The Council initially allowed 6 weeks for consultation (30 September to 6 November). In determining the period of time for this consultation, the Council has used "Closing a Maintained Mainstream School – A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies." This document, issued by the government, strongly advises that at least six weeks should be allowed for the statutory consultation prior to publishing a proposal to close a school.
6. On 11 October 2013, the school requested that the consultation period be extended to enable it to draw up alternative solutions to the situation that would allow local provision of education to be protected. An extension of 4 weeks was granted. The consultation period therefore ended on 6 December 2013.

7. The government guidance highlighted in paragraph 5 provides, “at the end of consultation the proposer [in this instance the County Council] should consider the views expressed during the period of consultation before reaching any final decision on whether to publish statutory proposals. Where, in the course of consultation, a new option emerges which the proposer (the County Council) wishes to consider, it will probably be appropriate to consult afresh on this option before proceeding to publish a statutory notice.” The Council’s constitution highlighted in paragraph 2 provides that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services can decide to proceed to publish statutory proposals within the remit of her delegated authority.
8. The school has the capacity to accommodate 996 pupils. At the beginning of the consultation on 30 September 2013, there were 324 pupils on roll (including Post 16). With such low numbers it is difficult to sustain a school of this size. With projected rolls expected to be lower than current rolls the funding available to the school will subsequently reduce. Since the consultation started, 93 pupils from Year 7 -11 have transferred to other County Durham schools. 1 pupil has transferred to a school in Gateshead.
9. Due to the increasing difficulty small secondary schools have to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, officers believe that educationally the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is necessary in order to further the best interests of students and their families. The reasons for consulting on the future of the school was to address the issues of low pupil numbers, and the consequent impact this may have on educational standards and budget. Officers believe that secondary age pupils in Pelton would have wider opportunities for educational improvement if they were to be educated at other schools which are able to offer a broader curriculum in a larger school with a more stable financial outlook.
10. The impact of reducing pupil numbers and the low number of parents choosing to send their children to Roseberry College and Sixth Form was explained to relevant groups consistently during the consultation period.

Responses to Consultation

11. Stakeholders were invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, email or completing the response form online via the County Council’s website, or attending one of the meetings.

Attendance at Meetings

12. The Council held meetings for 23 specific groups – identified by the school, local members and the local Area Action Partnership – to seek views on the proposal and answer questions. The parents meetings were well attended, which demonstrated that parents were engaging in the consultation process. Some of the parish council and residents association meetings were ‘open’ meetings but committee members were disappointed that not more members of the community attended.
 - Approximately 140 people attended the meeting for parents of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils.
 - Approximately 95 people attended the meeting for parents of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils
 - Approximately 35 people attended the meeting for parents of Year 7 pupils

- Approximately 90 people attended the meeting for parents of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils
- Approximately 60 members of staff attended the staff meeting
- 15 governors attended the Governing Body meeting
- 13 parents and grandparents attended the meetings held for parents of Year 6 pupils attending schools that usually 'feed into' Roseberry College and Sixth Form
- 21 people attended the meeting of Pelton Fell Community Partnership
- 11 people attended the meeting of Urpeth Parish Council
- 14 people attended the meeting of Pelton Parish Council
- 8 people attended the meeting of Ouston Parish Council
- 11 people attended the meeting of Urpeth Grange Residents Association
- 23 people attended the meeting of Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends Tenants and Residents Association
- 10 people attended the 'drop in' session for Community Groups
- Representatives from each year group who sit on the School Council met officers from the County Council.

Written Responses

13. The response form attached to the consultation document gave stakeholders an opportunity to say whether or not they supported the proposal to close the school, and allowed space to make comments about the proposal including any impact the proposed change would have.
14. It is important to note however that stakeholders were not limited to one response to the consultation. They were able to respond on multiple platforms. Further, any response was considered, including ones from those who may not reside within the County. Sample checking of the responses indicates that some individuals have submitted more than one response, either by response form, objection letter, community form, signing a petition and / or placing a message on Facebook.
15. 108 responded in writing to the County Council using the response form, letter or email. 2 petitions were also submitted (one with 89 signatures and one with 77 signatures). Of the 108, 8 are in support of the proposal and 100 are not in support of the proposal. Comments received in the responses are included in the summary in paragraph 23 – 25.
16. The 108 responses were from the following groups:
 - 52 parents
 - 12 pupils
 - 4 members of staff in schools
 - 5 residents
 - 3 representatives from Parish Councils
 - 22 representatives from community groups
 - 8 in 'other' categories including grandparents, ex-pupils
 - 2 Trade Unions
17. 91 people responded using the online response form (DCC website). This response form was the same as the one attached to the consultation document. From the 91 responses received on line, 6 are in support of the proposal, 81 are not in support of the proposal and 4 did not say whether they supported it or not. Comments received in the responses are included in the summary in paragraph 23 – 25.

The 91 responses were from the following groups:

- 36 parents
- 8 pupils
- 9 members of staff in schools
- 13 residents
- 3 members of community groups
- 1 local member
- 1 School Governor
- 1 Trade Union Representative
- 19 'other' respondents including grandparents and former employees of the school.

18. On 6 November 2013, representatives from the school delivered the following to County Hall:

- 150 response forms (attached to the consultation document)
- 557 objection letters (a single letter prepared and copied by a parent governor and distributed to parents and the wider community to enable signatures to be added)
- 129 community response forms
- 392 petition signatures
- 1,420 Facebook support messages
- 782 signatures on 38 Degrees petition.

The 150 response forms were from the following groups:

- 7 parents
- 119 pupils
- 6 members of staff in schools
- 6 residents
- 11 members of community groups
- 1 local member

Comments received in the responses are included in the summary in paragraph 23 – 25.

19. On 5 December 2013, representatives from the school delivered the following to County Hall:

- 19 response forms (attached to the consultation document)
- 85 objection letters (same as the ones delivered on 6 November 2013)
- 300 objection letters (similar to the ones above highlighted in paragraph 18 – a single letter prepared and copied for signatures to be added)
- 5 letters that Governors sent to Parents / Carers of children in Year 6 asking if Roseberry was their first choice of secondary school before the announcement of the consultation on whether to close the school.
- 1 letter from the County Council's Regeneration and Economic Development department to an individual outlining the support the council has given to the school to foster relations with schools in other parts of the world.
- 1 letter of objection to the Head of Education from a resident living beside the school.

20. The 19 response forms were from the following groups:

- 2 parents

- 14 members of staff
- 2 Governors
- 1 resident

21. On 5 December 2013, Governors of Roseberry College and Sixth Form submitted a response to the consultation.

Governors firmly believe that there is a future for the college as a provider of secondary education and as a hub for the local community in this unique part of Chester-le-Street.

The response provided an overview (with detailed Appendices) on a range of school related matters that support their view that the school has a future:

- The College can set a budget for 2014-15.
- The College is able to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum.
- The College can continue its' journey of school improvement with results showing added value.
- The College can continue to contribute to community cohesion and to 'overcome the barriers' a significant proportion of the school and wider community have due to low aspiration, low self-esteem and physical and mental health needs through strong pastoral support, and other initiatives.
- The College can retain its function as a hub for the community supporting local businesses and providing a base for the renowned Youth Connection drama group.
- The College can retain its' importance as the single significant employer in the local area
- The College remains viable and sustainable and Governors believe that the closure of Roseberry will lead to a shortfall of educational places in the area in the future.
- A real alternative for parents to large non-County Council funded academies.

The College is currently progressing two possible future scenarios to strengthen the future viability and sustainability of the College:

- Joining with an Academy
- Creating a Free School on the current site of Roseberry College and Sixth Form from. The earliest possible date for opening would be January 2015.

22. In addition to the petitions mentioned earlier, the Council also opened an e-petition on the County Council's website. At the end of the consultation there were 119 signatures on this petition, which called for the school not to be closed.

Summary of Responses from those in support of the proposal

23. The following information provides a summary of the issues raised by those in support of the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form:

- Responses referred to the fact that it is common knowledge that the school has been failing for years and the reputation of the school is inadequate. This is why parents have chosen other schools for their children.
- Concerns were raised about the standards of education over past years and the fact that there are some very poor teachers at the school.

- Class sizes do not justify the school remaining open.
- Lack of option choices in the 6th Form
- Parents concerned that Roseberry is their nearest school but has a poor reputation. Parents are prepared to send their children to other schools even if they have to travel further.
- A comment was made that some people are too full of nostalgia. Times have changed now and it's not the same school that it once was.
- Based on current and projected numbers there is ample alternative provision in other schools so Roseberry is not needed.
- Support for the proposal has been based on the facts that have been given about the school.
- Although support has been given for the closure of the school, keeping the community activities would be welcomed.

Summary of Responses from those not in support of the proposal

24. The following information provides a summary of the issues raised at consultation meetings and in written responses from those who do not support the proposal:
- There was significant support for the school to stay open.
 - Some stakeholders believed that the consultation was flawed because the information being quoted by the County Council, particularly regarding the school budget is incorrect, in their view. It was frequently claimed that the school does not have a budget deficit and the County Council should have known that.
 - Some stakeholders reported that there are insufficient places at other secondary schools apart from North Durham Academy.
 - Concerns were raised during the consultation that North Durham Academy has worse education standards than Roseberry College and Sixth Form yet the County Council wants to send pupils there.
 - A number of stakeholders believed that the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form was aimed at filling up the empty spaces at North Durham Academy and that the size of that school was deliberately set so that it could take Roseberry pupils.

- Concerns were raised by staff, parents and pupils that the timing of the proposal was wrong because Year 10 and Year 12 pupils had just started their Key Stage 4 and Post 16 courses and Year 7 pupils had just started at the school and parents had paid for school uniforms.
- There was concern from stakeholders that the County Council had not provided sufficient support to help Roseberry college and Sixth Form raise standards and improve the quality of education.
- Stakeholders felt there should have been other options considered apart from closure.
- The Governing Body of Roseberry College and Sixth Form stated that they are exploring other options to try and secure the future of the school.
- There was concern from parents and pupils that the courses of study available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form are not available at other schools.
- Stakeholders were concerned that the other schools in the local area were too far for pupils to walk to.
- Stakeholders believed that the housing developments planned for the area had not been considered when calculating future pupil numbers.
- There were concerns from stakeholders that the community facilities which are very well used will be lost if Roseberry College and Sixth form closes.
- Parents, pupils and staff were concerned that the Cabinet Members had not attended any of the meetings to gauge for themselves the level of discontent at the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form.

Summary of responses from community groups who do not support the proposal to close the school.

Changes that have had an impact on the lifestyle of community users that were included in some of the responses:

25.

- Attending sports classes has helped with weight loss
- Attending sports classes has improved fitness
- There is opportunity to attend a range of different classes
- Taking part in various activities has helped towards a healthy lifestyle
- Closing the school will be a loss to community facilities
- Attending community activities is a chance to socialise which will be lost if the school closes
- Girls will not be able to take part in the netball class after school
- If the facilities went people would have to travel further

- Attending painting and art classes improves things like mental and emotional health

Analysis of Consultation Responses and Current Position

26. The large majority of stakeholders who attended the consultation meetings and / or who responded to the consultation were not in support of the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.
27. Stakeholders felt that the Council's motives were to fill up spare places at North Durham Academy which has worse education standards than Roseberry College and Sixth Form. Stakeholders are of the opinion that there are insufficient places at Park View School and The Hermitage Academy which supports their view that the proposal is aimed at sending pupils to North Durham Academy.
28. Views have consistently been expressed that the County Council has failed to provide the level of support required to enable Roseberry College and Sixth Form to improve its education standards and to provide a more effective education.
29. For entry to the school in September 2013, Roseberry College and Sixth Form was the nearest school for 114 pupils who were due to transfer from primary to secondary education. Despite the Admission Limit being 167, only 40 parents opted to send their children there. This compares to between 70 and 80 pupils who will be leaving the school at the end of Year 11. For September 2014 only 9 parents have expressed a first preference for a place at Roseberry College and Sixth Form which demonstrates the fall in pupil numbers is not temporary, however it is acknowledged that the commencement of consultation on closure may have had an impact on the decisions made by parents as to whether to nominate the school as their first preference.
30. The pupil numbers have been falling each year since 2009 January census as follows:

January Census	11-16	Post 16	TOTAL
2009	524	96	620
2010	490	95	585
2011	442	95	537
2012	375	85	460
2013	323	62	385
(Sept 2013)	262	62	324

31. There is significant support for the community activities to continue to run even if the school closes. Officers from the Council's Education Service have been liaising with colleagues from the Leisure Services section of the Council to discuss how support may be given to local groups to consider alternative models for providing community activities in Pelton. Officers have been in correspondence with the Community representative at the school to offer support. Closure of the provision of education at the school site need not necessarily mean that all community activities at the site cease.
32. **In response to the comments from stakeholders highlighted in Paragraph 24 – 25, officers explained that:**
- there is sufficient capacity across a group of schools in the local area to accommodate all of the pupils from Roseberry College and Sixth Form. The

County Council has a duty to ensure that children receive an effective education and we are working with the local schools to maximise the opportunities for Roseberry pupils. To assist with that the County Council has asked parents to indicate which other school(s) they would be interested in sending their children to if Roseberry College and Sixth Form was to close.

- North Durham Academy had been inspected under a new Ofsted Inspection Framework which was introduced in September 2012. This new framework removed the category 'satisfactory' and replaced it with 'requires improvement' which is the judgement for North Durham Academy. When schools are judged in this category they receive a follow up visit from Ofsted and this visit has concluded that North Durham Academy has the capacity to improve and is on an upward trajectory. The last three Ofsted inspections for Roseberry College and Sixth Form have judged the school to be satisfactory. Consequently there is no evidence that the school is improving.

- the proposal was not to fill up empty places at North Durham Academy, but to address the concerns the County Council had for Roseberry College and Sixth Form.

- the consultation process was carried out in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance which sets out recommendations about consulting on such proposals and statutory timescales for a Statutory Notice to be issued. By starting the consultation at the beginning of the school year it means a decision can be made in February 2014 following consultation and the statutory notice period. Should the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth form be agreed it gives the County Council from February until August 2014 to work with families and schools to implement an effective transition process.

- the school had received significant support from the County Council over a number of years. This support included financial support of £45,000 in 2012/13 to support leadership, maths and tracking and specialist advice in most subject areas, especially in English and Maths. Despite the support the school has not improved and shows no signs of doing so. The school also bought in an external consultant to work with the school, not an employee of the County Council.

- the County Council consults on a preferred option, not a range of options. Other options had been considered by officers in the County Council prior to the issue of the consultation document such as amalgamation, federation or doing nothing and letting the school remain as it is. There is no obvious partner school for an amalgamation and in the case of federation there will still be the issue of low pupil numbers at Roseberry. Doing nothing would mean that the pupils would continue to receive an education that is not the quality we would want for pupils in our schools, consequently this is not a viable option.

