

Cabinet

19 November 2014



Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014

Key Decision: CAS / 04 / 14

Report of Corporate Management Team

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children & Adult Services and Cllr Ossie Johnson, Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek Cabinet approval to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014, 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 Greenfield and Sunnydale Schools are Foundation schools with an overarching Trust (Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust – The Asset Trust), and a single Governing Body which oversees the running of both schools.
- 3 Both schools provide education for pupils age 11-16. Greenfield has the capacity to accommodate 800 pupils (currently there are 658 pupils on roll at the school) and Sunnydale has the capacity to accommodate 954 students (currently there are 402 pupils on roll at the school).
- 4 Greenfield Community College was inspected by Ofsted in October 2012. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **Good**.
- 5 Sunnydale Community College was inspected by Ofsted in April 2014. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **Inadequate**. