

Cabinet

26 March 2009



School Organisation: The Outcome of Consultations On The Proposal to Replace the Esh Winning Primary School Building with A New Build School

Report of David Williams, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services
[Cabinet Portfolio Member for Children's Services, Councillor C Vasey]

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present the outcomes of consultation on the proposal to replace the existing school building at Esh Winning with a new build school, to comment on those responses, and to seek a decision on the site for the location of the new building.

Background

- 2 At its meeting on 31 July 2008, Cabinet approved the report entitled "School Capital Programme - Modernisation Budget Review 2003/04 - 2007/08; 5 Year Programme 2008/09 - 2012/13". Included within the 5 Year Programme 2012/2013 was a proposal for a new build school for Esh Winning to replace the existing school building.
- 3 A consultation document was prepared. A copy is attached as Annex 1. The documents were placed in schools and made available to parents, staff and the wider community in the week commencing 1 December 2008. An information sharing meeting for parents and the wider community was held at the school on 8 December 2008 and a meeting for Governors and Staff was held on 15 December 2008. Local Ward Members were also consulted. The consultation document requested written comments by 9 January 2009. Copies of responses received by the due date have been placed in the Cabinet Office and Members' Library. They include responses provided by pupils of Esh Winning Primary School who completed a Pupil Response Form.

The Proposal For Esh Winning

- 4 The proposal is to replace the current Esh Winning Primary School with a new build school with a capacity for 210 pupils aged 4-11 and a 39 place Local Authority maintained nursery unit. Currently, the school is split-site with a public library and community facilities also being located on one site and the Esh Winning Eco-Learning (EWE) Centre being located on the other site.

- 5 A Project Board has been established to ensure the needs of all users are incorporated into the design. The design of the school will be such that a Library would be available to both the school and the community and appropriate access points will be provided to enable this to happen. Other school facilities required to be used by the community will be fully accessible at appropriate times. The EWE Centre will be located on the same site as the proposed new school.
- 6 The proposal will address condition and suitability issues which exist at the current school, will remove the split-site arrangement and create a school of an appropriate size for the forecast numbers of pupils in the future.

Potential Sites

- 7 There are two possible sites for the new build - the existing school site and open space in the centre of the village. Attached as Annex 2 is a map of the village which highlights the position of both sites.
- 8 Both of the sites are large enough for new build facilities referred to in paragraph 5. The open space in the centre of the village is 17,928 square metres; the existing school site is 34,150 square metres. The size of the site required is approximately 13,600 square metres.
- 9 At the time of consultation, detailed site investigations had not been carried out to ascertain whether they would be suitable to be built on. These site investigations have now been carried out and results show that there are no reasons why either site cannot be developed.
- 10 There are advantages and disadvantages to both sites as demonstrated in the tables below:

Existing School Site	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Larger and more spacious and can provide greater opportunities for school and outdoor provision to enhance learning.</p> <p>Provides an open wildlife area and separate woodland area adjacent to the school.</p> <p>The area of green space in the middle of the village would be preserved.</p> <p>Traffic generated by those using the library, community facilities and the EWE Centre can be more easily accommodated which would avoid the potential to add to the congestion in the middle of the village.</p> <p>This site is acceptable in principle, subject to detailed design and layout considerations.</p>	<p>This site is not in the centre of Esh Winning.</p> <p>Services for the community would be provided from two separate locations approximately half a mile apart – some in the centre of the village, some on the school site.</p>

Site in the Middle of the Village	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>This site is more accessible for residents, particularly those living in the centre of Esh Winning and those living in Hamsteels previously served by Hamsteels Primary School.</p> <p>Most services for the community would be provided from the centre of the village.</p> <p>This site is acceptable in principle, subject to detailed design and layout considerations, including the replacement of open space provision.</p>	<p>Building on this site would remove an area of green space in the village centre.</p> <p>Traffic congestion may increase.</p>

Responses to the Consultation

- 11 230 responses to the consultation have been received, including 168 from pupils of Esh Winning Primary School who completed the Pupil Response Form produced by the School Organisation and Capital Projects Team in Children and Young People's Services.
- 12 The 168 responses received from pupils can be broken down as follows:
- 114 were in favour of a new build school:
 - 83 expressed a wish for it to be built on the existing site;
 - 20 had no preference for where it should be built;
 - 11 wished it to be built on the open space in the middle of the village;
 - 36 were opposed to a new school being built;
 - 18 did not express a firm view.
- 13 The 62 Responses received from respondents other than pupils are as follows:
- 47 in favour of a new school being built on the existing site;
 - 8 in favour of a new school being built on the open space in the middle of the village.
 - 5 were opposed to a new build school.
 - 2 expressed no firm view.
- 14 The main reasons submitted by those respondents wishing the school to be built on the existing site can be summarised as follows:
- the existing site provides greater opportunities for outdoor learning than the site in the middle of the village ;

- the existing site can more easily accommodate the traffic generated by library, community and EWE Centre users which would consequently avoid adding to the congestion in the middle of the village;
- building on the existing site would preserve the area of green space in the village;
- the existing site is much larger than the open space in the middle of the village and therefore offers greater potential for school and outdoor provision to enhance learning.