- the County Council will work with other schools and pupils to try and ensure appropriate courses are available. The other schools in the local area have bigger school rolls and larger budgets and can therefore offer a wide curriculum and subjects may be available elsewhere that are not available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form, which would give pupils transferring, new options to consider.

- the County Council's Home to School Transport policy will be applied to enable pupils to attend an alternative school. For current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils free transport will be provided to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 3 miles. For current Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, free transport will be provided to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 2 miles. In addition to the Council's policy for current pupils in Years 7-11 who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum of Working Tax Credit, under national "extended" transport rights, free transport will be provided to one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the pupil's home.

- new housing is taken into account when future pupil rolls are projected. The County Council works closely with colleagues in the Housing Department to get an idea of when houses are likely to be built and how many pupils are likely to be produced.

- Officers have met with some of the groups that use the community and sports facilities and discussed whether options are available to deliver these activities even if the school closed. Possibilities in relation to future community provision is currently being explored.

- all of the views expressed at the meetings would be reported to Cabinet Members and that it is normal practice for officers to lead the consultation meetings.

School Budget Issues

33. Concerns were raised by the school regarding the accuracy of the financial forecasts to the end of 2014/15, which was quoted in the delegated decision report of 23 September 2013, as being a projected £579,736 deficit. Officers attended the school's Finance Committee meeting to explain the source of these projections, which built on the approved school budget at the point when the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved that consultation, could begin (23rd September 2013), which was showing the utilisation of significant balances in the current year.

34. Since then, further discussions have taken place between officers in the Council and the school's Business Manager, with officers attending the school's Finance Committee meeting, to update the school's current budget position, which has improved but which has been further adversely impacted by leavers post the October census.

35. Finance is not the prime reason that the Council has concerns about the viability of the school, save as a consequence of the reduction in pupil numbers and changes to the funding formulas. Had there only been concerns solely as to the financial viability of the school, the Council would have approached the school in respect of these explicitly and, as is the case with all schools, supported it to find a solution. It is recognised that the Governors of the school have a good track record of balancing their budget, but that the scale of ongoing reductions makes this

increasingly difficult and to maintain a balanced curriculum provision / high standards of education.

Conclusion

36. The responses to the consultation have been welcomed by officers in the County Council. However, whilst the majority of respondents clearly expressed strong views in support of keeping the school open, the responses received provided no evidence that keeping the school open would address the issue of low pupil numbers. With continued falling numbers which have decreased further during the consultation period, the outlook for the school budget is very challenging, bringing increased challenge to maintaining a good standard of education for the children and families around the community of Pelton.
37. With reference to the guidance highlighted in paragraph 7, in the course of the consultation, the council has not yet been presented with details of alternative options that it wishes to consider. Had that been the case it would take steps to begin a separate consultation on a new option.
38. Governors requested that the proposal was changed to close the school on 31 December 2014 instead of 31 August 2014. This would enable the school to complete the application process to create a Free School. The school has informed the County Council that the earliest the Free School could open is January 2015.
39. The Department for Education (DfE) runs 3 application rounds each academic year for groups considering creating a Free School. Governors have already completed the pre-application registration form and are aiming to have their application submitted by the DfE's deadline of 10 January 2014. There is then an interview period between 24 February – 28 March 2014, with successful applicants being announced in Spring 2014.
40. The school has provided very little information about either of the two scenarios that they are exploring – joining with an Academy or creating a Free School.
41. The County Council is therefore not in a position to treat these as new options that it wishes to consider to address the low pupil numbers at the school. Officers will contact the school and ask for further information so that it becomes clearer about what the timescales would be for the school's proposed changes.
42. The Council does not consider it appropriate to extend the date for closure to 31 December 2014. It is not considered good practice to close a secondary school in the middle of an academic year. Closure of an educational facility can be difficult for children, however the Council considers the effect of the same can be best mitigated by ensuring that children move to new schools at the start of the academic year, when all children move to new classes and are familiarising themselves with new locations and procedures.
43. It is the Council's intention to make the decision on whether the school will stay open or not at the County Council's Cabinet meeting in February 2014. By that time it may be clearer whether a Free School is likely to be created or if the school is going to join up with an Academy. If a Free School is created on the existing site of the school the County Council would still need to cease to maintain Roseberry College and Sixth Form as a Local Authority Maintained Community School.

44. Despite the level of response to the consultation, officers still have the same concerns about the future viability of the school that were expressed at the beginning of the consultation period. There remains no other option that the County Council wishes to consider other than to propose closure of the school.

Recommendation

45. After full consideration of all responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services is recommended to give approval for Officers to issue a statutory notice proposing to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form with effect from 31 August 2014.

Background Papers

Report of 23 September 2013 – Proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding may be required to demolish the school building if no County Council Service or private organisation wishes to use it. Costs would be met from the Capital Maintenance Grant provided from the Government. There is also likely to be additional transport costs if pupils are now receiving free transport to attend another school. These costs will be met from the County Council's Home to School Transport budget. There will be costs associated with any redundancies, as well as costs associated with the termination of contracts at the school, together with the repayment of any grants that may have been provided to the school in the event that the terms of grant are breached. There will be costs associated with any legal challenge as detailed below.

Staffing

Staff would be considered for alternative employment through Durham County Council's existing scheme and the School Brokerage Scheme.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the school becomes unviable and pupils education is affected as the budget available is reduced as a result of low pupil numbers which will prevent a suitable curriculum to be delivered for all students.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination.

Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics". An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights

Human rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services and Local Members have been consulted on the outcomes of the consultation. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder is in agreement that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services uses delegated powers to approve that a statutory notice should be issued.

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications

The Council is aware that the school had instructed solicitors to advise it in respect of the process, and that it is possible that any decision taken by the Council may be subject to legal challenge.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD

Please complete all sections

DECISION MAKER

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Under the County Council's constitution, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to:

- 1.4 *The Council's role as Local Education Authority and its role in commissioning 14-19 education as determined by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and any subsequent legislation and training for young people.*

SUBJECT

To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.

DECISION

If Key Decision insert No. CAS/06/13

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

Pelton

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder was consulted on 10 September 2013. Local Members were consulted on 10 September 2013.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

N/A

**A NOTE OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE IN
RELATION TO THE ABOVE CONFLICT**

N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)
Yes
Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None Proposal to close Rosebery College on SATS from from 31 August 2014 report


CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT No.

03000 265731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

	23/9/13
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This form must be sent electronically to delegations@durham.gov.uk within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services and notified to you.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information.
5. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
6. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
7. List papers used which the decision was based – must be retained and readily accessible.
8. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
9. Enter the date the decision was made.

DELEGATED DECISION

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES



23 September 2013

Proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

Report of CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES
Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director
Children and Adults Service

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on a proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.

Background

- 2 The school has the capacity to accommodate 996 pupils but currently the number on roll is 324 (including Year 12 and 13). With such low numbers it is difficult to sustain a school of this size as increasingly it is harder to balance a budget that will enable an effective curriculum to be delivered. This is having an impact on educational standards at the school. With the low pupil numbers expected in 2014/15 compared to previous years the funding available to the school will considerably reduce. Taking account of this, it is projected that the school will have a deficit budget of £579,736 in 2014/15.
- 3 Pupil rolls are expected to drop further in forthcoming years, therefore the viability of the school is questionable.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 4 Due to the increasing difficulty small secondary schools have to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum officers believe that educationally the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is in the best interests of students and their families. The reasons for consulting on the proposal are to address the issues of low pupil numbers, the educational standards and budget issues. Officers believe that secondary age pupils in Pelton would have wider opportunities for educational improvement if they were to be educated at other schools which are able to offer a broader curriculum in a larger school.
- 5 Projected rolls at Roseberry College and Sixth Form :

School	Capacity	Current 11-18 Roll	Projected Roll at Sept 2014	Projected Roll at Sept 2015	Projected Roll at Sept 2016	Projected Roll at Sept 2017	Projected Roll at Sept 2018	Projected Roll at Sept 2019	Projected Roll at Sept 2020	Projected Roll at Sept 2021	Projected Roll at Sept 2022
Roseberry College and Sixth Form	996	324	292	270	263	289	301	314	311	317	298

- 6 There are places available at other schools in the local area which can offer a more broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of all students.
- 7 As part of the consultation we would ask parents to let us know which schools they would prefer their child(ren) to attend if the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is agreed. This will enable a carefully considered transition plan to be implemented to help pupils settle at another school with minimum disruption.
- 8 Officers from the County Council have met with the Head Teacher and Chair of the Governing Body to explain why we are proposing to close the school. We now wish to begin wider consultation on the proposal.

Consultation Timescales

- 9 It is intended that a six week period of consultation will commence week beginning Monday 30 September 2013. Consultation documents will be issued to key stakeholders including, Governors, staff, parents, Local Members, Community Groups, Parish Councils, neighbouring schools, AAP groups etc. Meetings will also be held with parents and key groups that are likely to be affected by the proposal during October for officers to provide information and present an opportunity for individuals to share their views on this proposal. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Local Members have been fully consulted and are happy for wider consultation to begin.
10. The six week consultation period will end on Friday 8 November 2013 and all responses to the consultation will be carefully considered. If it is decided to proceed with the proposal at that stage, a statutory notice will be published for six weeks. After the six week notice period Cabinet would be asked to make a decision on the proposal.

Decision

- 11 The Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services agrees that consultation can begin on the proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265731

Delegated Decision – Roseberry College and Sixth Form

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding may be required to demolish the school building if no County Council Service or private organisation wishes to use it. Costs would be met from the Capital Maintenance Grant provided from the Government.

Staffing

Staff would be considered for alternative employment through Durham County Council's existing scheme and the School Brokerage Scheme.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the school becomes unviable and pupils education is affected as the budget issues and low pupil numbers will prevent a suitable curriculum to be delivered for all students.

Equality and Diversity

As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics". An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment will be carried out as appropriate.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Human Rights

Human rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults Services and Local Members have been consulted and they support the proposal and the process outlined for consultation. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder is happy for the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to use delegated powers to approve that consultation can begin.

Procurement

N/A.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

N/A

Roseberry College and Sixth Form



**Durham County Council would like to hear
your views about a proposal to close the school
from 31 August 2014**

Public Consultation Information

THE PROPOSAL

To close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

Background

Durham County Council keeps under review the number of pupils attending each school and it also updates information every year about how many pupils are likely to be attending schools in the future. This is an important aspect of the County Council's function in planning school places across the county to ensure there are enough schools of a suitable size to meet local requirements and to provide the best possible education for the pupils they serve.

Roseberry College and Sixth Form is an 11-18 school. The school building can hold 996 pupils but there are currently only 324 pupils on roll (262 11-16 pupils and 62 post 16 pupils) and this number is expected to fall below 300 in September 2014. There are other schools in the area that have spare places, therefore consideration needs to be given to whether Roseberry College and Sixth Form remains viable to stay open.

It is on this basis that Durham County Council is consulting with you about closing the school because officers in the County Council believe the school is likely to be unsustainable with such low numbers.

You will no doubt have many questions to ask about the reasons for consulting with you on this proposal and what will happen if it is decided to close the school. This consultation document aims to answer some of those questions and explains how you can let the County Council know what you think about the proposed changes.

30. Why is the County Council proposing to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form?

The County Council has been concerned for a number of years about the low pupil numbers at the school and those concerns have become more serious following changes to school funding arrangements. Due to the increasing difficulty that small secondary schools have to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, officers believe that educationally the proposal to close the school is in the best interests of students and their families. The key reasons for consulting on the proposal are to address the issues of low pupil numbers and concerns about the ability of the school to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Officers believe that secondary age children in this area of the county would have wider opportunities for educational improvement if they were to be educated at other schools which are able to offer a broader curriculum in a larger school.

2. How many pupils currently attend the school that could be affected?

Year Group	Number of Pupils
Year 7	40
Year 8	38
Year 9	42
Year 10	66
Year 11	76
Year 12	35
Year 13	27

3. Where will pupils go if the proposal to close the school from 31 August 2014 is approved?

As part of the consultation process, parents will be invited to attend a special meeting with officers from the County Council so that they can say what their 3 preferred options would be for a place at another school if Roseberry was to close. Once officers know what parents wish to do they can then discuss transfer arrangements with the other schools that may be asked to take pupils from Roseberry. Although there are places available at other schools in the local area, we cannot begin this work until we know how many pupils may be requesting a place at specific schools. Therefore, to enable transition plans to be put in place we need parents to help us by letting us know which alternative schools they would prefer their child(ren) to attend in the event of closure. At this special meeting you will be asked to complete a form indicating your 3 preferences. Officers will then be able to take the information away and consider any other implications parents may need to be aware of, such as possible transport to another school.

4. If pupils have to travel further to attend a different school will transport be provided?

Whether free transport is provided will depend on the year group the pupil is currently in. This is because the County Council amended its home to school transport policy from September 2012. The following shows the effect of this on each individual year group:

▪ **Current Year 7 and Year 8 Pupils**

For current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 3 miles. This is in accordance with the new policy which became effective from September 2012.

▪ **Current Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 Pupils**

For current year 9, year 10 and year 11 pupils, free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 2 miles. This arrangement is based on the previous Home to School Transport Policy, prior to the changes in September 2012.

- **Current Year 12 and Year 13 Pupils**

Year 12 and year 13 pupils who, in the view of the County Council are unable to travel independently, e.g. are unable to access a viable public transport system or by reason of a medical condition, will receive assistance with transport. They will also have the option to apply for a concessionary seat on a school vehicle operating to a school with sixth form provision.

- **For all Current Pupils in years 7-11**

The “Extended Transport Rights”

In addition to the Council’s policy, for pupils who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum of Working Tax Credit, under national “extended” transport rights, free transport will be provided to one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the pupil’s home.

- **Current Year 6 pupils**

We are aware that this consultation has started after the period for submitting applications for a place at secondary school for 1 September 2014, but this is a statutory period which applies to all Local Authorities and cannot be moved. We know that parents will be concerned about their application for a secondary school if the decision to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form is approved. Officers from the County Council will be meeting parents of Year 6 pupils in the local area to explain how they can submit a different preference to cover them in the event that the school is closed. Parents of Year 6 pupils will be notified by letter when those meetings will be held.

5. How will pupils in Year 9 who may have to move to new schools in Year 10 make applications for the courses they want to follow?

If the proposal is agreed, the schools that will be taking in additional pupils from Roseberry will be working very closely together to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to attend events about subject choices at Key Stage 4 so that they are ready to start in September 2014.

6. How will pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 be able to complete their exam courses if Roseberry College and Sixth Form is closed from 31 August 2014?

The curriculum leaders from schools and Post 16 education providers that would possibly be taking pupils from Roseberry will discuss this with existing staff at Roseberry and they will make arrangements for each pupil to continue their education with minimum disruption

7. Will pupils with Special Educational Needs still have their needs met if they have to move to other schools?

Yes. All schools provide full support for pupils with special needs.

8. Is closing Roseberry College and Sixth Form the only option that the County Council has considered?

No. The County Council has considered doing nothing and allowing the school to continue to run. This is not a viable option as the low pupil numbers make it very difficult to deliver an effective curriculum with such a small budget.

The County Council believes that closing Roseberry College and Sixth Form is the most viable option to ensure that pupils will be provided with an effective education and to ensure their current education continues and that transition arrangements to other schools would be well managed.

9. If the proposal is agreed, what would happen to the existing buildings and site?

The site would continue to be used by the school until 31 August 2014. After that date the site would be the subject of the County Council's land disposal process.

10. How do we respond to the consultation?

We would like to hear what you think about the proposal for this school.

- We are holding meetings for parents at Roseberry College and Sixth Form as follows:

Monday 7 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 10 pupils

Monday 7 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 12 pupils

Tuesday 8 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 9 pupils

Tuesday 8 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 8 pupils

Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 7 pupils

Thursday 10 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 11 pupils

Thursday 10 October 2013 at 7.00 pm for parents/carers of Year 13 pupils

We would urge all parents to attend these meetings as you will be asked to provide information to the County Council about alternative options for your child as highlighted in Paragraph 3. If you cannot attend on the date for the relevant year group you are interested in please feel free to attend one of the other meetings. Similarly if you have more than one child at the school please attend an appropriate meeting of your choice.

We will also be arranging separate meetings with residents, community associations and Parish Councils so that members of the local community can express their views on the proposals. Details will be given via the relevant local groups.

- You can also respond in one of the following ways by 8 November 2013.
 - (30) Send in the attached response form or write to: Mr Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No. DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR.
 - (30) Email your views to: schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk or complete the response form online via the Education and Learning Section of the County Council's website www.durham.gov.uk

11. What happens after 8 November 2013 when the consultation period ends?

All the responses to the consultation will be considered carefully. If the County Council decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice would then be published for 6 weeks when objections could be made. **Although the consultation started on 30 September 2013 it is important to note that any decision about potential closure of the school will not be made until early in 2014 when full consultation has been carried out. It is the County Council's Cabinet members that will be making the decision.**

RESPONSE FORM
CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE
ROSEBERRY COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM FROM 31 AUGUST 2014

30. Please tick **one** box from the list below to let us know if you are responding to this consultation **mainly** as a:

Parent/Carer of a pupil(s) at

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |

Please state which school:

OR a Pupil at

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |

Please state which school:

OR a

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Staff |
|-----------------------------------|--|

Please state which school:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish/Town Council Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbouring Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> MP |

Other (please state):

2. Looking at the information in Section 1-10 of this document do you support the proposal to discontinue the use of Roseberry College and Sixth Form?

Yes No

3. Are there any comments you wish to make about the proposal to close the school, including any impact the changes would have directly on you?

Please return this form by 8 November 2013 to:

Mr Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services,
Business Reply Service Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County
Hall, Durham DH1 5BR

(The information that you send may need to be passed to colleagues or shared with partners. It may also be published in a summary of responses received to this consultation but results will not contain your name or anything that could identify you. If you require an acknowledgement to your response, please provide details below.)

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Signed: **Date:**
.....

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Children and Adults Services

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form for Consultation

We want to make it easy for everyone to tell us what they think. Our aim is to be fair and your answers to the following questions will help us find out the views from a wide range of people and understand any differences in the answers of particular groups. Your answers will be confidential and used for this consultation only.

You only need to answer if you feel happy to do so.

1. Are you

Male Female

2. How old are you?

Under 16 16-24 25-44 45-64 65+

3. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

(This may include any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity which has a substantial effect on your day to day life. Long-standing means it has lasted, or is likely to last, for over a year.)

Yes No

4. What is your religion or belief?

Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim Sikh Buddhist

Other (please specify)

5. How do you describe your sexuality?

Heterosexual/Straight Gay Woman/Lesbian Gay Man Bisexual

Other (please specify)

6. To which of these groups do you belong?

White Asian or Asian British Black or Black British

Travelling Community Mixed Arab or Middle Eastern

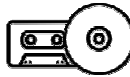
Other (please specify)

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese) اردو (Urdu)
polski (Polish) ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) Español (Spanish)
বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)
Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)



Braille



Audio



Large
Print

Roseberry – programme of consultation meetings

30th Sept 3.00pm – Staff meeting

2nd Oct 3.00pm – Governors meeting

7th Oct 2.30pm – Yr 6 parents Roseberry primary

7th Oct 7.00pm – Yr 10 parents

7th Oct 7.00pm – Yr 12 parents

8th Oct 9.00am – Yr 6 parents Pelton Primary

8th Oct 7pm – Yr 8 parents

8th Oct 7pm – Yr 9 parents

9th Oct 3.30pm – Yr 6 parents Ouston Juniors

9th Oct 7.00pm – Yr 7 parents

10th Oct 2.45pm – Yr 6 parents West Pelton Primary

10th Oct 7.00pm – Yr 11 parents

10th Oct 7.00pm – Yr 13 parents

15th Oct 6.30pm – Urpeth Parish Council

17th Oct 7.00pm – Pelton Fell Community Partnership

23rd Oct 3.30pm – Devon Elgie, Community Use of the School

23rd Oct 6.30pm – Pelton Parish Council

24th Oct 7.00pm – Ouston parish Council

29th October 7.00pm – West Pelton and High Handenhold Residents Association (cancelled – venue not available)

30th Oct 7.00pm – Urpeth Residents Association

4th Nov 4.00 – 6.00pm – Community Users Drop In Session

4th Nov 6.30pm – Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends Residents Association

6th Nov 1.30pm – School Council



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to Close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council, intends to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form (Community), Pelton, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH2 1NW from 31 August 2014.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to this proposal have been complied with.

Roseberry College and Sixth Form can accommodate 996 pupils. When the consultation began on the proposal to close the school there were 324 pupils on roll (262 11-16 pupils and 62 post 16 pupils). This number is expected to fall below 300 in September 2014.

There are sufficient places across other secondary schools in the local area to offer places to pupils displaced from Roseberry College and Sixth Form without specific measures having to be taken to increase the number of places at these establishments. The secondary schools within a 4 mile radius of Roseberry College and Sixth Form are Park View School, The Hermitage Academy, North Durham Academy, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy and Tanfield School, Specialist College of Science and Engineering. All pupils on the roll of Roseberry College and Sixth Form with Special Education Needs who would be displaced by this proposal would continue to have their needs met in any school that they transferred to.

The County Council's relevant home to school transport policy and the national "extended" transport rights, where appropriate, will be applied to determine whether the displaced pupils will be eligible for free home to school transport to an alternative school. Where a pupil will be attending the nearest suitable school the County Council may have a duty to provide free travel where the distance is less than the maximum walking distance and where the home to school walking route has been assessed as unsuitable. All measures will be used to help reduce car usage where possible.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Mr Graeme Plews, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UJ.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No. DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR. Objections and comments can also be sent via the County Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk or e-mailed to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk.

Signed:

Rachel Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

Publication Date: 12 December 2013

(30 September 2013)

Roseberry College & Sixth Form Proposal – Places available at Schools in the Local Area

Schools in Area	Y7 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y7 Pupils on Roll	Y7 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
1. Park View Community School 2. Hermitage Academy 3. North Durham Academy 4. Fyndoune Community College 5. Tanfield School, Specialist College of Science and Engineering	925	715	210	40
	Y8 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y8 Pupils on Roll	Y8 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	925	680	245	38
	Y9 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y9 Pupils on Roll	Y9 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	950	776	174	42
	Y10 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y10 Pupils on Roll	Y10 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	950	756	194	66
Schools in Area	Y7 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y7 Pupils on Roll	Y7 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
1. Park View Community School 2. Hermitage Academy 3. North Durham Academy 4. Tanfield School, Specialist College of Science and Engineering	835	636	199	40
	Y8 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y8 Pupils on Roll	Y8 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	835	612	223	38
	Y9 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y9 Pupils on Roll	Y9 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	835	704	131	42
	Y10 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y10 Pupils on Roll	Y10 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	835	694	141	66
Schools in Area	Y7 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y7 Pupils on Roll	Y7 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
1. Park View Community School 2. Hermitage Academy 3. North Durham Academy	697	558	139	40
	Y8 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y8 Pupils on Roll	Y8 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	697	512	185	38
	Y9 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y9 Pupils on Roll	Y9 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	697	568	129	42
	Y10 Capacity Of Schools In Area	Y10 Pupils on Roll	Y10 Places Available	No of Pupils on Roll at Roseberry (30 Sept. 2013)
	697	572	125	66



Roseberry College & Sixth Form
Principal: Mrs A Bowen BSc (Hons), MA (Ed)

Telephone: (0191) 370 0300 Facsimile: (0191) 370 1490
E-mail: roseberrysports@durhamlearning.net
Website: www.roseberrycollege.co.uk

Newfield
Pelton
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH2 1NW

**Appeal against the Statutory Notice of Closure by the
Governors of Roseberry College and Sixth Form.**

January 2014.

Signed.....*CMJ Foster*..... Date *22/01/14*.....
(Chair of Governors)





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Newfield
Pelton
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH2 1NW

22nd January 2014.

Dear Councillor Henig and other Cabinet Members,

The Governors at Roseberry College and Sixth Form hereby appeal against the Statutory Notice of Closure Issued by Durham County Council on 12th December 2013.

Attached under cover of this letter is a vision for Roseberry in the future and a series of appendices which support the viability of the college's vision and which include: -

- a weight of evidence that demonstrates that Roseberry is viable and sustainable in the future in terms of the budget, curriculum, standards and student numbers,

- For 2014-15 a surplus budget can be achieved (see Appendix 1).
- A broad and balanced curriculum would continue as per the attached Vision document.
- Standards are continuing to rise. As per the information in Appendix 2, Year 11 results in November 2013 are 70% C+ in English and 57% C+ in maths and these can only improve in Summer 2014, thus moving the College further towards a 'Good' in OFSTED terms (the cohort is below average).
- Student numbers will rise in the future as a result of population growth in Chester-Le-Street (Appendix 4) and improving standards.

- the overwhelming majority of a range of stakeholders who responded to the consultation were opposed to the proposal to close the College,

Reference 'Summary of responses to Consultation 30 September – 6 December 2013

- Durham County Council's use of and reliance upon inadequate and flawed information in support of the case for closure.

- Inaccurate and out of date budget information
- Inaccurate portrayal and selective use of examination data
- Absence of availability of data on future population projections for the Chester le Street area
- statements about the future pupil roll not commensurate with the data presented
- misplaced assumption (without any justification as to the basis for such a view) that a broad and balanced curriculum cannot be provided by the college going forwards.
- wrong assumptions about the outcome of any future OFSTED inspection
- lack of analysis of impact upon equality and diversity, including the college's special needs profile.
- Inadequate data for families on the true extent of pupil places available in other schools
- absence of information made available during the course of the consultation process with respect to increased travel distances to other schools. To the contrary, the information provided in the Proposal only uses Roseberry as the starting point
- inadequate and flawed assessment of the financial costs of closure, limited in the decision document to the demolition of the site only.
- the absence of knowledge and consideration of the extent of the community use of the College.



BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Trust





Roseberry College & Sixth Form
Principal: Mrs A Bowen BSc (Hons), MA (Ed)

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 E-mail: roseberysports@durhamlearning.net
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Newfield
 Pelton
 Chester-le-Street
 County Durham
 DH2 1NW

- An apparent absence of consideration of issues of equality and diversity. In particular, there has been no evidence made available that an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out.

Impact of the consultation on equality and diversity:		
	September 2013	January 2014
Ever six (Free School Meals)	%	%
Year 7	60	69
Year 8	39	59
Year 9	56	82
Year 10	48	62
Special Educational needs (SEN)	%	%
Year 7	48	50
Year 8	55	58
Year 9	37	55
Year 10	26	38

-One young man with a statement (autism) in Year 9, and his family, are truly devastated and after three plus good years in mainstream at Roseberry they feel the only alternative if closure occurs will be a special school. This was also advised by a LA ASD officer. He is terrified of moving, a typical response of someone with autism.
 -Another student in the sixth form, likewise on the autistic spectrum cannot find another school within 10 miles that would allow him to follow the same curriculum as he does at Roseberry. He faces having not only to change school but to start his A level studies all over again.
 -Governors are concerned for the future placement and education for all students but especially the significant proportion who are Ever Six and or SEN. There are also a number of Year 12 students on a foundation programme for whom there are no alternative providers.

The Governors remain devastated and also very concerned by the decisions taken to date by the officers of Durham County Council with respect to the future of the school and in particular, are concerned that: -

- The needs and wishes of the local community in Pelton and the surrounding villages have not been well understood;
- proper and rigorous evaluation of any data made available by opponents to the proposal has been lacking and that, to date, the wishes of the students, their families, Governors and the wider local community have not been given due consideration.





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County Durham
DH2 1NW

- In the apparent absence of any county strategic plan for educational provision and/or any policy on school closures, the proposal is simply a direct response to there being a significant surplus of places at North Durham Academy following Tanfield School's successful objection to the proposal that it would form part of the newly established North Durham Academy.
- the true extent of the impact of the consultation on student transfers raises equality issues which have not been properly considered

Governors remain resolute in their view that there is and should be a future for Roseberry College and Sixth Form. The college's case has already been made about the budget, curriculum and standards, so much so that the latter documentation produced and prepared by the Officers of Durham County Council during the course of the consultation on the statutory notice no longer makes any reference to these. In particular, the most recent examination results show the College continues towards 'good' in OFSTED terms. This, together with, the projected future growth in population in the Chester-le-Street area, will inevitably lead to an increase in the College roll. Anecdotal evidence obtained by the college also suggests that a number of young people who transferred as a result of the consultation would, in fact, return to Roseberry should it remain open. The College has already had contact with two parents who wish for their sons to return now to Roseberry from North Durham Academy. Others who initially transferred to North Durham Academy in Year 12 have already since left the Academy and there are others of last year's Year 11 pupils who sadly have given up study at 16+.

Against this backdrop, it is self-evident that the closure of the College will deny residents of Chester-le-Street the opportunity to be educated within their local area. Lord Lawson is undergoing an expansion programme and the outward movement of young people to Gateshead for their secondary education is likely to increase further, yet both Park View and Hermitage are close to capacity and cannot expand further. The transfers of young people since the start of the consultation demonstrates the desire of the families to be educated within Chester-le-Street. At the start of the consultation Park View only had places in Years 7 and 8 and Hermitage mostly in Year 8 only. North Durham Academy has places in all year groups. Only 12 students have transferred to North Durham Academy to Years 7 and 8 in contrast to 33 to Park View or Hermitage.

