

Proposal to Enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015

Key Decision CAS/01/15

Report of Corporate Management Team

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services

Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015 taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local area.

Background

2. In April 2013 the Government introduced reforms to the way school funding should be allocated. The aim of these reforms was to focus the allocation of resources predominantly based on pupil numbers and pupil need. The outcome is that there is now an increased pressure on small schools. The amalgamation of small schools results in increased opportunities for efficiency and provides a larger single cohort of pupils that in turn provides greater financial stability.
3. Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School have been Federated since 2010 and share one Governing Body and one Head Teacher. Bringing the two schools together as one larger Primary School would be more viable and sustainable in the long term. Both school sites would remain operational to allow education provision to be retained in both communities.
4. When both schools were inspected by Ofsted in May 2014, inspectors judged both schools as "Requiring Improvement". The Local Authority has been providing support to the Headteacher to address the issues in both schools that Ofsted highlighted. Significant resources are required to make the necessary improvements across two schools under the leadership of one Headteacher. If the schools amalgamated into a single school the pupils' progress, would be measured in the same primary school. This is more manageable than monitoring progress in two separate schools.

5. Discussions with the Chair and Head Teacher of the schools about a possible amalgamation began in January 2015. The key area of concern raised by the school is related to the future funding for a single school instead of having a budget for the schools. Both Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village Schools have significant balances that will be carried forward into the single school if it is agreed that they should amalgamate. There will be no impact on the budget if the single school opens on 1 September 2015. From April 2016 the school would continue to have a significant lump sum plus a budget allowance for the single school having to maintain two sites. This 'split site' allowance will continue to be paid each year. By 2017/18 the school will have had time to realise the potential to make savings on the basis of having a single school instead of two separate schools (refer to paragraphs 29 – 44 for more detail).
6. Following these initial discussions, using delegated powers, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved the commencement of consultation on the proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 to and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015. The delegated decision report is included in Appendix 2.
7. Consultation was undertaken between 23 February and 3 April 2015. Consultation documents (included in Appendix 2) were distributed widely across the local area on 2 March 2015. A series of meetings were held between 5-12 March 2015 so that Governors, staff, Parish Councils, parents, pupils and the local community could share their views with the Local Authority.
8. A full summary of the consultation responses is included in the delegated decision report attached as Appendix 2.
9. When considering responses to the consultation the Council has referred to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance "School Organisation - Maintained Schools - Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers" which states that the decision-maker (in this case the Local Authority) should consider the views of those affected by a proposal or who have an interest in it, including cross-LA border interests. The decision-maker should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most affected by a proposal - especially the parents of children at the affected school(s).
10. The responses to the consultation were received and considered by officers in the County Council. The Federated Governing Body supported the proposal as did 3 parents of pupils attending Sherburn Hill Primary School. Although there was some opposition to the proposal - mainly from parents of pupils attending Sherburn Village Primary School - the responses received provided no evidence that not implementing the proposal would address the concerns over the future sustainability of small schools. A summary of the responses is provided in paragraphs 17-19.

Decision to Issue a Statutory Notice

11. After full consideration of all the responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services used delegated powers to agree to publish proposals to enlarge Sherburn Village School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015. A statutory notice was therefore published on 16 April 2015 (attached as Appendix 3).
12. Once the proposal is published there follows a statutory 4 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 case the County Council's Cabinet). Once the representation period has closed a decision on the proposal must be made within 2 months i.e. by 14 July 2015.

Responses to the Proposal Published on 16 April 2015 for 4 weeks (the Statutory Notice Period)

13. 2 responses were received by the end of the 4 week statutory notice period objecting to the proposal. Both respondents objecting to the proposal felt that the proposal would not enhance education provision as the amount available in the combined budget will be less therefore resulting in a reduced provision of education. The respondents also stated that the Federation of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools had not been successful and queried how the Local Authority proposed that the same physical set up with less funding will improve the situation.

With regard to the concerns raised on the financial implications, changes to the national school funding formula will impact on small schools in the long term as the amount of money a school has in its budget is predominantly based on the number of pupils on roll. The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors have been given budget projections for the next 3 years. The school is also receiving support from the Council's Human Resources department regarding staffing matters, and from the Education Development Service to ensure that the skills and expertise available in the schools, are utilised to best effect to improve education standards. At her request, Senior Officers in the Education Service of the Council have invited a respondent who objected to the proposal to meet with them to discuss the concerns raised, in more detail.

Decision Making Process

Factors to be considered by Cabinet

(a) Related Proposals

14. Any proposal that is 'related' to another proposal must be considered together. A proposal should be regarded as 'related' if its implementation (or non implementation) would prevent or undermine the effective implementation

of another proposal. Where proposals are 'related' the decisions should be compatible.

15. The proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and the proposal to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015 are 'related' therefore they must be considered together.