15 The main reasons submitted by those respondents wishing for the school to be built on the open space in the middle of village can be summarised as follows:

- it is more accessible for residents, particularly those living in Hamsteels previously served by Hamsteels Primary School;
- there would be less chance of the new school being vandalised as it would be located near to houses.

Recommendations

16 Cabinet is asked to note the responses to consultation and to give approval for a new school to be built.

17 Cabinet is also asked to note the advantages and disadvantages of the two possible sites and decide whether the new school should be built on:

(i) the existing school site;

or

(ii) the green space in the centre of the village.

Background Papers

School Capital Programme - Modernisation Budget Review 2003/2004 - 2007/2008;
5 Year Programme 2008/2009 - 2012/2013.

Appendix 1: Implications

Local Government Review

None.

Finance

The cost of the new build will be approximately £7.3 million to be paid for from the Primary Capital Programme.

Staffing

None.

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity will be addressed by the school being fully accessible to pupils from Esh Winning, Hamsteels and Waterhouses.

Accommodation

The new building will provide enhanced facilities to benefit pupils, teachers and the communities of Esh Winning, Hamsteels and Waterhouses.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Sustainability

The building will be sustainable in accordance with national guidelines for sustainability but also providing sustainable education provision.

Human Rights

All pupils have a right to be educated in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Children's Rights.

Localities and Rurality

There are implications for the communities of Esh Winning, Hamsteels and Waterhouses.

Young People

This decision will have a direct impact on young people.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Local Members for Deerness Valley and Esh, pupils, parents, staff, Governors and the wider community.

Health

The health of pupils should be improved as the new building will include enhanced dining and PE facilities.



An exciting opportunity to transform current primary school provision by replacing the existing Esh Winning Primary School building with a new build primary school for 21st Century learning



Above is a computer generated example of a new build primary school.

Making a difference where you live



1. INTRODUCTION

This document explains the proposal of Durham County Council to replace the existing Esh Winning School building with a new build school.

The new build school will support the vision of the Local Authority for primary education, in particular the aim to further improve standards and reduce gaps in achievement. The new build school will support improving the life chances and wellbeing of children and young people through the transformation of education and improving the condition of school buildings. The new school will provide a stimulating learning environment fit for delivery of a world class education for the 21st century and support Esh Winning School in raising standards further.

We would like as many people as possible with an interest in Esh Winning Primary School, or in primary education in the Esh Winning area in general, to let us know their thoughts on this proposal. It is really important that we hear your views on this proposal. Timescales and arrangements for the consultation are in Section 5 of this document.

2. The Proposal For Esh Winning

Currently, the capacity of the school is for 350 pupils. A school of this size will not be required in the future as numbers are considerably lower now than when the school was built. The proposal is to replace the current Esh Winning School with a new build school with a capacity for 210 pupils aged 4-11 and a Local Authority maintained nursery unit providing 39 places in the morning and 39 places in the afternoon. There will also be facilities for use by the community, a public library and the Esh Winning Eco-Learning (EWE) Centre. All of these facilities are located on the site of the current school and we would wish them to be part of the proposed new build.

This proposal will address condition and suitability issues which exist at the current school, will remove the split site and create a school of an appropriate size for the number of pupils to be on roll in the future. The current and projected numbers of pupils are as follows:

September 2008	September 2009	September 2010	September 2011	September 2012
201	195	188	189	185

The proposed new school will be developed to the highest possible standards of sustainability in both the building and the grounds and will be used as an example of best practice highlighting the positive impacts on achievement and wellbeing from sustainable design.

The school will be designed in consultation with the school staff, pupils and community to maximise its potential as a community asset with facilities that can provide a range of services for the local community and beyond.

3. **Where Will The Proposed School Be Built?**

There are two potential sites for the new build – the existing school site and an area of open space in the centre of the village. Both of these sites appear to be large enough for a new build primary school although detailed site investigations have yet to be carried out to determine whether they are suitable to be built on. The area of open space, adjacent to Newhouse Road and Woodlands Road would have the advantage of being in a central location in the village of Esh Winning with good access. There would be no disruption to the education provided to the pupils in the current buildings due to building work. The existing school site has good access; the volume of traffic would not increase and is next to an area of woodland which provides the school with an opportunity to teach environmental activities.