In addition, there will be 1500 or so community users displaced and owing to the resultant transport costs which will have to be incurred, it is likely that a significant number will no longer access any evening or weekend activities. As a result, communities such as Pelton Fell and Grange Villa will be further isolated and marginalised. The young people will also find staying to attend after school activities impossible due to transport arrangements.



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Roseberry College & Sixth Form
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The Governors are grateful to those Council Members of Durham County Council who have met with Governors and senior staff from Roseberry. It is hoped that Cabinet members will give due regard to the evidence presented, in particular to the strength of feeling amongst students and their families, as well as the Governors and the wider local community, that Roseberry should remain open as an educational establishment.

Please ensure that this letter and the appeal document is appended to the delegated decision report (and not just made for available for inspection upon request) to be prepared in advance of the meeting in February 2014 at which Cabinet members are to decide on the future of the school.

Pending the outcome of this meeting, all of the College's rights are reserved, including its rights in respect of judicial review proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Chair of Governors

The School's Vision for Roseberry College & Sixth Form from September 2014 onwards.

The following proposal represents the Governors' vision for Roseberry in the future in the event that the school remains open and incorporates, amongst other things, a detailed curriculum plan which, insofar as it is still necessary for the college to do so, demonstrates the capacity of the College to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum in the future.

It is worth noting that the pre-application registration for the establishment of a Free School at Roseberry College & Sixth Form still stands, but the stance of the Local Authority in refusing to date to contemplate extending the closure date beyond 31 August 2014 presently make the establishment of a free school impossible before May 2015. It is therefore inappropriate and difficult at this stage to further advance the case of a free school as a viable alternative to the closure of Roseberry School, other than to say that this would not be the case in the event that the local authority were prepared to revisit their decision to refuse to extend the closure dated. However, as things stand, the Governors have agreed not to proceed with an application for a Free School in January, but remain prepared to consider doing so at a later date.

PROPOSAL

Rationale

Durham County Council has consulted on the closure of the school with effect from August 2014, primarily, it appears, because of low student numbers and surplus places. Despite strong support for the school to stay open, the officers of Durham County Council consider that, in the absence of substantial alternative proposals, closure is still the best course of action for Durham County Council. While it has been demonstrated that the college is financially viable on the basis of relatively low student numbers, it is acknowledged that there will remain surplus places.

The preferred option of the Governors has always been for Roseberry College and Sixth Form to remain open as a Durham County Council maintained secondary school in its own right and the following proposal aims to secure that outcome through a response to the primary concerns of officers of Durham County Council regarding financial viability against the backdrop of relatively low student numbers. This proposal also seeks to demonstrate that relatively low student intake numbers and a relatively small school need not adversely affect the quality of education provided, and in fact has the potential to provide a very high quality of education if staffing and curriculum are employed creatively.

Recent developments at Roseberry College and Sixth Form

For the past three years, student intake at Roseberry has been around 40 students, with 66 in year 10 (before the beginning of the consultation) and 78 in year 11. Numbers in the Sixth Form have been steady with around 45 across years 12 and 13. Staffing, management structures have been managed to match student numbers and associated funding, and curriculum structures have been developed in line with student needs and changes in qualifications nationally. Academic leadership has moved towards a faculty structure better suited to a relatively small school. The current staff team are multi-skilled, flexible and highly collaborative in their working practices so that it has been possible to increase standards and effectiveness while the pupil roll has fallen. While the headline measure of 5CEM was disappointing in 2013, this was due to unexpected outcomes in one subject alone (English), with other evidence indicating marked improvements in other areas including progress in years 7 to 10, performance gaps, behaviour and attendance (detailed in the 2013 SEF). For the past two years we have been increasing the focus on English, Maths and Science in both key stage 3 and 4. At key stage 4, there has been a greater emphasis on more academic GCSE subjects in the options and more time has been allocated to the core academic subjects of English, Maths and Science.

Issues to resolve in 2014

- The college admission number is too high and needs to be reduced.
- The college site is now too large for the number of students on roll. While this has some advantages, these will increasingly be outweighed by the problems this mismatch creates.
- While the 2013 year 11 cohort is 78, and is likely to lead to a good sized year 12 if the college remains open, the year groups which follow are smaller and a full range of Sixth Form options at Roseberry will be less viable, particularly from 2015.

Proposals

1. Admission number

It is proposed that the admission limit from September 2014 should be reduced to 60.

2. Site and premises

(i) It is proposed that a comprehensive buildings survey should be commissioned with a view to decommissioning and if necessary, demolishing, surplus buildings. It is envisaged that the college could operate effectively with up to 300 students without several of the existing buildings, for example, the main three storey block (G block), the Sciences block and Ravensworth House Block. Decisions regarding which buildings to decommission would be made in association with Local Authority officers.

(ii) It is proposed that most of the existing sports and cultural facilities should be retained for the use of the college during curriculum time, for extra-curricular activities and for the extensive community sports and drama provision which currently exists and should continue. This would include the sports hall and changing rooms, the gym, dance studio and fitness room, the drama studio and main hall, the artificial grass surface (AGS), running track and one football field.

(iii) It is proposed that significant areas of the college site and playing fields, along with buildings, should also be returned to the County estate. This may amount to more than 50% of the current acreage of the college site and would include the car parks to the south of the site.

3. Sixth Form

The current year 11 is 78 students, and many have expressed an interest in attending the Roseberry Sixth Form if the college is to remain open. We propose that Sixth Form provision is continued at Roseberry until the end of 2016 to allow students currently in year 11 to complete Sixth Form studies. As a result of the impact of the closure consultation, the current year 10 is too small to justify a Sixth Form, and the key stage 3 year groups have always been relatively small. We therefore propose that after the admission of the September 2016 cohort into the Sixth Form, no further students are admitted. This would mean that from September 2014, the age range at Roseberry would need to be adjusted to 11 to 16.

On the basis of two form entry, if the curriculum were to be delivered as above, a teaching staff of 13 full time equivalent teachers would be necessary. This allows 3 option subjects to be delivered in each option block in years 10 and 11, which would allow up to nine different option subjects to run alongside core subjects (please see likely list of options below). If all year groups were full (assuming a maximum admission number of 60 in each year group), it is likely that additional groups would need to run in the practical subjects of DT and PE, which would require an extra 21 lessons to be delivered, increasing the requirement to 14 teachers. Based on this curriculum plan, students in years 10 and 11 would be able to study towards a minimum of nine GCSE (or GCSE equivalent) qualifications (assuming two English qualifications, one Maths, a two GCSE equivalent qualification for Science and no PE qualification) or up to 12.5 GCSE or equivalent qualifications for the most able (assuming an additional Statistics qualification, triple Science, a GCSE or equivalent in PE and RE GCSE short course). On the curriculum plan above, 'PECC' is a combination of PHSE, Careers and Citizenship, delivered as a discrete lesson at KS3 and in suspended timetable sessions in KS4. HUMS refers to the Humanities subjects of History, Geography and RE.

Based on the option choices that Roseberry students have made in recent years, it is likely that the list of Key Stage 4 option subjects from which students would choose three would be:

Geography GCSE, History GCSE, French GCSE, Textiles GCSE, Graphics GCSE, Art GCSE, Performing Arts GCSE, Sport BTEC Extended Certificate or PE GCSE, Health and Social Care BTEC Extended Certificate, Hairdressing Level 2 City and Guilds VRQ (however, the list of subjects which run depends on the interests and requirements of students and their families, and is reviewed every year)

Alongside their three option subjects, students in year 10 and 11 would, as currently, would study the following core subjects:

English Language GCSE, English Literature GCSE, Mathematics GCSE (plus Statistics GCSE for the most able in Maths), Core and Additional Science GCSEs (or three separate Science GCSEs for the most able in Science), OCR Cambridge National ICT (or GCSE Computer Science), Religious Education GCSE Short Course. Students currently have the option of studying towards a BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Dance) in core PE time, which we would continue to offer.

What Roseberry Sixth Form & College can do

By reference to the following appendices (see below) to this proposal, Roseberry can prove that it is able going forwards to:

- Set a surplus budget
- Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum
- Continue to raise examination performance...English 70% and Maths 57% for 2014 already.
- Provide a hub for the local community with after school, evening and weekend activities 52 weeks of the year.
- Continue to be the most significant employer in the local area
- Provide a meaningful alternative educational establishment for the learners in Chester le Street – an alternative to the large non-Local Authority funded academies and to cease the outmigration of students from Durham County to Gateshead.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Finance – the position for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Appendix 2 : Standards

Appendix 3: Serving the wider community

Appendix 4: Demographics and school places

Appendix 5: Financial implications of the closure of the College.

Appendix 6: Transport data prepared by the College.

APPENDIX 1: Finance

The budget information used by Durham County Council officers throughout the consultation process is inaccurate and out of date. In particular,

1. Durham County Council officers have commented in public meetings that they had concerns that the College carryover from 2012-13 was too high. However the figure being quoted of £354,613 is incorrect by the sum of £76,283. The reason for this is that the College was holding £36,391 in respect of School Games Organiser funding and moreover, £39,892 was committed for projects/invoices in 2013-4. Of this carryover of £278,330 which was used to set the budget, only £13,828 had been used for this purpose at the time of the six month review. This was due to staff changes and budget efficiencies.
2. The projected budget deficit of £579,735 which is being used is grossly inaccurate. School funding officers set the 2013-14 budget very closely with the College and has at all times been aware that this included specific one off expenditures and money held for projects and staffing which would not be in place in 2014-15. Governors have ratified a projected budget for 2014-15 and the reasons for differences are shown on Budget 1 annexed hereto. School funding officers did not consult on this projection with the College or its staff prior to the commencement of the consultation at all, nor did they use the College's extensive of their own budget at any time.
3. Governors have also ratified a budget that shows the College was able to set a balanced budget at the start of the consultation process which can be seen in Budget 2 annexed hereto.
4. Moving forward Governors have ratified that balanced budgets can be set for the whole financial year on current pupil numbers Budget 3 annexed hereto).

The Governors are very disappointed that the budget projections erroneously relied upon and repeatedly stated by the officers of Durham County Council throughout the consultation process have provided to other concerned parties an inaccurate impression of the financial position of the College.

The College has never set a deficit budget, nor does it have any intention of doing so this year or in any future years.

BUDGET 1

PROVISIONAL BUDGET PLAN 2014/2015

	DCC	RCSF	Reasons for Differences
EMPLOYEES			
Teachers	1,401,059	1,401,059	
Supply Cover	88,800	25,000	3 Maternity covers in 2013-14 so not as much needed.
Supply Cover One to One	10,000	0	Staffing timetables allow this to be delivered in-house.
Clerical Assistants	172,664	174,203	Extra staff days added.
Learning Support Assistants	37,769	37,769	
Classroom Support	7,000	0	2013-14 amount was to cover a support staff maternity leave.
Cover Supervisors	30,849	30,849	
Lab Assts / Technicians	16,268	16,268	
Kitchen Staff	0	0	
Caretakers	44,252	44,252	
Cleaners	49,003	49,725	
Cashiers	0	0	
Ext School Comm-Focused Staff	27,641	1,826	SGO staff no longer employed by school; member of staff left and not being replaced.
Recruitment/Relocation	2,063	1,563	Lower number of DBS forms to be completed
Instruction/Training	16,103	8,253	Fewer staff means lower expenditure.
Staff Absence Insurance	974	974	
LG Pension Deficit	29,304	23,410	Lower number of staff due to outsourcing of catering means lower deficit. DCC just used 2013-14 figure.
	1,933,749	1,815,151	
PREMISES			
Buildings Maintenance	97,145	55,000	2013/14 figure had £40,000 extra added for one off heating and electricity costs + £2,145 committed from 2012-13.
Grounds Maintenance	17,050	17,050	
Energy	120,000	110,000	Lower costs due to more stringent monitoring of usage by premises staff.
Water Charges	35,700	37,485	Includes anticipated increase on water costs
Rates	80,791	79,443	Actual DCC figure.
Rents	0	0	
Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	28,000	25,000	RCSF figure reflects current usage.
	378,686	323,978	

TRANSPORT	Staff Travelling	4,000	2,000	Lower number of staff
	Vehicle Running Costs	9,000	6,000	Fewer minibus journeys due to lower numbers of students.
	Pupil Travelling	2,000	2,000	
		15,000	10,000	
SUPPLIES	General	155,973	98,573	RCSF Figure reflects 2013-14 expenditure. Lower due to purchase savings/lower number of students/different con
	General (Committed from 2012-13)	39,292	0	Cannot put a figure in here until end of 2013-14 budget. No consideration given by DCC that this is historic only.
		195,265	98,573	
ESTABLISHMENT	Furniture	8,254	2,000	Supply in school from previous years purchases.
	Service Level Agreements	138,474	101,274	Estimated Green School/Exclusion/ICT contract costs lower than 2013-14.
	Postages	10,000	8,000	Greater use of electronic communication.
	Telephones	10,889	10,000	£889 2013-14 budget was committed from previous year.
	School Meals Contractor	35,500	64,097	DCC figure was not for a full year as contract only began in June 2013.
	Provisions	0	0	
	Examination Fees	75,000	45,000	Changes to regulations regarding resits/modular exams by Govt. means lower costs.
	Contents Insurance	19,460	19,849	
	Miscellaneous	69,307	2,254	DCC figure included loan repayment to DCC - FINISHED 2013/14 + SGO money finished + No Teach First Student
		366,884	252,474	
		2,889,584	2,500,176	
PLANNED TOTAL EXPENDITURE				
INCOME	Contributions	0	0	
	Sales	0	0	
	Lettings / Shared Use	-16,000	-19,000	Greater use of facilities.
	Income from LA	0	0	
	Pupil Premium	-187,200	-140,400	DCC used £1300/student which was incorrect. RCSF used previous £900/student. Now confirmed £935/student.
	Grant Income	-11,500	0	Allocated by DCC to wrong budget heading.
	Other	0	-11,500	Allocated to correct budget heading.
	-214,700	-170,900		
TOTAL INCOME				
PLANNED NET EXPENDITURE	2,674,884	2,329,276		

Formula Funding	1,736,301	1,736,301	
HN Top-up Funding	0	0	
Additional HN Top-up Funding	0	299	Figure given by DCC to school.
Resource Base Funding	0	0	
Sixth Form Funding	318,522	199,507	
TOTAL BUDGET 2013/14	2,054,823	1,936,107	DCC used 2013-14 budget only. Formula funding and student number changes means this is totally incorrect.
UNALLOCATED/SHORTFALL	-620,061	-393,169	
Estimated balance carried forward from 2013-14	40,326	264,502	RCSF is figure ratified by Governors
Shortfall from above	-620,061	-393,169	
Estimated balance at end of 2014-15	-579,735	-128,667	