(b) Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period

16. Cabinet needs to be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and representation period have been carried out and that the proposer (in this case the Local Authority) has had regard to the responses received. If the Local Authority has failed to meet the statutory requirements, this proposal may be deemed invalid and therefore should be rejected.
17. Cabinet must consider all the views submitted, including all objections and comments on the proposal. Details of the consultation are included in paragraph 6. The Statutory Notice published on 16 April 2015 and which expired on 14 May 2015 (the representation period) is attached as Appendix 3. Officers prepared the notice as set out in the regulations and complied with statutory requirements.
18. The report attached as Appendix 2 provides full details of the responses received during the consultation period from 23 February - 3 April 2015. In summary:
 - 11 written responses were sent to the County Council from
 - 8 parents
 - 2 members of staff
 - The Federated Governing Body
 - Of the 11, 3 are in support of the proposal, and 8 are not in support of the proposal
 - 6 parents responded using the online response form (DCC website), one in support of the proposal and 5 not in support of the proposal.

Summary of Responses received to the Proposal

19. The following information provides a summary of the issues during the consultation on the proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015:
 - Stakeholders welcomed the proposal as it is aimed at enhancing and preserving education in the two communities for the long term;
 - The Federated Governing Body felt the two schools play a pivotal part in the community and neither school should close;
 - Stakeholders raised concerns that the proposal would lead to job losses;
 - Stakeholders felt that the proposal was a money saving exercise only rather than an opportunity to maximise the skills, resources and expertise across the two schools to enhance education for all pupils.
 - Governors were concerned over the timing of the proposal and felt it would have been better to implement the proposal in September 2016 instead of 2015. However, delaying the timing of the amalgamation could result in

more uncertainty for staff and parents. It is preferable therefore that the proposed amalgamation takes place sooner rather than later.

- Parents and staff believe that the Council's intention is to close Sherburn Hill site soon after the amalgamation. Officers explained that the intention of the proposal is to retain provision in Sherburn Hill, not remove it.
- Parents were concerned that pupils may have to travel between the sites. The school will decide how the two sites are used, not the Local Authority.
- Parents of pupils from Sherburn Hill were concerned that the proposal was to close the school site. They were reassured that provision will still be in Sherburn Hill but as a 'split site' amalgamated school with Sherburn Village.

20. If satisfied that the procedural obligations have been discharged, Cabinet must then consider whether it wishes to agree the proposal having regard to the following:

(c) Education Standards and Diversity of Provision

21. Officers believe that educationally the proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school is in the best interests of pupils and their families. If action is not taken to address the low pupil numbers and education standards in both schools, the two schools could become unviable. The proposal will lead to a larger, more sustainable Primary School to enhance provision and serve the communities of Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village for the long term.

(d) School Size and Demand for Places

22. The proposed amalgamated Primary School will be on the sites of the current Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools with a capacity for 315 pupils. A school of this size would be large enough to accommodate the current and future pupils we expect will attend the proposed Primary School. The maximum number of pupils anticipated to be at the school up to 2020 is 214 therefore no pupils will be displaced by the proposal.

(e) Proposed Admission Arrangements

23. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted to Reception of the proposed amalgamated Primary School in September 2015 will be 45.

(f) National Curriculum

24. All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community. The proposed amalgamated Primary School will follow the National Curriculum.

(g) Equal Opportunity Issues and Community Cohesion

25. Cabinet must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/Governing Bodies, which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity; and

- foster good relations.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 4. This provides more detail on the impact of the proposal and highlights that there will be no impact on gender, disability, age, race / ethnicity, religion / belief, sexual orientation.

The proposal aims to bring about education improvement to benefit pupils in the Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill communities.

(h) Travel and Accessibility

26. The proposed Primary School will be on the sites of the current Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools. Consequently there will be no increases to travel or journey time and no changes to the current accessibility of both schools.

(i) Capital

27. Capital funding in the region of £130,000 will be required to upgrade the ICT provision and provide appropriate signage. This will be funded from a DfE grant allocated to the Local Authority.

(j) School Premises and Playing Fields

28. Under the School Premises Regulations all schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely.

The sites of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools do have suitable outdoor space.

(k) School Amalgamations – school funding implications

There would be no financial adjustment to the total funding for Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools in 2015-16; the unspent balance of which would be available to the proposed Primary School. The surplus balances carried forward by the schools on 1 April 2015 would also be available to the proposed Primary School.

Formula Funding

29. From 2016-17 onwards the proposed Primary School would receive a single formula funding allocation from the main primary and secondary formula.
30. The pupil-led funding in the formula is determined by pupil numbers and pupil-specific measures of need (deprivation and prior attainment), as recorded in the previous October census. The pupil-led funding for the proposed Primary School would be the same as the total pupil-led funding that would be received by Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools had there been no amalgamation.