The County Council is aware of the consultation that has taken place on the Durham City Council plans to provide a play area on the area of open space in the centre of the village as part of the regeneration scheme for Esh Winning. The site appears to be large enough for both the play area and the school and tentative discussions with the City Council indicate that they would support both facilities being located there. This would provide an opportunity to work with partners with an interest in Esh Winning and by combining a new school building with play facilities would bring about benefits for the children, young people and families of Esh Winning. No decision on the site will however, be taken until we have completed our consultation and carried out detailed site investigations.

4. **When Will The Proposed School Be Built?**

Before building work can commence, there are several tasks which need to be carried out including detailed site investigations, obtaining planning permission once a site has been determined, preparing a brief for the design of the school, producing a feasibility study and preparing a budget. It is anticipated that this work should be completed during the summer of 2009. Thereafter the school and other facilities will be designed and tenders issued for the work. This process takes approximately one year, and once completed, construction can begin which takes approximately one more year to complete. The expected date for the new build school to be open for teaching purposes is September 2011.

There will be minimal disruption to the education of pupils attending the existing school as they will simply transfer into the new building. A planned process of transition will be put in place between the Local Authority and the school to ensure that pupils and staff are familiar with the new building in preparation for opening.

5. **How Do I Respond To The Consultation?**

We welcome your comments on the proposal and there are several ways to respond:

- **Complete and return the attached response form to:**

Adam Williams
School Places and Capital Projects Team
Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UJ

(Forms to reach us by Friday 9 January 2009)

- **Come to the information sharing evening at Esh Winning Primary School (Infant building) on Monday 8 December 2008 at 7.00 p.m.**
- **E-mail your views to: schoolplaces@durham.gov.uk by Friday 9 January 2009.**

RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A NEW BUILD PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR ESH WINNING

1. Are you responding to this consultation **mainly** as a:

Parent/Carer (please tick one box only :)

- Nursery - which school _____
- Infant - which school _____
- Junior - which school _____
- Primary - which school _____
- Secondary - which school _____
- Special - which school _____

Pupil

- Nursery - which school _____
- Infant - which school _____
- Junior - which school _____
- Primary - which school _____
- Secondary - which school _____
- Special - which school _____

Please indicate whether you are:

- Governor - which school(s) _____
- Member of staff - which school _____
- Resident _____
- Local Member _____
- Trade Union Representative _____
- Community Group _____
- Diocese _____
- District Council Representative _____
- MP _____
- Other _____

2. Are you in favour of the proposal to provide a replacement building for Esh Winning School?

YES **NO**

3. If you are in favour of a new building, which site would you prefer it to be built on? (Please tick the appropriate box).

Existing School Site
Open Space in the Centre of the Village

4. You may wish to add any other comments on the proposals included in this document here; please attach a further sheet for your comments if necessary.

Please return this form by Friday 9 January 2009 to:

Adam Williams
School Places and Capital Projects Team
Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UJ

Optional*

Name:

Address:

Signed: Date:

(*As these responses are copied to the County Council's Cabinet they can be viewed by members of the community and some people may therefore prefer to respond anonymously. All responses with a clearly written name and address will receive an acknowledgement.)

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO



Making a difference where you live

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY MONITORING FORM FOR CONSULTATIONS

As an equal opportunities Council we want to ensure that we hold fully inclusive consultations – to help us ensure that we do so, we would be grateful if you would complete this short questionnaire. Your answers to 1 to 3 will be treated with the utmost confidence and will be used only for statistical purposes – thank you.

1. What is your ethnic group? – Choose one section from (a) to (e) then **tick** the appropriate box in column (2) and also (3) if applicable.

Column (1)	Column (2)	√	Column (3)	√
a) White	British	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other White background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Mixed	White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other mixed background	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Asian or Asian British	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other Asian background	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Black or Black British	Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	African	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other Black background	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Chinese or Other Ethnic group	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Gender	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Disability - Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability as described by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 i.e. Do you consider yourself to be someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities?

Yes

No

If you need this information summarised in another language or format such as Braille, large print, CD or talking tape, please call the number below.

إذا اردت معرفت ملخص هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية اتصل علي الرقم التالي

Arabic

আকারে এই তথ্যটি পেতে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন:

Bengali

假如您需要這份資料的中文摘要，請致電下面的號碼。

Chinese

यदि आप यह जानकारी का संक्षेप हिन्दी में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निचे दिए हुए नम्बर में सम्पर्क करें।

Hindi

Jezeli potrzebujesz streszczenia tych informacji w jezyku polskim zadzwon prosze na ponizszy numer

Polish

ਜਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹੁ ਖ਼ਬਰ ਦਾ ਨਿਚੋੜ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਥੱਲੇ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Punjabi

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہیں تو اس نمبر پر کال کیجیے۔

Urdu



(0191) 3836535