BUDGET 2

PROVISIONAL BUDGET PLAN 2014/2015

		£
EMPLOYEES	Teachers	1,200,198
	Supply Cover	25,000
	Support staff	349,892
	Recruitment/Relocation	1,563
	Instruction/Training	8,253
	Staff Absence Insurance	974
	LG Pension Deficit	23,410
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,609,290
PREMISES	Buildings Maintenance	55,000
	Grounds Maintenance	17,050
	Energy	110,000
	Water Charges	37,485
	Rates	79,443
	Rents	0
	Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	25,000
		<hr/>
		323,978
TRANSPORT	Staff Travelling	2,000
	Vehicle Running Costs	6,000
	Pupil Travelling	2,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		10,000
SUPPLIES	General	98,573
		<hr/>
		98,573
ESTABLISHMENT	Furniture	2,000
	Service Level Agreements	101,274
	Postages	8,000
	Telephones	10,000
	School Meals Contractor	64,097
	Provisions	0
	Examination Fees	45,000
	Contents Insurance	19,849
	Miscellaneous	2,254
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		252,474
PLANNED TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<hr/>
		<hr/>
		2,294,315
INCOME	Contributions	
	Sales	
	Lettings / Shared Use	-19,000
	Income from LA	
	Pupil Premium	-140,400
	Grant Income	
Other	-11,500	

	Other	<u>-264,502</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>-435,402</u>
PLANNED NET EXPENDITURE		1,858,913
Formula Funding		1,736,294
HN Top-up Funding		0
Additional HN Top-up Funding		299
Resource Base Funding		0
Sixth Form Funding		<u>199,507</u>
TOTAL BUDGET 2013/14		1,936,100
UNALLOCATED/SHORTFALL		<u>77,187</u>

BUDGET 3

PROVISIONAL BUDGET PLAN 2014/2015

		13.1.14 Student Numbers
EMPLOYEES	Teachers	675,000
	Supply Cover	15,000
	Support staff	252,583
	Recruitment/Relocation	1,263
	Instruction/Training	5,200
	Staff Absence Insurance	974
	LG Pension Deficit	15,744
		<hr/>
		965,764
PREMISES	Buildings Maintenance	40,000
	Grounds Maintenance	17,050
	Energy	90,000
	Water Charges	37,485
	Rates	79,443
	Rents	0
	Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	25,000
		<hr/>
		288,978
TRANSPORT	Staff Travelling	1,000
	Vehicle Running Costs	5,000
	Pupil Travelling	2,000
		<hr/>
		8,000
SUPPLIES	General	87,273
		<hr/>
		87,273
ESTABLISHMENT	Furniture	2,000
	Service Level Agreements	83,508
	Postages	2,000
	Telephones	8,000
	School Meals Contractor	52,000
	Provisions	0
	Examination Fees	20,000
	Contents Insurance	19,849
	Miscellaneous	2,254
		<hr/>
		189,611
PLANNED TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<hr/>
		1,539,626
INCOME	Contributions	
	Sales	
	Lettings / Shared Use	-19,000
	Income from LA	
	Pupil Premium	-89,760
	Grant Income	
	Other	-11,500
	Unallocated from 2013-14	-209,034
	Anticipated underspend	-50,000

	Equal Pay Refund	<u>-27,527</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>-406,821</u>
PLANNED NET EXPENDITURE		1,132,805
Formula Funding		1,043,062
HN Top-up Funding		0
Additional HN Top-up Funding		299
Resource Base Funding		0
Sixth Form Funding		<u>105,725</u>
TOTAL BUDGET 2013/14		<u>1,149,086</u>
UNALLOCATED/SHORTFALL		<u>16,281</u>

Appendix 2: Standards

Standards were not mentioned in the consultation booklet, but have been rather selectively referred to in public meetings. In particular, local authority representatives have at these meetings referred to a relatively narrow range of performance measures without reference to the context of the cohorts of students. Any balanced assessment of standards should also include the following points:

Results for the year 11 and 13 cohorts in the Summer of 2013

- In 2013, the year 11 cohort achieved 43.7% 5+A*-C including English and Maths. This is below national average but the Year 11 last year was significantly below average in terms of their ability on intake. It should be recognised that the College performance in this key measure was disproportionately skewed by the performance of a small number of students at the C/D borderline in one English qualification, which has also been the case this year in several other Durham schools. We had 12 students get a C in maths and a D in English, and it was only this which led to a lower than expected result in the 5+A*-C including English and Maths measure.
- While English results in 2013 were lower than expected, Maths 'expected progress' has continued to improve for a third year running at key stage 4 with further improvement towards national average expected in 2014.
- In the third core subject at key stage 4, Science, results overall were strong in most measures, despite the below average ability of the cohort on intake.
- Despite the below average ability on intake of the 2013 year 11, the cohort attained 88% 5A*-C, above the national average, showing good progress across the wider curriculum. Total points scores at KS4 in 2013 were above the national average and improving, and capped average points scores also improved and was in line with national average in 2013, despite the significantly below average attainment of the cohort on intake.
- Results for A level and level 3 vocational qualifications are improving in most measures. Average and total point scores are below national average but so is the average ability of students in the Sixth Form. Total points score per student at A-level and equivalent has been rapidly improving for three years at Roseberry. The % of Sixth Formers who attained 2+A*-E grades or equivalent in 2013 was higher than both the national and the Durham average. The % of Sixth Formers who attained 3+A*-E grades or equivalent was above the Durham average. There has been very rapid improvement over the past two years in the performance of Roseberry students in the more academic A-level subjects.
- Level 3 value added was significantly improved in 2013, with provisional DfE figures showing the L3 value added in line with the national average for almost all subjects and level 3 qualification types.
- We have never been below the key stage 4 'floor standard', the Government's minimum standard for schools.

Results for the new year 11 cohort in the Autumn of 2013

Most students in the current year 11 at Roseberry took GCSE examinations in Maths and English Language in November 2013, and so now hold GCSE qualifications in these subjects. Outcomes were good, especially considering the stage in the academic year. This was not unexpected, as detailed in

the college SEF in September 2013, and reflect the fundamental school improvement work which has been taking place over recent years.

- GCSE outcomes in English and Maths combined: In November 2013, three quarters of the new year 11 sat their English GCSE, and virtually all students sat the Maths GCSE at foundation level. Students were very successful in these examinations, and as a result 51% of students in our year 11 have already attained grade C or better in both English Language and Maths GCSE (only 3% below the college Fischer Family Trust 'A' estimate for the end of year 11). These are the best English and Maths combined results which students at Roseberry have ever attained, even though there are still six months left for students to improve, and 25% of students have yet to sit their English Language exam. In recent years, combined English and Maths performance at C+ have improved from between 10 and 20% between November and June and it would be therefore be reasonable to predict a final outcome for 5C+including English and Maths of above 60%. College analysis of the results of the November entry in English and Maths support an estimate of around 65% 5C+including English and Maths as alongside the 51% of the cohort who already hold GCSE grade C in both subjects, there are another 11 students who already hold grade C in English and grade D in Maths. If these students alone are able to improve from grade D to C in Maths in June, this would result in a final outcome of 65% 5C+including English and Maths (as current teacher assessment indicates that all would also attain C+ in at least three other qualifications). Given that the cohort are below national average in ability (according to DfE Raiseonline figures), and the national average for this key measure was 60% in 2013 and is likely to be similar in 2014, performance of 65% would represent very good progress indeed.
- GCSE outcomes in English:
 - (i) Performance at grade C or better: Taking the cohort as a whole, even considering that 25% of the students have not yet sat their exam, 70% of the whole cohort currently hold a C+ grade, against a national average last year of 66% (according to DfE figures). This means that already, the cohort, who are less able than the national average, have attained at above the national average in this measure, which represents very good progress. Given that many have not yet taken their exam and some of these may well also attain at grade C or better, this figure can only improve further.
 - (ii) 'Expected progress' from key stage 2: Even though many students are yet to take their English examination, taking the cohort as a whole, 61% have already achieved the expected 3 levels of progress from KS2. It is highly likely, therefore, that when the remaining students take their exam in June and some others re-sit, the cohort will attain in excess of the national average of 69% 3 levels of progress, even though they are a below average cohort, which represents very good progress from key stage 2.
- GCSE outcomes in Maths: All but 3 students in year 11 took Maths exams in November. All students took the foundation tier papers, for which the maximum grade attainable is C. All students are continuing Maths for a further six months of lessons in order to sit the Higher tier paper or re-sit the foundation tier paper in June. Already, 57% of the cohort have attained grade C. All students will sit final Maths exams in June, many at higher tier, and significant improvements in grades are anticipated. 11 students gained grade D in June, and if only these students attain improvements to grade C, then the end of year performance by the cohort would be 71% C+ in Maths, in line with the 73% achieved nationally last year,

again representing good performance for a below national average cohort. Last academic year, Maths performance at C+ improved by more than 30% from November to June, and so it is reasonable to assume that Maths C+ is more than likely to exceed the national average by June.

What OFSTED said in 2012

The 2012 report was clear that standards at Roseberry were clearly improving. The report stated that the two main areas for improvement were in results in Maths and in the Sixth Form, and there has been continued improvement in these areas since: 'Achievement is rising because the quality of teaching is improving. The college has recently taken effective action to tackle the historic underperformance, particularly in Mathematics and the Sixth Form' (and the results in 2013 showed a three year improving trend in Maths A*-C and in Sixth Form total point scores).

The 2012 report was clear that teaching was improving and reasons for this improvement were identified, which indicated that staff at Roseberry clearly had the capacity to improve further: 'Teaching is satisfactory. It is improving because teachers are adopting more effective teaching practices, supported by professional development and performance management'.

The report identified that students at Roseberry were generally below average in ability when they started in year 7, but across the curriculum generally, reached broadly average levels of attainment: 'Students join the college in year 7 with standards of attainment which are generally below average. They make satisfactory progress and by the end of key stage 4 reach broadly average standards of attainment overall, but below average in English and Maths.' Progress is therefore actually good across the wider curriculum, and this has continued, with the 5A*-C measure above average again in 2013. Achievement in Science is also now good. It is only in English and Maths where performance is less secure, and fundamental changes in the balance of the curriculum in key stage 3 and 4 have already been made to ensure that performance in English and Maths will improve. This has not been a 'quick fix', but there is good evidence in years 7 to 10 that performance in these subjects is improving.

The report was clear that leaders and managers at Roseberry were bringing about improvements in achievement through focused and effective school improvement strategies based on close monitoring and evaluation:

'The college leaders undertake regular monitoring of the work of subject departments, supported by lesson observation and the scrutiny of students' work. They are also proactive in seeking support from other schools, the local authority and elsewhere. This together with high staff morale, well-structured professional development and effective performance management is helping to improve the quality of teaching and as a result, achievement is rising.'

While it is certainly the case that achievement has not been increasing in every single measure, overall the Roseberry results in both year 11 and in year 13 are certainly better in 2013 than they were in 2012, particularly when viewed in relation to the ability of the students themselves. Our curriculum has been judged to be broad and balanced by the Local Authority (Oct 2011) and in repeated Ofsted inspections (most recently in May 2012 – 'the KS4 curriculum is adaptable and personalised'). We can continue to deliver this curriculum within budget. The curriculum is designed

to meet the needs and aspirations of the young people and to provide pathways for the future. We deliver the National Curriculum at KS3; at KS4 students can study all of the EBAC subjects, other GCSEs and a range of vocational options. We also collaborate with a nearby school for specialised vocational study options such as Construction, Animal Care and Environmental Science.

Most recently, the performance of our current year 11 in their November examinations show that performance at Roseberry is improving rapidly. This supports the very positive assessment of student progress which has been reported by teachers over recent years in years 7, 8 and 9 and is indicative of the impact of fundamental school improvement work which has been taking place over several years.

- The College has an active International Schools club and has had wide ranging participation in activities often in association with Brian Stobie at DCC. January 2014 received £1500 from British Council to support this work.
- We are the only significant facility in the local area and the largest employer including significant numbers of support staff who live in the local villages.
- Over 1500 people use the facilities in out of school hours – on evenings and weekends in any one week. Some of the activities target the young people keeping them occupied, improving their lives and reducing youth offending behaviours, one of the KIPs in the 2014 Draft Education Development Plan.
- There is an obvious impact upon community cohesion and harmony of the young people as a result of being scattered in several different other schools.
- The natural affinity and 'journeys to work' are 'down the hill' to Chester le Street and beyond. The College mostly serves the small villages to the west of Chester-le-Street, addresses are Chester-le-Street. The affinity is to Chester-le-s-Street and for many North Durham Academy is simply not an option.



Roseberry College and Sixth Form



Community Provision - Response to Proposed Closure

Each week at Roseberry College and Sixth Form there are up to 1500 community users that come through the gates during the evening and weekends. The majority of these are accessing the services provided or are supporting their children to attend the services provided.

Several council documents and plans have been published recently which highlight the need for good local community strategies and plans regarding community provision. These show why community provision through a community school hub is an effective and appropriate way to target areas as identified in Council plans. Roseberry already offers a successful well managed programme, this does not appear to have been considered prior to consultation for closure.

County Durham Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment: Chester-Le-Street Profile

"This AAP Contains 11 Parish Councils. In this area there is a strong sense of community spirit and pride, along with on-going regeneration and renewal initiatives and active partnership working, leading to local improvements."

Over 22,000 residents live within the town of Chester-Le-Street and surrounding areas of Sacristan, Great Lumley and Pelton. Of which, on average 5% of that population attend Roseberry on an evening or weekend for community activities and clubs each week. Roseberry provides facilities for both the immediate local area and wider area of Chester-Le-Street.

3.0 Local Consultation Findings

A full needs assessment was undertaken for the Chester-le-Street area and wider community including: Pelton, Newfield, Perkinsville, Ouston, Grange Villa, High Urpeth, West Pelton, Pelton Fell, Beamish.

3.1 Details from the outlined survey

Post code: DH2- More facilities needed for teenagers to get them off the streets.

There will be less on offer for local teenagers if Roseberry were to close.

Post code: DH2- It is important that younger children and teenagers have sufficient places to go and these facilities should provide organised games or boredom will set in too soon. Too many children spend too much time on computers, a reason why there is too much obesity.

There will be fewer places for younger children and teenagers to go in the local and wider community if Roseberry were to close, this could have a detrimental effect on their health and keeping them safe and engaged.

3.6 Action Area Partnership Board Members Survey

The following priority areas were considered by members.