31. In addition to pupil-led funding, schools also receive a lump sum, which is the same irrespective of the number or needs of pupils.
32. In 2016-17 the proposed Primary School would receive a lump sum equal to 170% of the standard lump sum.
33. From 2017-18 onwards, the proposed Primary School would only receive the standard lump sum.
34. The proposed Primary School would be operating on two sites that are more than 500 metres apart when measured by road and the school would qualify for a split-site allowance from 2016-17 onwards.
35. The split-site allowance is currently a lump sum of £50,320, plus £3.70 for each pupil funded through the formula.
36. Adjustments for the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which guarantees that funding per pupils will not fall by more than 1.5% year-one-year, are calculated for the proposed Primary School on the basis of the combined budgets of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools for the previous year.
37. The MFG is funded through imposing a ceiling on increases in funding for other pupils and this calculation also uses the combined budgets of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools. This means that the proposed school is not being treated any differently to other schools.
38. Funding for rates is not affected by amalgamation; the proposed Primary School would receive funding equal to its rates bill across the two sites equal to the total funding that Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would have received for rates.

Growth Fund

39. This is mainly used to fund schools in respect of meeting the requirements for infant class sizes. For 2015-16 this will be determined by total numbers of infant pupils after the September 2015 intake. Funding for the proposed Primary School could be different to that which Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would have received had the amalgamation not taken place; depending upon the numbers the proposed Primary School could be better or worse off.
40. The use of the growth fund in this way is subject to annual agreement by the Schools Forum.

Early Years

41. Early years funding should not be affected by amalgamation.

High Needs SEN

42. This funding is dependent upon the needs of individual pupils. Amalgamation would have no impact on funding for individual pupils. Additional funding can be provided in limited circumstances, but at present this would not be

applicable to either the proposed Primary School or to Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools.

Pupil Premium

43. This funding is determined nationally by the Department for Education, but the total for the proposed Primary School should be no different to what Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would have received had the amalgamation not taken place.

Service Level Agreements

44. The impact on the cost of buying services from the Council following amalgamation would vary according to the method of charging. Some Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are charged to schools on the basis of either an amount per-pupil or an amount per-school, or a combination of these two methods. The proposed Primary School is likely to make some savings in SLA charges compared to the total charges to Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools.

Recommendations and Reasons

45. Officers believe that proceeding with the proposal will preserve and enhance education provision in Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village. Enlarging Sherburn Village Primary School and closing Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school to create one larger Primary School will provide a more viable and sustainable educational establishment. The new primary school will still be considerably smaller than the average sized primary school nationally.
46. Cabinet is recommended to agree:
- (i) that Sherburn Village Primary School should be enlarged from 1 September 2015 and
 - (ii) that Sherburn Hill Primary School should close as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

Background Papers

Appendix 2 - Delegated Decision Reports

Appendix 3 - Statutory Notice

Appendix 4 - Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment

Contact: Sheila Palmerley**Tel: 03000 265731**

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to provide the change signage and upgrade IT systems if the larger Primary School is established. Costs for this will be in the region of £130,000. Implications to be aware of as part of an amalgamation are covered in the report in paragraphs 29-44.

Staffing

Staff from both Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would be ring-fenced for posts in the Primary School.

Risk

If the proposal was not implemented there is a risk that the existing schools would become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

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 has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 4.

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

The Primary School will be established using the accommodation in the current Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools.

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Human Rights

Human rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

Details of the consultation undertaken are included in the body of the report.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

Covered in the body of the report.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD (Version August 2014)*Please complete all sections***DECISION MAKER**

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION/COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2. Table 3, paragraph 1.4

SUBJECT

3. To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to issue a statutory notice proposing to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

DECISION

4. **If Key Decision insert No.**
CAS/01/15 - Proposed date for Cabinet June 2015.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

5. Sherburn

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

6. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder was consulted on 8 April 2015. The Local Member was consulted on 8 April 2015.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

7. N/A

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

8. N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

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

CONTACT PERSON

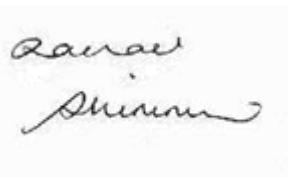
Graeme Plews

CONTACT No.

03000 265777

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

10



DATE

11.

13.04.15

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.
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".
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. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
11. Enter the date the decision was made.

DELEGATED DECISION

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES



Outcome of Consultation on a proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

Report of CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Service

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details on the outcome of consultation which was undertaken between 23 February 2015 and 3 April 2015 proposing to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015, and to seek approval to proceed to the next stage in the process which is to issue a Statutory Notice.

Background

2. In a report dated 20 January 2015 (attached as Appendix 2) the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved consultation could begin on a proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.
3. Consultation documents (attached as Appendix 3) were distributed widely (distribution list attached as Appendix 4) and meetings were held between 5 - 12 March 2015 with the Federated Governing Body, staff of both schools, and parents and members of the local communities at Information Sharing Meetings.

Issues Raised at Consultation Meetings

4. At the meetings held between 5-12 March 2015, officers explained the reasons for the proposal and invited those present to express views and ask questions. The key issues discussed at the meetings are summarised as follows:
 - Questions were asked as to how bringing the two schools together would make them more viable if the budget for the Primary School was less than the combined budgets of the two current schools. Officers explained that the proposal to amalgamate Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools is a solution for the long term. A larger single school would have a larger single budget for all of the pupils on roll. Continuing to run the two

schools as separate schools will result in them receiving two small budgets but they would still be expected to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum.

- Some parents and staff were reassured that the proposal would preserve education in the two communities for the long term.
- Concerns were raised on the impact of the proposal on jobs and whether there would be job losses. Officers explained that until a proposed staffing structure was produced by the Head Teacher and Governors it would not be possible to comment on whether jobs would be lost. However in previous amalgamations there had been few, if any, job losses.
- Some parents felt the proposal is Sherburn Village Primary School "propping up" Sherburn Hill Primary School and the community of Sherburn Village would not want that. Officers explained that the proposal is not one school "propping up" another, it is to maintain education provision in the two communities for the long term and it is a proposed amalgamation / merger of the two schools.
- Staff mentioned timing of the consultation and asked if it could not have been delayed until after Ofsted had concluded their 'follow up' visits to the two schools which were expected to be in late March 2015. Officers explained that the Local Authority is being proactive in maintaining and enhancing education and it was important therefore that consultation should not be delayed.
- Concerns were expressed that the proposal could be a step process towards the outright closure of Sherburn Hill Primary School. Officers explained that was not the case. The proposal is aimed at preserving education in the two communities for the long term.
- Queries were raised as to where savings could be made if there was little change in staffing and both buildings would continue to be used. Officers explained that the proposal to amalgamate the two schools is not financially driven. It is about the education of children. Both schools have been judged by Ofsted as 'Requiring Improvement'. Amalgamating them into one school would help to address concerns raised by Ofsted. The skills and expertise that currently exist in both schools will help to raise standards for all pupils in these two communities.

Responses to the Consultation

5. 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 on line via the County Council's website.
6. 11 responded in writing using the response form, letters and email.
6 responded using the online response form (DCC website).
16 people attended the Information Sharing Evening at Sherburn Village Primary School.
15 people attended the Information Sharing Meeting at Sherburn Hill Primary School

8 Governors attended the meeting of the Federated Governing Body.
22 members of staff attended the joint staff meeting.

Summary of Responses

7. The following information provides a summary of the 17 responses received using the response form, letter, email, on-line:
- 3 parents of pupils attending Sherburn Hill Primary School support the proposal.
 - The Federated Governing Body supports the proposal.
 - 9 parents of pupils attending Sherburn Village Primary School do not support the proposal.
 - 1 parent of a pupil attending Sherburn Hill Primary School does not support the proposal.
 - 2 members of staff of Sherburn Village Primary School do not support the proposal.
 - 1 parent of a pupil attending Sherburn Hill Primary School did not state whether the proposal was supported or not.

Some comments received in the written responses were similar to those highlighted at the consultation meetings:

- Some parents welcomed the explanation of the proposal by Officers that it was aimed at enhancing and preserving education in the two communities for the long term.
- The Federated Governing Body felt that both Sherburn Hill Primary School and Sherburn Village Primary School play a pivotal part in the community and neither school should close. However Governors were concerned over the timing of the proposal and felt it would have been better to implement the proposal in September 2016 instead of 2015. The schools' Education Development Partner (EDP) and other LA Officers are ensuring the Head Teacher and Governing Body are being well supported to address concerns raised by Ofsted within the usual remit of LA support for schools. Delaying the timing of the amalgamation could result in more uncertainty for staff and parents. It is preferable for the proposed amalgamation to take place sooner rather than later.
- Staff were concerned that the proposal would lead to job losses. Staff are being consulted separately on a proposed new staffing structure. The Human Resources service in the council has been providing support to the Headteacher regarding staffing matters.
- Some parents felt that the proposal was a money saving exercise only rather than providing an opportunity to maximise the resources, skills and expertise across the two schools to enhance education for all pupils.

Analysis of Consultation Responses and Current Position

8. Governors agreed in principle to the amalgamation but were concerned about the timing of the consultation and the financial implications. Although Governors would prefer a later implementation of the proposal, officers believe there is no strong case to postpone the proposed amalgamation to 2016. This thinking is based on the fact that significant support has been provided to the school by a number of officers in the LA to ensure that the impact of the consultation is minimal to allow the school to continue to run without unnecessary distractions.
9. With regard to the concerns raised on the financial implications, changes to the national school funding formula will impact on small schools in the long term as the amount of money a school has in its budget is predominantly based on the number of pupils on roll. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors have been given budget projects for the next 3 years.
10. Officers remain firmly of the view that the two schools could become unviable if action is not taken to address the low pupil numbers and education standards in both schools. The proposal will lead to a larger, more sustainable Primary School to enhance education provision and serve the communities of Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village for the long term.