- Healthy lifestyle and well-being (42 votes)
- Activities for young people (37 votes)
- Supporting community groups and buildings (35 votes)
- Improved community spirit and working together (18 votes)

All of these things are provided by Roseberry College and Sixth Form in a range of ways both within the school curriculum and joint school working with local residents associations, local nursing homes etc and through the evening community provisions programme. If these are priority areas for this location why is their removal being considered?

Outcomes from the Survey

4.0 Quantity of provision

Chester–Le-Street area (total) – outdoor sport space **(-0.89)**

The surrounding community that attends this school for community cohesion are main residence of Urpeth, Pelton, Grange Villa, West Pelton, Pelton Fell, Ouston and Chester-le-street .

Quantity of provision figures show out door space in local areas as:

Urpeth = **-0.82**

Pelton= 0.27

Grange Villa & West Pelton = **-1.22**

Pelton Fell = 1.59

Ouston = **- 0.53**

Average Score = -0.73

This data indicates that as a whole we do not provide enough outdoor space for the local community, even without taking away the community facilities provided at Roseberry.

7.0 Analysis and Recommendations

Outdoor Sport Space

- Overall, there is a small under supply of outdoor sport space across the AAP.
- Access to facilities falls below the standard, particularly in parts of Chester-le-street.
- Quality of provision varies, with some areas in need of investment.
- There is a need for additional provision of outdoor sport space within this AAP, which should be sought through development where possible. **There is also opportunity for meeting shortfalls through more formal use of education facilities, as there is where possible. This is also opportunity for meeting shortfalls through more formal use of education facilities, as there is some 35 hectares of education space within this AAP.**

Against this backdrop, the college considers that it would be contrary to the spirit and intention of this policy to allow the closure of the local school and in so doing, to lose all the services for that local area as well.

Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), 2013

'All partners recognise that it is important to have an SCS as it is the single strategic plan for the county that shows how all partners across the county are working towards shared priorities and how this will make a difference'.

Mindful of the obligation for all partners across the county to work together regarding shared priorities pursuant to a single strategic plan, the college is concerned that other parts of the council were not previously, and indeed may still not be aware, about the proposal to close Roseberry College & Sixth Form. This is borne out by, amongst other things, the absence of a direct response to the proposal from Sport and Culture and/or the portfolio holder, save for a comment that services across the county are currently being audited.

'Significant reduction in resources has meant changes to services which have then had, and continued to have, a collective impact on local communities. There have been further compounded by the wider economic situations'.

This indicates that the Council are fully aware that their recent cuts in services have impacted local communities, yet they are considering taking further facilities away which are running successfully and in a model which they do not directly fund, based on the central hub concept promoted by Labour 5 -8 years ago (schools as a one stop shop). The short timescale that has been proposed for closure prevents the community looking at viable ways to continue to provide these services in a sustainable manner for themselves, particularly where many sports and activities are seasonal with bookings needing to be in place at least 6 months in advance to ensure training space is available. The college, and indeed the wider community, is very concerned that there has been no guidance from Durham County Council about any options available for the continued provision of these services in the event that the school is to close.

- **'The added value of the wider networks with the voluntary and community sector, local councils, faith communities and the armed forces will be a key part of the renewed document. Also, building on the strengths within local communities (an asset based approach) is something that moving forward will become more important as all partners look to realise efficiencies'.**

If this is considered a vital part of the sustainable communities' strategy, then the question arises as to why has the closure of the College been considered purely on its position as a day time educational establishment and not as a community hub which provides the facilities for which the council can no longer provide funding.

- **'Looking at key issues within the county at a sub county level'**

There is no evidence to indicate that this happened with respect to the community provision arising from the community provision of Roseberry College & Sixth Form.

Durham County Council Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013/2017

Important information has been pulled from these documents and tables within it, where information is relevant to community provision.

Strategic objectives 1,2,4:

- Giving children and young people opportunities make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- Improve mental health and wellbeing of the population.

The work undertaken at Roseberry both in and beyond school time in the community addresses all of these issues for the local community. There is no evidence or information available as to how these will be addressed if there are no local facilities to promote these things?

Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy- Delivery Plan 2013/2017

a. Improve Support to families with children who are obese or over weight.

- Structured play and healthy activity.

Roseberry provide facilities for council run sessions for young children, yet no information has been made available as to where would these be held in the future.

b. Support Children and young people to take part in positive activities which are appropriate for their age and reduce negative and sexual health risk taking behaviours.

The following relevant aspects are proposed for being tracked

Tracker for – children and young people’s participation in out of school sport (year 6 and year 9)

Tracker for- Percentage of children and young people who report that they are happy (year6 & 9)

Tracker for- Proportion of physically active and inactive adults

c. Provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles.

- Develop and provide a community core offer for physical activity across the county with additional targeted opportunities based on geography/ health needs.
- Develop high quality, accessible and affordable facilities to encourage participation in physical activity.

Provision at Roseberry provides for all of these identified aspects of the work of Durham County Council, yet no information has been made available as to what will happen and what plans are in place in the event that Roseberry closes.

Implications for Durham County Council of the Government Policy Programme (in particular supporting better opportunities for work placements and training) O’donnell. L, Henig.S (2012)

Point 25: Encouraging and incentivising employers to inspire and recruit young people by offering more high quality apprenticeships and work placements.

Point 28: 1 December 2011, the Government published New Challenges, New Chances, it's response to the proposal to reform Further Education so that it is better able to provide with the necessary skills and qualifications to secure employment and meet the needs of business and employers.

Point 30: 15 December 2011, the Government outlined its wider plans to help local partners to provide effective and coordinated services that support all young people, including the most vulnerable, putting the country on track to achieve better participation for 16-17 year olds by 2015.

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The community programme and community staff provides placements for Sixth Form (16 – 19 years) work experience relation to BTEC Level 3 study. This has meant the first step on ladder for further employment and training in the sports and leisure industry for several past students.

Roseberry Community Provision - Process of Community Consultation

Open Public Services Agenda

Point 79: March 2012, the government published its first progress report on its Open Public Services Agenda outlined in the white paper published last July. **The updated report summarises a range of measures the government has taken to improve performance, provide more choice, and transparency and to open up public services to broader, more local and community driven provision.**

The college is concerned that there has been and will be no real opportunity for locals to voice their opinions about what they want in their communities going forwards and to have more ownership in how to establish service in their area that they want?

Where is the open dialogue and transparency in this situation or the consideration of a more local and community driven provision?

'All Together Better' Council

Point 104: **The move to establish 'choice champions' is intended to provide independent challenge and scrutiny of public services and to support citizens in making effective choices.** The council will need to understand how this relates to its democratic summary functions and other existing and proposed methods of consumer advocacy and scrutiny, such as citizens advice bureau and local health watch.

Mindful that citizens should be supported in being helped to make effective choices, the college is concerned that there has been no choice or alternative options offered to the local public.

Point 145: The Council and its partners are continuing to analyse the impact that government policy will have on local communities and on our ability to deliver the sustainable community strategy **and wherever possible, are working together to respond proactively to the government's policy changes.**

The college is very disappointed that there has been no attempt by Durham County Council to work together with the college, whether proactively or otherwise, in relation to the decision to go to consultation regarding the closure of Roseberry College and Sixth Form or during the subsequent consultation process.

Alternatives for Community Provision

There have been no alternatives considered for community provision, despite the council needing to look towards alternative provision for leisure services in communities.

It does not appear that the officers of Durham County Council have given due consideration to the numbers of people being serviced by the school **beyond the formal education numbers in compulsory schooling.** The community provision is a thriving service and it should have been considered in a bigger picture with wider discussion across council departments. There should have been some consideration of options for continuing the community provision, regardless of whether the school was closing or not. However, this has not been the case and there is no evidence that the council has considered alternative options to put to community users and those that run their business from the school in the evenings (e.g. Get Fit North East). The only suggestion made by Durham County Council during the consultation process was that community users should come up with their own plan of how services might be able to remain, yet it is self-evident that the council should have considered this issue before proceeding to consultation and should now be offering alternatives.

Impact of closure on local employment, clubs and residents

Staff are employed at Roseberry during the evening – caretaking staff, cleaning staff and community provisions officer.

There are local people who run their businesses through the hiring of facilities at Roseberry.

E.g. Get Fit North East (West Pelton and Highhanden Hold)

Volunteering – Several Roseberry teaching staff voluntarily run clubs /sessions, if the school closed but the community facilities remained open, several of these clubs may fold, due to lack of qualified volunteers to run these.

- Local residents volunteer at sports clubs
- Local people have access to volunteering at the college through the CDS volunteering programme. This supports vital skill development and work experience supporting residents to find future paid employment.

Lifelong Learning - Skills gained through the ability to access local wider enrichment activities can serve as launch pads for future careers, which formal education does not always fully enable. This is particularly the case in the Creative Arts and Sports Industries. (E.g. Youth Connection, WEA)

Impact on Grass Roots Sport- There are a wide range of activities available for grass roots participation in sport.

Dance, football, trampoline, netball and table tennis and potential for more. National Governing Bodies for these sports are trying to increase engagement in sport and improve opportunities for local provision. Many residents cannot afford to travel to other places where these sports are provided which means fewer opportunities for participation.

Many clubs would not be able to run if they did not have access to the equipment and facilities provided at a cost effective price.

Some sports would not be able to find alternative facilities due to lack of space, actual buildings, pitches or availability (e.g. 9 aside football, netball)

There will be no facilities left except a small community centre for locals to use.

Impact of closure on local residents

Attached are a range of different responses from local residents as to the impact of having well run cost effective local facilities on their lives. They have been taken from their community response sheets and represent the comments on both sides of this sheet (side one what they do and / or the impact on their lives. Side two comments concerning the proposed closure). These responses have been forwarded to the Local Authority, but these give an indication of the benefit these facilities have.

1. **What you do and impact:** Attend fitness classes, healthy lifestyle, social, also I teach fitness classes here and don't want to stop, my younger sister attends classes here which are really helping with her social development, improving her sports skills and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

Comments: The classes are on 6/7 days a week which I both attend and teach. It will be very difficult to find another venue. If the classes stopped I would lose a huge part of my life. Also many of our clients would suffer. My 10 year old sister is already absolutely gutted that she won't be able to do her classes (netball) anymore.

2. **What you do and impact:** As somebody who has recently found a form of exercise that I enjoy it would be devastating for the local community and myself to lose these sports facilities which are utilised by so many local residents. In addition I have been a member of Youth Connection, Roseberry's resident Theatre Group and it would be disgraceful for this club, which has given as much to the community, to lose its home.

Comments: Roseberry, as well as providing education: brings people together, gives a home to activities for people looking to lose weight, keep fit, change their lifestyle, provides an outlet (VIA youth connections) for people in an artistic way these are opportunities that people in this community would not normally have access to.

3. **What you do and impact:** Weight loss, promotes healthy lifestyle, close to home so convenient, brings community together, social inclusion, self-esteem, support, release of stress, benefit from mental and emotional health.

Comments: forced to move areas for fitness depending on the area it may mean that I can no longer attend classes. This will then impact on my overall health and fitness. A wide range and large group attend the classes at Roseberry and if this was to close it would have a negative effect on a lot of people on both their physical and mental health. I see the classes as a stress release as well as a way of improving my physical fitness, to close the school will affect me on a day to day basis including at work and home.

4. **What you do and impact:** Having local convenient access to fitness activities run by Get Fit North East has led to a great improvement in my quality of life. I have lost weight, improved my fitness and made friends. This has had a massive positive impact on my mental health and made me feel a part of the local community.

Comments: As Roseberry is where I do all of my fitness classes I can only say that if it closed my attendance would drop off dramatically. Once positive habits are broken it's so hard to get back into them, indeed I don't know where else would offer me such a convenient, friendly place to go for fitness and improving my health. Please don't close Roseberry; it's more than just a school!

5. **What you do and impact:** After attending the meeting, we were not told any "Relevant information" other than pick "another school". Roseberry has given my daughter, who has ASD, the skills to be punctual and independent "social", hardworking and to have the confidence to deal with bullying! She uses the facilities during and after school. ie Computers, art classes, homework clubs, she also plays sports and represents the school at netball. Her grades have improved "TEN FOLD"!
Comments: If the school was to close then my daughter life would be totally devastated. She is involved in Drama Tree and Youth Connections and is desperate to achieve the skills for her future in which these clubs and Roseberry are teaching. In previous years we have seen mental health issues workers that have set goals that Roseberry are encouraging her with this as a young adult! DEVASTATING is not the word!!! I will have to go part time to take my daughter to another school!! We will lose money, my daughters world will be shattered, lack of confidence, less independent. My daughter is a Year 10 pupil what has happened to her choice?
6. **Comments:** It will stop the painting sessions which I really enjoy. Having been retired for last 5 years this painting class is one of the best I have attended. Pleasant room with facilities not in any other venue I have attended. It will be sorely missed if this closes. ---- it will stop my painting class, also my social gatherings will cease. I have come to meet lots of people to learn and interact. This will be a sad loss.
7. **What you do and impact:** As a parent it encourages me to meet with people I would not normally see in my day to day routine, taking my son to training sessions means I get to walk for 3 miles by taking him and returning home. This actually aids my weight loss programme and raises the amount of exercise I do each week. Closure would mean the children miss out on training sessions from the end of October to March (dark nights)
Comments - And the Closure of the school would impact upon the local community as a whole. This would mean children travelling further for educational needs and with the council reducing costs across the spectrum of services and withdrawing from funding for school transport. Closure would inadvertently take money from family budgets to fund these enforced travel arrangements, therefore reducing the amount of revenue to be spent in local shops and throughout the county as a whole, increasingly exposing family life to poverty and deprivation.
8. **What you do and impact:** Since my grandson has attended different activities at Roseberry he has learned a lot of new skills and it has given him confidence and he has made new friends which perhaps he wouldn't have made these positive changes if Roseberry school didn't exist. All of the staff and helpers are a credit to the school and it would be a terrible shame if the council decided to close a school which has been going for decades. ----
Comments - There is very little as it is for kids to do activities at Roseberry School and are great for kids as well as adults.
9. **What you do and impact:** Previously injury led to difficulty finding suitable activity. Non-competitive element and support from group has enabled greater mobility/ flexibility therefore promoting better physical and emotional health and also weight loss.

Comments: if unable to continue with the same group of people and in a non-competitive environment mobility may again be reduced and therefore lead to further health and welfare complications for myself.

10. **What you do and impact:** keeping active, fit, healthy, terrific value for money, open to all, development of skills, club running for years, really look forward to playing at Roseberry, staff fabulous, facilities and equipment all excellent.