Recommendations and Reasons

11. 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 enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

Background Papers

Attached.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to change signage and upgrade IT systems if the larger Primary School is established. Costs for this will be in the region of £50,000.

Staffing

Staff from both Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would be ring-fenced for posts in the single Primary School.

Risk

If the proposal was not implemented there is a risk that the existing schools would become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

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 is carried out to assess the likely impact of the proposal on specific groups.

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

The single Primary School will be established using the accommodation in the current Primary Schools.

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 has been consulted about moving to the next stage in the process and is happy for the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to use delegated powers to approve that a statutory notice can be issued.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for enlarging Sherburn Village Primary School and for closing Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school will be applied in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

DECISION RECORD (Version August 2014)*Please complete all sections***DECISION MAKER**

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION/COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2. Table 3, paragraph 1.4

SUBJECT

3. To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on a proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

DECISION

4. **If Key Decision insert No.**
Key Decision when Cabinet meets to decide on the proposal.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

5. Sherburn

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

6. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder was consulted on 12 January 2015. The Local Members were consulted on 16 January 2015.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

7. None

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

8. N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

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

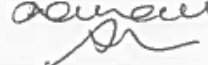
CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT No.

03000 265731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

10 

DATE

11. 21/1/15

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.
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".
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. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
11. Enter the date the decision was made.

DELEGATED DECISION

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES



20 January 2015

Proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

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 enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

Background

2. Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School have been Federated since April 2010 and share one Governing Body and one Head Teacher. That arrangement has worked well and bringing the two schools together as one larger Primary School is a natural progression. Both school sites would remain operational as neither school is large enough to accommodate all of the pupils from both schools.
3. Officers within the Education Service also believe that the long term viability of small schools is uncertain due to changes in the national school funding formula. Creating a larger Primary School instead of two smaller Primary Schools (Sherburn Hill Primary School is particularly small with only 54 pupils on roll) would produce a more viable and sustainable education establishment.

Details of any Alternative Options Considered and Rejected when making the Decision

4. Officers considered taking no action which would mean continuing to run two schools. This places an extra burden on the single Head Teacher who has to run both schools instead of one. Both schools were inspected in May 2014 and were judged as 'Requiring Improvement'. If one school was expanded and one was closed the pupils' progress could be monitored across Key Stages 1 and 2 as a single school.
5. The preferred option is to consult on establishing a single school. The option of keeping both schools open was rejected.

Consultation Timescales

6. It is intended that consultation on this proposal will commence in February 2015. Consultation documents will be widely distributed to key stakeholders, including to Governors, staff, parents, Local Members, MP, Dioceses, Community Groups, Parish Councils, neighbouring schools, Children's Centres, AAP groups etc. Meetings with governors, staff, parents and the wider community will also be held in February 2015 for officers to provide information and answer queries.
7. The consultation period will end in March 2015 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 in April 2015 for four weeks. Cabinet would then be asked to make a decision on the proposal.

Recommendation and Reasons

8. As both schools already work closely together for the benefit of pupils, bringing the two schools together as one larger Primary School operating across both of the existing sites would enhance this arrangement.
9. The current combined capacity for the two schools is for 308 pupils which will be large enough to accommodate future numbers that we expect will attend the school as illustrated below:

School	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
Sherburn Village Primary	150	149	154	154	151
Sherburn Hill Primary	59	64	71	71	63
TOTAL	209	213	225	225	214

Decision

10. The Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services agrees that consultation can begin on the proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Any funding required for necessary ICT upgrades and signage for the new school will be met from the Council's Schools Capital Maintenance Grant budget, allocated on an annual basis from the Department for Education.

Staffing

Staff from both Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools would be ring-fenced for posts in the proposed Primary School.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the schools become unviable as the new funding formula is likely to have an impact on small schools.

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.

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

The proposed single Primary School will be on the existing sites of the Sherburn Village Primary and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools.

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 the Local Members have been consulted and they support the proposal to create a single, larger Primary School. They agree that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services should use delegated powers to approve that wider consultation begins on this proposal.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for enlarging Sherburn Village Primary School and closing Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school will be applied in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School



Sherburn Village Primary School



Sherburn Hill Primary School

**Proposal to amalgamate
Sherburn Village Primary School and
Sherburn Hill Primary School on existing sites
from 1 September 2015**

Public Consultation Information

Introduction

Durham County Council is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary from 1 September 2015. **Both sites however will continue to be used so that children in Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill will be educated on their "home" site.** The consultation period runs until 3 April 2015. This document provides you with some information about the proposal.

Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools are currently two separate schools but have been Federated since April 2010. One Governing body and one Head Teacher have overseen the running of both schools since that date. The schools are approximately 1.14 miles apart and both schools provide education for children aged 4-11.

You may have some questions to ask about this proposal. This document attempts to answer some of these questions and explains how you can let the County Council know what you think about the proposed changes.

1. **Why is the County Council proposing to amalgamate Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School?**

The schools work very closely together under the management of one Governing Body and one Head Teacher for the benefit of pupils, parents and staff. Amalgamating Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School is a natural progression from a Federation. Both school sites would remain operational as neither school is large enough to accommodate all of the pupils from both schools.

The proposal to amalgamate the schools will lead to a larger and more viable education establishment. The amount of money that a school has in its budget is predominantly based on the number of pupils in the school. In light of this, the County Council believes that some small schools could in the long term become unviable. Sherburn Hill Primary School in particular is a small school; currently there are only 54 pupils on roll. Amalgamation of schools result in increased opportunities for efficiency and a single school, with larger numbers than two small schools, provides greater financial stability.

2. **If the two schools come together to become a single larger Primary School, will it affect the standard of education provided?**

Both schools already work closely together for the benefit of all pupils and will continue to do this whether or not the proposal is agreed. Officers believe that bringing the two schools together to create a larger Primary School will not have any negative impact on the standard of education provided.

3. **Will both school sites remain open?**

Although the proposal is to amalgamate Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If the proposal is agreed, the single amalgamated school would make use of the accommodation of both sites to enhance curriculum.

provision. **There will continue to be education provided on both sites for pupils aged 4-11** and the relative proximity of the two schools will ensure that senior teachers can be responsive to urgent matters that arise on either site.

The current combined capacity of the schools is 308 pupils. Sherburn Village Primary has the capacity to accommodate 224 pupils and Sherburn Hill Primary has the capacity to accommodate 84 pupils. As Sherburn Village is the larger school, it is the capacity of that school that will increase to reflect the fact that the two schools have amalgamated into one school and Sherburn Hill Primary would then close as a separate school. The new single Primary School will be run across both sites and Governors will agree the name of the school, if the proposal is agreed.

The pupil numbers expected for the next five years are indicated in the following table.

School	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
Sherburn Village Primary	150	149	154	154	151
Sherburn Hill Primary	59	64	71	71	63
TOTAL	209	213	225	225	214

4. Are there any implications for staff?

If the proposal is agreed, staff would generally be unaffected. A larger Primary School will offer more opportunities for professional development and provide access to more resources and expertise to enhance education provision. A new staffing structure would be developed for the single Primary School. It is expected that posts will be filled from existing staff at the two schools. There would be a separate consultation with staff about the process for being appointed to posts in the new single Primary School.

5. My child will be starting Primary School in September 2015 and I have already applied for a place at either Sherburn Village or Sherburn Hill Primary School. Will this proposal affect my application?

Primary School places will be offered on 16 April 2015. The decision about whether or not to agree the proposal will not have been made by then so both schools will still be open at that point. If you accept a place at either school, your child will automatically become part of the new single primary from 1 September 2015, if the proposal is agreed.

6. If the proposal is approved will the school uniform change from 1 September 2015?

The decision on any change to the school uniform would be taken by the Governing Body, in collaboration with parents, staff and pupils.

7. How do you respond to this consultation?

We would like to hear what you think about this proposal. To help you do that we are holding Information Sharing Meetings as follows:

Wednesday 11 March 2015 - 6.00 pm at Sherburn Village Primary School

Thursday 12 March 2015 - 9.30 am at Sherburn Hill Primary School

All parents from both schools and members of the community in Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill are welcome to attend these meetings. Please attend whichever meeting is most convenient for you.

You can also respond in one of the following ways by 3 April 2015.

- (i) Send in the attached response form or write to: Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adult Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR.
- (ii) Email your views to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk or complete the response from online via the Current Consultation Section of the County Council's website: www.durham.gov.uk

8. What happens after 3 April 2015 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 4 weeks when objections could be made. After the notice period has ended the County Council's Cabinet Members will make a decision on whether or not to amalgamate Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School from 1 September 2015.

RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE SHERBURN VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SHERBURN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL ON EXISTING SITES FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. 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

- ☐ Sherburn Village Primary School
☐ Sherburn Hill Primary School
☐ *Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a Pupil at

- ☐ Sherburn Village Primary School
☐ Sherburn Hill Primary School
☐ *Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a Governor/Member of Staff (delete as appropriate) **at**

- ☐ Sherburn Village Primary School
☐ Sherburn Hill Primary School
☐ *Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state): | <input type="text"/> |

2. Looking at the information in this document do you support the proposal to amalgamate Sherburn Village Primary School and Sherburn Hill Primary School on existing sites from 1 September 2015?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Do you have any comments on this proposal including any impact the changes would have on you?