Comments: I really don't know what to say, I can't believe the council would wish to half something of such worth. At the heart of our community; it would disadvantage the spirit and wellbeing should you close the college, it serves by Roseberry College for eight years, I honestly don't think we will ever find a facility like it. We have seen, new members join from the college community news/event sheets, and some of us have played here from day one. We would love to play here in the future please reconsider.

11. **What you do and impact:** I have played badminton at Roseberry College for many years. The original group of players were from Pelton Community Primary School, but this has grown and players come from much further afield. The location and the low cost has been a significant factor. When we have tried other venues in school holidays, the facilities have been worse and the cost much higher, the opportunity to play badminton twice a week has significant health benefits.

Comments: The loss of the sporting facilities to the community would be such a shame. There is nothing nearby to use. The new housing development will surely bring an increase in the local population and to have such great sporting facilities available can only be good for the health and community spirit. There is a huge range that use the sports facilities and the group of badminton players feel that if Roseberry were to close the group would **HAVE** to stop playing.

12. **Comments:** As tutor of an art class I have met many learners who welcome the evening classes and gain confidence, well-being, enjoyment, relaxation and learning from the experience. It would be a bitter disappointment for those local learners who attend for the school too close.

13. **What you do and impact:** The club my child attends are helping to address very successfully the issue we have concerning social inclusion. Confidence and self-worth and maintaining a healthy life style. My child is happy and proud to be a member of the various clubs at Roseberry.

Comments: Roseberry College is an invaluable asset to the local community in terms of the activities and facilities which are available. Out of school hours, it is impossible to find a car parking space due to the sheer volume of people who use the college. This is both evening and weekend usage. Has Durham County Council considered how to accommodate such a local demand, as the area has nothing and nowhere else able to meet this demand?

14. **What you do and impact:** I am a football coach of many years standing. We have used the indoor and outdoor facilities with boys and girls 5 year old up to 17years for at least 10 years. We have always got top dollars for the use of the facilities, the indoor and outdoor have always and still are the best for miles around.
- Comments:** If members of Durham county council need to ask if closing Roseberry will have an effect on the local children and their need for sporting facilities then they haven't done their homework. Six to nine month ago I attended a meeting at Durham F.A. a member from Durham C.C. (Nigel Douthwaite) was in attendance. He started "because of changes to youth football i.e. 5v5 7v7 9v9 and normal 11v11 format. So typical Durham CC they intend closing a school with full size football pitches and along the corridor a member of Durham cc is scratching his head wondering where he can find facilities for football pitches.
15. **What you do and impact:** Since attending Roseberry this has not only helped build skills as an artist but provides a weekly focus in meeting people with similar interests. If classes cease or are moved further away I may not be able to carry on learning new techniques.
- Comments:** what a pity that such excellent facilities should be neglected and discarded when focus should be made in promoting and building on the excellent work and teaching already being carried out.

Report collated by.

D. Elgle – Community Sport Provisions Officer

S. Ray – Subject Leader PE and Sport

4.11.13

Director :
Linda Watson, B.A., L.G.S.M.



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Dear Sir,

Next year Youth Connection Youth Theatre, based and formed at Roseberry, will celebrate its 30th birthday. This is surely an achievement, which both the group and the community should celebrate. Unfortunately, this is not the case. With the possible closure of the school, the group will be left homeless, and will either have to change its ethos or disband, which will be a huge loss to hundreds of young people, who have been members over the years, and who still support the group, and to the community in general, as Youth Connection provides an almost professional level of theatre at a very low cost, in an area of high unemployment.

Youth Connection differs from other Drama groups, in that its main aim is to enable as many young people as possible to experience a wide variety of Drama and have fun along the way. This often leads to a career or an interest in the Arts for life. The group's credits to date include performances at The Edinburgh Festival, tours of France, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary and Russia, participation in a major International Drama Festival, and performances at several major professional London Theatres, including The Royal National, where they represented the region. The group performs extensively in the community, e.g. this month we performing in the Red Cross Charity Concert at The Gala Theatre, Durham,

and at Beamish Museum for their Christmas Celebrations. We are also staging *Oliver*, for which hundreds of tickets have already been sold.

Many people freely give their time to train these 45 to 50 young people, from schools and colleges in the area, in all aspects of theatre, as unlimited use of the Drama Workshop allows for design and construction of sets, costumes and props, and, most importantly, their storage. We have little money but are extremely rich in creativity and good will. Several past members are now following a career in T.V. and in professional theatre in a variety of capacities. Many have achieved an A level in Theatre Studies, through work with the group and taught by the Director, both in school, when she was Head of the Arts Faculty, and in evening classes, when she retired, held in the Drama Workshop. Over the years, many young people have won places in The National Youth Theatre, and, several present members are now qualified Drama, Dance and Music teachers, in turn, giving their services freely. An indication of the value and standing of the group in the area, is shown by the presentation of The Paul Harris Fellowship, one of the highest awards in Rotary, given to the Director, at the time a non Rotarian, for her work with young people; also the award of The Chairman of Durham County Council's Medal, again for work with young people over the years. Last year, the Director formed a junior group also based at Roseberry and formed from local Primary School pupils, who all sat L.A.M.D.A. exams, as an experiment, which they all passed, most with merit.

Are we willing to abandon the work, the achievements and the need for this organisation? The solution at first appears to be simple: find other premises and continue. Unfortunately, this is not financially possible, as very modest subs. are charged, when members are able to pay, to help cover the cost of productions and the buying of materials, leaving us with very little money. For almost 30 years we have been granted use of the Drama Workshop, whenever required, and hall, in which to perform, in return for very minimum cost, by Head Teachers, who have realised the group's value. Also, apart from rehearsal premises, which I could possibly find at a prohibitive rate, we would require

storage space to house the hundreds of designed costumes and props and equipment, for which we have fund-raised over the years, and, of course, somewhere to perform. Apart from cost, location could present a problem, as many members do not have transport. This is the rather bleak future facing the group, should Roseberry close. We, as a group, are aware that this is a difficult situation, and would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Linda E. Watson 4.11.13.

Appendix 4 Demographics and Spaces in other schools

- Both Park View and Hermitage are close to capacity in terms of student numbers. The College has already received refusal letters from DCC for students applying to transfer to these schools.
- Accurate demographics for the area have not to date been provided. Recent communications from Rachael Shimmin alleged that Hermitage School has a capacity of 825 and that they expect this number to drop to 791 in 2014/15. The true position is, however, that the current limit is 852 and that there are presently 834 on the roll. The college is concerned therefore that a proper analysis of future school places at secondary level has not been carried out.
- The County Durham Plan currently being consulted on says that there will be population growth and schools will need to be provided, yet the decision document takes no account of the demographic changes in the whole of Chester-Le-Street and the capacity of Park View and Hermitage schools.
- The next closest school is North Durham Academy. North Durham Academy has a published deficit of over £800,000, its capacity is 1700 students with a current roll of about 1000, educational standards have been below Government floor targets for two years and there are also concerns amongst parents and staff alike about the behavioural standards of its pupils.
- The number of students is set to stabilise in the future and new housing developments and future population growth may increase numbers.
- In recent years the decision by Durham County Council to change free transport rules had a negative impact on families in Ouston/Urpeth, leading them to look to Lord Lawson (out of County). The on-going rumours have caused some families to opt for other schools.
- Population is expected to grow in the future due to new house building in the area, the changing demographics at Garden Farm estate where older residents are now being replaced by growing families. Nurseries and Primary Schools are increasingly full in Chester-Le-Street. This will mean that there are fewer places for young people in our traditional school catchment area and for whom Roseberry would be an option.

DCC assessment of student numbers for Roseberry.

Without any explanation as to the reasons for the same, the decision document published by Durham County Council includes figures for the College roll which differ significantly from those published by Durham County Council in the 'Pupil Place Planning in Durham Schools 2012' document.

	Data from Decision document – includes 6 th Form?	Data from Pupil Place planning document – excludes sixth form	Adding say 60 for 16+ to Pupil place planning figures
Capacity	996	835	
Current 11-18	326	282	342
2014	292	260	320
2015	270	255	315
2016	263	261	321
2017	289	313	373
2018	301	321	381
2019	314	335	395
2020	311	330	390
2021	317	331	391

Other schools:

Roseberry Sixth Form & College is in a similar situation to Fyndoune some years ago, Fyndoune now has a higher intake in Year 7 than it loses in Year 11 and Roseberry would expect similar in the future.

Current roles:

Roseberry 326
Fyndoune 324
DCBC 404
Sunnydale 397
Durham Free school- 30 in Year 7!

Appendix 5: Financial implications of the closure of the college which have not been considered

The officers of Durham County Council, in their decision reports, have suggested that the only identifiable financial implication stemming from the closure of the school is the demolition of the school building in the event that no County Council service or private organisation wishes to use it. As set out below, this is, however, not the case and reflects perhaps an absence of consideration of the full extent of the financial implications of closure on their part: -

1. Whilst the decision report states that all staff would be considered for alternative employment through Durham County Council's existing School Brokerage scheme, realistically it will not be possible to relocate all fifty six members of staff at our client's school to other local authority teaching or support positions and accordingly, there is likely to be substantial redundancy costs for which the Council will be liable.
2. Whilst the consultation document confirms that there will be free travel in certain circumstances for pupils travelling over 2 or 3 miles, as appropriate, there will obviously still be costs implications for the Council, the pupils and the staff in respect of the travel and transportation of large numbers of pupils to other schools.
3. In 2005 Roseberry had the benefit of a grant of £144,680 from the Football Foundation for the purposes of the provision and improvement of sports facilities in the area. It was a condition of the grant that if those facilities did not remain available and continue to subsist for the following 21 years i.e. until 2026, then the fund would have the right to claw-back the grant on a pro-rata basis. If the college were to close in August 2014, the Council would then be left with a substantial liability to the Football Foundation of between £80,000 and £90,000 and moreover, would also have to incur the costs of dealing with the disposal or transfer of the sports facilities and playing facilities.
4. Roseberry has a number of other supplier contracts in place and in circumstances where it would in the event of closure still have to maintain the service it provides until 31 August 2014, coupled with the prospect of significant student migration prior to this date, then it will not be able to meet these costs and the Council is likely ultimately to be liable for the same;
5. The sports centre provides a hub for local community activities (as above) and accordingly, if the school is demolished, there will be very considerable financial implications if they are to be replaced e.g. by the construction of alternative facilities. If, on the other hand, the facilities are simply withdrawn, then the social and financial impact on the local community must not be under-estimated. There are plainly financial implications in a potential increase in crime and disorder if the facilities presently offered are not replaced by reference to the absence of such facilities.

Transport information - APPENDIX 6

This information has been compiled from Google Maps UK. Distances are recorded in miles and based on roads not necessarily the shortest walking route. Locations are indicated, the actual distance to student homes may vary depending upon postcode.

	Rosebery	Tanfield	North Durham Academy	Fyndoune	Park View – North Lodge Lower site	Park View – Castle Chare Upper site	Hermitage	Lord Lawson
Grange Villa Cars	0.7	4.3	3.1	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.8	4.7
West Pelton Post Office	1.4	3.5	2.2	4.5	3.4	3.9	4.4	4.2
Beamish	1.4	3.1	1.9	5.7	4.5	4.9	5.2	5.2
Newfield	0	4.4	3.1	4.6	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.9
Pelton Fell PO	1.7	5.6	4.4	4.8	2.7	1.8	2.3	4.0
Pelton Community Centre	0.8	5.3	4.0	5.4	2.1	2.2	3.3	2.8
Ouston	2.1	5.7	4.4	7.4	2.4	2.9	4.3	1.8
Urpeth	1.5	4.8	3.6	6.3	3.7	3.8	4.4	2.8

The grey boxes indicate that at least some, if not all students would be entitled to 'free' transport should Roseberry close.



Roseberry College & Sixth Form
Principal: Mrs A Bowen BSc (Hons), MA (Ed)

Telephone: (0191) 370 0300 Facsimile: (0191) 370 1490
E-mail: roseberrysports@durhamlearning.net
Website: www.roseberrycollege.co.uk

Newfield
Pelton
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH2 1NW

18th December, 2013.

Durham County Council,
County Hall,
Durham.
DH1 5JU.

For the Attention of Ms R Shimmin – Director of Children & Adult Services.

Dear Rachael,

I received late on Thursday 12th December a copy of the 'Complete Proposal'. The email asked for us to advise Sheila of contact details for two Governors. This was then followed by three further emails from Sheila Palmerley asking me to forward to Staff Governors, then Carol Forster and then Norman Pearson. The Governors list could have been more accurate with a brief call to the College.

For information, Carol Forster's email is c.forster204@durhamlearning.net and for Norman Pearson, Norman needs to be spelled as here although from 19th December 2013 his email will be storminnorman168@btinternet.com.

With reference to the Complete Proposal document Governors wish to request under 4b the minutes of all public consultation meetings and under 4c the views of the persons consulted.

Governors are concerned that the 'Complete proposal' still contains flawed information which has been made public and about comments that were made at the meeting with Local Members on Monday 9th December.

In the 'complete proposal':

Objective 5

Of what relevance is it that 94 students have left since the consultation began? This is a direct result of DCC's consultation and would not have occurred otherwise. Is the impact of the consultation now a reason for the proposal to close Roseberry? Governors would also be interested in the evidence the County Council has to 'believe that secondary age children ...would have wider educational opportunities if they were educated at other schools which are able to offer a broader curriculum.' There are other schools within the LA with lower than average student numbers and here at Roseberry we have always collaborated at both 14+ and 16+ to offer a wide range of options.

Standards and Diversity 6.

The % quoted for Roseberry exam results is incorrect. Current ROL and FFT data is based on unvalidated data and late results shown as 'accepted' on DFE checking have not been included. As has happened with budgetary information the College has not been contacted to confirm the figures and to ensure the accuracy of information.



BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Award





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What is written about Roseberry is unfair when compared to that written about NDA. NDA has been below floor targets for two years, Roseberry hasn't. At Roseberry many of our headline statistics have shown improvement over time, OFSTED has been raising the bar each time and hence three Satisfactory outcomes does not represent, 'no significant improvement over time' and if it does why is the same not written about NDA. Roseberry has also been judged to have the capacity to improve.

It says the majority of schools are good or outstanding. Which schools are included in this statement? It is not accurate if you consider the options available and realistic for our students especially those in Year 10.

Need for Places 8 and displaced pupils 11

The info on available places contradicts info given to parents and councillors at various meetings and in the appendix the statistics are insufficiently detailed. There is still an absence of any information as to where the places are available yet it is known information; it makes no mention that the majority of places are at NDA.