Please return this form by 3 April 2015 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)

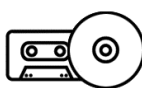
Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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)

altformat.cas@durham.gov.uk
03000 261 381



Braille



Audio



**Large
Print**

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE SHERBURN HILL PRIMARY & SHERBURN VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST
March 2015

School	Govs	Staff	Pupils	Total	How Delivered	Date Delivered
Sherburn Hill Primary	10*	25	50	80	AW ¹	02/03/15
Sherburn Village Primary		25	142	175	AW ¹	
Belmont CE Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	02/03/15 (left in school reception area)
Belmont Cheveley Park Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Gilesgate Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Laurel Avenue Community Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Ludworth Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Pittington Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
St. Hild's College CE (Aided) Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
St. Joseph's RCVA Primary, Gilesgate	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
St. Thomas More RCVA Primary	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Gilesgate Nursery	N/A	5	31	40	AW ¹	02/03/15 (left in nursery reception area)
Laurel Avenue Nursery	N/A	5	30	40	AW ¹	
Pittington Nursery	N/A	5	32	40	AW ¹	
St. Hild's Nursery	N/A	5	50	60	AW ¹	
Belmont School Community Arts College	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	02/03/15 (left in school reception area)
St. Leonard's Catholic School	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Durham Free School	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	

*Governors consultation document posted (27/02/15)
 AW¹ – delivered by hand

TOTAL number of hard copies of consultation documents distributed = 650
and also the consultation document was placed on the DCC website (06/03/15)

Elected DCC Members	
Ossie Johnson, Simon Henig, Steven Guy, David Hall	Emailed 06/03/15
MPs	
Roberta Blackman-Woods MP mail@roberta.org.uk	Emailed 06/03/15
INTERNAL – Email (06/03/15)	
CAS SLT, Julian Wilson, Barry Piercy, Gerard Darby, John Wilkinson, Joanne Barker, School Places & Admissions Team, Julie Arnett, Joanne Walt, Ian Jacques, Lynn Elliott, Jane-le-Sage, Margaret Hanratty, Linda Bailey, Chris Young, David Shirer, Adrian White, Phil Hodgson, Sheila Palmerley, Sarah Armstrong, Linda Bailes, Nora Waugh, Jill Robson, Janet Bennett, Kath Allison, Elaine Wilson, Sue Smith	
RC and CE Diocese and DfE	
RC Diocese Director education@diocesehn.org.uk	Emailed 06/03/15
CE Diocese Director Jeremy.fitt@drmnewcanglican.org	
DfE SchoolOrganisation.NOTIFICATIONS@education.gsi.gov.uk	
Trade Unions	
c.d.thompson@hotmail.co.uk john.kesterton@ascl.org.uk ksmith@atl.org.uk terry.scarr@gmb.org.uk dan.lister0@gmail.com northern@nut.org.uk trevorblacklock@hotmail.com h.pink@unison.co.uk unison@durham.gov.uk	Emailed 06/03/15
Directors of CYPS of Neighbouring LAs	
John Collings NEWCASTLE john.collings@newcastle.gov.uk	Emailed 06/03/15
Keith Moore SUNDERLAND keith.moore@sunderland.gov.uk	
Children’s Centres (5 each)	
Belmont Pre-School , Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Belmont, Durham, DH1 2LL	Posted 06/03/15
Giant Steps , Cheveley Park Primary School, Scardale Way, Durham, DH1 2TX	
Sherburn Hill Children’s Centre , Sherburn Hill Primary School	
Libraries (10 each)	
Belmont Library, Cheveley Park Shopping Centre, Belmont, DH1 2AA	AW¹
Community Centres (10 each)	
Sherburn Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village, Durham, DH6	AW¹
Parish Councils (JM passing on to Parish Councils/AAPs in Sherburn/Belmont area)	
John Murphy john.murphy3@durham.gov.uk	E-Mail 06/03/15

Consultation Flyer (Hand delivered by AW – 06/03/15)

Sherburn Village Primary (window and school gates)
Sherburn Hill Primary (window and school gates)
Sherburn Hill Children's Centre
Belmont and Sherburn Medical Group
VIP Lounge Hair and Tanning, Sherburn Village
Sherburn Community Centre
I ♥ Hair, Sherburn Village
Sherburn Post Office
D & C Newsagents, Sherburn Hill
Everyday News, Sherburn Village
Sherburn Village Pharmacy
Strictly About You Hair & Beauty, Sherburn Hill
Lampost Village Green, Sherburn Village
Lampost Bus Stop outside Coop, Sherburn Village



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Sherburn Village Primary (Community) Cookshold Lane, Sherburn Village, Co Durham, DH6 1DU and to close Sherburn Hill Primary (Community), Sherburn Hill, Co Durham, DH6 1PA.

It is proposed to amalgamate Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools into one Primary School from 1 September 2015. This will be achieved by enlarging Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and by closing Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015. It is proposed that the existing sites of both schools will continue to be used to accommodate all pupils.

Both schools are small schools and were judged by Ofsted in 2014 as 'Requiring Improvement'. It is believed that this proposal will lead to a larger and more viable education establishment to preserve and enhance education in the communities of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill for the long term.