In the meeting on Monday 9th December with Local Members:

It was still being said that Park View and Hermitage had agreed to make places available for Roseberry students. This is untrue and only now is it stated in this 'Complete Proposal' document. The supporting data in the Appendix is disingenuous in its manner of presentation masking the fact that both Park View and Hermitage are both full in a number of year groups and spaces only exist realistically at North Durham. DCC continues to use inaccurate data for entry limits and those on roll especially for Hermitage – their most up to date information is on their website. In addition we understand that Officers have denied that some transfer requests to Park View and Hermitage have been refused. The letters were received all named Park View but we are aware that some appertained to Hermitage. College is able to provide the letters from DCC's Pupil Placement Department.

at Monday's meeting words to the effect that they had to make NDA a 'success' and 'fill it'. If these and other comments made, e.g. about the historic nature of this decision, indicate the real reason for this proposal to close Roseberry why was DCC not clear about it from the start.

Impact on the Community 13 and 14

Reference to the community organiser is not accurate as Ms Elgie left our employ on November 15th. How do the comments about continued use of the premises for community use equate with the decision document where it was stated that the only costs are associated with the demolition of the site?

Transport 16.

The document states that transport costs will not be significant. The distance calculations are meaningless. Our students do not live at Roseberry. The distance to Park View must be the upper site only, the lower site is at least another mile away. Those who live at Grange Villa are very disadvantaged and those who live east of the



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school faced with transport to NDA. The vast majority of students currently walk to school, they will all require transport to alternative institutions and DCC will be responsible for those costs where free transport regulations apply – the vast majority of Years 9 and 10 and over half of Years 7 and 8. This summary masks the reality of the transport implications for many of the Roseberry students. It also ignores the potential social and physical costs when young people are no longer able to access after school and evening clubs and activities.

We note with interest the absence of any reference to budget. This was fundamental and up front in the Decision Document and mentioned in point 1 of the consultation document. It was the key factor that many people including Councillors at Durham County Council have quoted as the reason that the College should be closed. Is its absence now an indicator that DCC's information was flawed from the start?

Governors are once again frustrated with the flaws in public information from DCC.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Bowen
Principal
Roseberry College and Sixth Form

Carol Forster
Chair of Governors



BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Award



Contact: Sheila Palmerley
Direct Tel: 03000 265 731
Fax: 0191 389 8150
email: Sheila.palmerley@durham.gov.uk



Ann Bowen / Carole Forster
Principal / Chair of Governors
Roseberry College & Sixth Form
Newfield
Pelton
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham
DH2 1NW

20 December 2013

Dear Ann / Carole

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2013 with comments on the complete proposal in relation to the statutory notice that was published on 12 December 2013, regarding the proposal to close Roseberry college and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014. Your correspondence will form part of any report to Cabinet in the event the proposal proceeds.

We appreciate your help in providing up to date e-mail addresses for some governors and your support in forwarding information to them.

I have attached a copy of the notes from public consultation meetings and a summary of the responses to consultation, as requested.

Whilst I note your comments, I do not share your views and do not propose to respond to them all, or in any detail. With regards to some of the specific questions and comments you have made about information in the complete proposal I will address these as follows:

Objectives

The information included in this section is to give the overall picture about pupils numbers at the point that the statutory notice was published. This is why details about pupils that have already left is included.

Standards and Diversity

The percentage quoted for Roseberry exam results is the latest figure we have. If some late results have been “accepted” on DfE checking, this information had not been released to us yet.

The schools that are Good or Outstanding that have been considered in the local area are Hermitage, Park View and Tanfield.

Need for Places

The issue of places available at other schools has been continuously raised since the beginning of the consultation. The Local Authority is required to ensure there are places available ‘in the area’, not in every year group in every school, therefore there is no need to provide this level of detailed information.

Impact on the Community

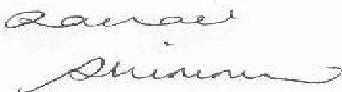
We will continue to work with the school to explore options for community use. Even if a decision was made to close the school, the prospect of retaining some of the school site for community use could still be explored.

Transport

We are aware of the distances that some pupils may have to travel from their home address and the increase in transport costs that may arise from having to provide travel to other schools if a decision is taken to close the school. This is the information we have used to assess the potential level of increase in transport costs.

Your final paragraph refers to the absence of any reference to the school budget. The contents of the ‘complete proposal’ that you have commented on in your letter are prescribed by statute. Statute also prescribes what must be contained within the the statutory notice. Information about the school budget is not required in either of these documents.

Yours sincerely



Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children & Adults Services

Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments.

You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.

Service/team or section: CAS/ School Places and Admissions, Education

Lead Officer: Sheila Palmerley

Start date: 30 September 2013
Reviewed 28.1.13

Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)

Proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form from 31 August 2014.

- Roseberry College and Sixth Form is a school for pupils aged 11 – 18. The school building can hold 996 pupils but there were only 324 pupils on roll in September 2013 and this number has now fallen to 181(January 2014). The County Council has been concerned for a number of years about the low pupil numbers at the school and those concerns have become greater following changes to school funding arrangements. The proposal has been put forward to address the issues of low pupil numbers, and the consequent impact this may have on educational standards and budget. It is believed that secondary age pupils in Pelton, West Pelton, Pelton Fell, Grange Villa, Newfield, Ouston and Urpeth, would have wider opportunities for educational improvement if they were to be educated at other schools which are able to offer a broader curriculum in a larger school with a more stable financial outlook. The other schools in the local area have bigger school rolls and larger budgets and can therefore offer a wide curriculum and subjects may be available elsewhere that are not available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form, which would give pupils transferring, new options to consider. Consultation on this proposal was held between 30 September – 6 December 2013 with Governors, staff, parents, Community and Residents' Associations, Parish Councils and users and providers of the community facilities which are held at Roseberry College and Sixth Form.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) – General Public, Governors, Staff, Parents, Pupils, Elected Members, MPs, Neighbouring Schools, Trade Unions, Diocese, DfE, Community Groups, Parish Councils, Residents' Associations, AAP Board, Neighbouring Authorities, CAS/DCC Staff

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes / No

Cabinet report

Initial screening

This proposal mainly affects young people aged between 11 and 18, their families who live in Pelton, West Pelton, Pelton Fell, Grange Villa, Newfield, Ouston and Urpeth, and the staff of Roseberry College and Sixth Form. School places are available across a group of schools within a 4 mile radius from Roseberry College and Sixth Form.

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	Y	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	Y	Religion or belief	?	Sexual orientation	?
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How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?

Reminder of our legal duties:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone's disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people
- Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making

The proposal to close Roseberry College and Sixth Form will affect pupils, their families/carers, staff and the local community. This means that there are potential impacts across all of the protected characteristics but the most likely impacts are in relation to age, gender and disability. There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal would have a specific disproportionate impact on transgender people, on religion or belief or on sexual orientation. There are currently 181 pupils on roll of which less than 10 are from a black and minority ethnic background.

We have a statutory duty to ensure that all pupils in County Durham can have a place at a school in County Durham and this proposal does not deny them that opportunity. The opportunity that pupils will have to access a more effective education at other schools in the local area therefore is a positive opportunity.

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Roseberry College and Sixth Form is a school for pupils aged 11 – 18. The school building can hold 996 pupils but only 324 pupils were on roll when the consultation started on 30 September 2013, as at January 2014 there are 181 pupils on roll of whom 94 are boys and 87 are girls. Over 97% of pupils are white British.

If the proposal is approved there are likely to be redundancies. Opportunities for redundancy will be discussed with staff if the decision is taken to close the school for them to put forward their own proposals. There is also a redeployment scheme and Brokerage Service, the latter of

which is specifically for school staff. There are currently 51 members of staff employed at Roseberry College and Sixth Form aged between 24 - 64 (10 are aged between 55 - 64). Of this number, 37 are female and 14 are male.

A range of community and leisure activities are on the school premises and the consultation indicated that over 500 people per week use these facilities or participate in the activities provided.

Concerns were raised during the consultation that the leisure and community activities provided from the school would be lost if the decision to close the school was agreed. It was felt that these activities had improved the lifestyle of the community with the following views being submitted:

- Attending sports classes has helped with weight loss
- Attending sports classes has improved fitness
- There is opportunity to attend a range of different classes
- Taking part in various activities has helped towards a healthy lifestyle
- Closing the school will be a loss to community facilities
- Attending community activities is a chance to socialise which will be lost if the school closes
- Girls will not be able to take part in the netball class after school
- If the facilities went people would have to travel further
- Attending painting and art classes improves things like mental and emotional health

Officers from the Council's Education Service have been liaising with colleagues from the Leisure Services section of the Council to discuss how support may be given to local groups to consider alternative models for providing community activities in Pelton and the surrounding areas. Officers have been in correspondence with the Community representative at the school to offer support.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No **Date: 6 December 2013**

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender	There is no evidence to indicate a specific gender impact on pupils.	Roseberry College and Sixth Form provides education for both boys and girls. Other schools will accommodate displaced pupils regardless of gender.. A number of pupils have already transferred schools, currently there are 94 boys on roll and 87 girls, and if the proposal is agreed the Local Authority will assist parents and pupils to find a place at an alternative school.	

	<p>There are more female staff than males but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.</p>	<p>There are currently 51 members of staff employed at Roseberry College and Sixth Form. Of this number, 37 are female and 14 are male.</p>	<p>Follow agreed HR procedures to ensure fair treatment, including arrangements for any staff on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.</p>
Age	<p>Students aged 11-18. Students attending Roseberry College and Sixth Form will not be able to have a place at that school from 31 August 2014 if the proposal to close the school is agreed.</p> <p>Staff employed at the school are aged between 24 – 64 but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.</p> <p>Members of the community of all ages</p>	<p>Other schools will accommodate displaced pupils regardless of age. A number of pupils have already transferred schools and if the proposal is agreed the Local Authority will assist parents and pupils to find a place at an alternative school.</p> <p>There are currently 51 members of staff employed at Roseberry College and Sixth Form aged between 24 -64 (10 are aged between 55 - 64).</p> <p>A range of community and leisure activities are on the school premises and the consultation indicated that over 500 people per week use these facilities or participate in the activities provided.</p>	<p>Working with other secondary schools that can more easily offer a broad and balanced curriculum to formulate effective transition plans.</p> <p>Follow agreed HR procedures to ensure fair treatment.</p> <p>Discussions are being held with relevant community groups to consider an alternative delivery model for the future use of community and leisure facilities.</p>
Disability	<p>Profile information has not been included to ensure disabled pupils and staff are not identifiable.</p> <p>There is potential for impact on some disabled parents/carers in relation to additional travel however no comments or concerns were raised during the consultation</p>	<p>Pupils' needs will be met as appropriate to ensure they are treated fairly. Home to school transport policies include provision for disabled pupils.</p> <p>HR procedures would be followed to ensure fair treatment for staff and appropriate reasonable adjustments would be made.</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate transition arrangements and reasonable adjustments are in place at the receiving schools for disabled and special educational needs pupils.</p>

	regarding pupils or parents/carers with disabilities. Ten people who responded to the consultation indicated they had a disability, but did not state that the proposal would have an impact on their disability.		
Race/Ethnicity	There is no evidence to indicate a disproportionate impact on pupils. Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.	Less than 10 pupils are from a black or minority ethnic background. Other schools will accommodate pupils regardless of race/ethnicity. No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process.	No further action.
Religion or belief	There is no evidence to indicate a specific impact on pupils. Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.	The school is not a faith school, other schools will accommodate pupils regardless of their religion or belief . No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process.	No further action.
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence to indicate a specific impact on pupils. Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.	Other schools will accommodate pupils regardless of their sexual orientation. No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process.	No further action

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

If this proposal is implemented it is likely to improve relationships between different communities as there will be greater integration of pupils and families as a result of them attending different schools.

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

If the proposal is agreed there will no longer be a secondary school in Pelton to serve pupils from the local areas. Whilst this will have the impact of removing the local school for the villages of Pelton, West Pelton, Pelton Fell, Grange Villa, Newfield and Ouston, there are places at other secondary schools within a 4 mile radius from Roseberry College and Sixth Form which can offer greater opportunities for educational

improvement. The other schools in the local area have bigger school rolls and larger budgets and can therefore offer a wide curriculum and subjects may be available elsewhere which are not available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form, which would give pupils transferring, new options to consider.

The County Council's Home to School Transport policy will be applied to enable pupils to attend an alternative school. The policy also includes specific provisions for disabled pupils.

The impact on the community has been considered as there are sports and leisure facilities available for the community to use beyond normal school hours. The future of these facilities and how the activities can continue if the proposal to close Roseberry College is agreed are being discussed. Consultation was undertaken between 30 September 2013 and 6 December 2013. Consultation documents were distributed widely and meetings were held with Governors and Staff of Roseberry College and Sixth Form, parents and pupils, and the various Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups that operate in the area. Stakeholders were invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, email or completing the response form online via the County Council's website.


108 responded in writing to the County Council using the response form, letter or email. 2 petitions were also submitted (one with 89 signatures and one with 77 signatures). Of the 108, 8 are in support of the proposal and 100 are not in support of the proposal. Some of the concerns raised by those stakeholders not in favour of the proposal were as follows:

- There was concern from parents and pupils that the courses of study available at Roseberry College and Sixth Form are not available at other schools.
- Stakeholders were concerned that the other schools in the local area were too far for pupils to walk to.
- There were concerns from stakeholders that the community facilities which are very well used will be lost if Roseberry College and Sixth form closes.

Some of the comments made by those stakeholders in favour of the proposal were as follows:

- Concerns were raised about the standards of education over past years.
- Class sizes do not justify the school remaining open.
- Lack of option choices in the 6th Form
- Parents concerned that Roseberry is their nearest school but has a poor reputation. Parents are prepared to send their children to other schools even if they have to travel further.

Action to be taken – if the proposal is approved	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Consultation with staff	Head Teacher and Governing Body	30 April 2014	
Ensure fair treatment for staff through agreed HR procedures and appropriate advice to Head Teacher and Governing Body. Includes reasonable adjustments for disabled staff and arrangements for staff on maternity/paternity or adoption leave.	Sheila Palmerley	18 July 2014	
Assist displaced pupils to acquire a place at another school	Sheila Palmerley	18 July 2104	

Ensure appropriate transition arrangements and reasonable adjustments are in place at the receiving schools for disabled and special educational needs pupils.	Sheila Palmerley	18 July 2104	
Work with other secondary schools that can offer a broad and balanced curriculum to formulate effective transition plans.	Sheila Palmerley	18 July 2104	
Liaison with community groups and colleagues from the Leisure Services section of the Council to discuss how support may be given to local groups to consider alternative models for providing community activities in Pelton.	Sheila Palmerley	31 August 2014	
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: In February 2014 when the decision is taken whether to agree the proposal or not.		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer - sign off: Sheila Palmerley			Date:29.1.14
Service equality representative - sign off:			Date:29.1.14

Please email your completed Impact Assessment to the Equality team - equalities@durham.gov.uk.