The current capacity of Sherburn Village Primary School is for 224 pupils and the current capacity of Sherburn Hill Primary School is for 84 pupils. The capacity of the proposed single Primary School is for 315 pupils. The proposed admission number will be 45 which is appropriate to accommodate future numbers of pupils expected to apply for a place at the school.

All services currently run from the existing schools for the local communities will continue to be provided if the two schools become a single school across both sites.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Mr Graeme Plews, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ. It is also available on the County Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/article/5621/consultation-to-merge-Sherburn-Village-Primary-School-and-Sherburn-Hill-Primary-School

Within four 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/article/5621, or
- emailed to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk

Signed:

Rachel Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

Publication Date: 16 April 2015

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: School Places and Admissions, Education, CAS

Lead Officer: Sheila Palmerley

Start date: 23 February 2015

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

Proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

The objectives of the proposal are to preserve and enhance education provision in the communities of Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village. Both schools are small schools and the proposal to amalgamate them into one single larger Primary School will lead to a more sustainable and viable school. Both schools have been judged by Ofsted as 'Requiring Improvement' and the proposal would bring both schools together addressing Ofsted concerns and using the strengths of staff in both schools to raise education standards.

It is proposed to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School and use the accommodation of both sites to enhance curriculum provision.

There is no intention to discontinue the use of either site: there will continue to be education provided on both sites for pupils aged 4 - 11.

The Governors and management of the school will establish a structure from staff at both Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill to ensure that the curriculum is delivered across both sites with staff who have the experience and skills to do so. Durham County Council's relevant policies and procedures will be applied when the staffing establishment is being implemented.

There will be no travel or travel cost implications due to the proposed enlarged Sherburn Village Primary School being located on the same sites as the current Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools.

The proposal will ensure that primary education in Sherburn will be maintained with a model that will bring about improvement.

It is not expected that there will be a negative impact on equality/diversity/cohesion.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

General Public, Governors, Staff, Parents, pupils attending Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools, Elected Members, MPs, Neighbouring Schools, Trade Unions, Diocese, Department for Education, Community Groups, Parish Councils, Residents' Associations, AAP Board, Neighbouring Authorities, CAS/DCC Staff

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes / ~~No~~ consultation document is attached and report on the outcomes of the consultation is also attached.

Initial screening

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

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

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

Gender	N	Disability	N	Age	N	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	?	Sexual orientation	?
--------	---	------------	---	-----	---	----------------	---	--------------------	---	--------------------	---

How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?

Reminder of our legal duties:

- o Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- o Promoting equality of opportunity
- o 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 expand Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015 will create a larger Primary School which will bring about educational improvement and will continue to provide equal access for all regardless of gender, disability, age, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation.

Durham County Council has 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.

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools and their families.

If the proposal is approved it will preserve and enhance education provision in the communities of Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village. It is not expected that pupils, their families or staff will be adversely affected.

A consultation was undertaken between 23 February 2015 and 3 April 2015.

Consultation documents were distributed widely and meetings were held with the Federated Governing Body, staff of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill Primary Schools, parents, and members of the local community at Information Sharing Meetings.

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.

11 responded in writing using the response form, letter and email

5 responded using the online response form (DCC website)

- 31 people attended the Information Sharing Evenings
- 22 members of staff attended the staff meetings

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 8 Governors attended the Federated Governing Body meeting 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some parents welcomed the fact that the proposal was aimed at enhancing and preserving education in the two communities for the long term. ▪ The Federated Governing Body felt that both schools play a pivotal part in the community and neither school should therefore close. They were concerned over the timing of the proposal and asked for the amalgamation to be deferred for a year. Delaying the amalgamation however could result in more uncertainty for staff and parents therefore it is preferable for the amalgamation to take place sooner rather than later. ▪ Some staff were concerned that the proposal would lead to job losses. Staff are being consulted separately on a proposed new staffing structure. 	
Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No	
Date: 3 April 2015 (the end of the consultation.)	
If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.	

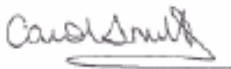
Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

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			
Age			
Disability			

Race/Ethnicity			
Religion or belief			
Sexual orientation			
How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?			
If this proposal is implemented, positive relationships will continue to be strengthened between different communities with no adverse impact.			

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.			
The main change associated with this proposal is that Sherburn Village Primary School will become a larger school operating across its current site and the site of Sherburn Hill Primary School which will close as a separate school to enable this to happen. This will ensure that education provision is maintained in the communities of Sherburn Village and Sherburn Hill with a model that will bring about education improvement to benefit pupils, parents and the community.			
Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: In June 2015 when the decision is taken whether to implement the proposal or not.		

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No	
Lead officer - sign off:	Date: 22.4.15	
<i>Sheila Palmerley</i> Sheila Palmerley		
Service equality representative - sign off:	Date: 7.5.15	
 Carol Smith		

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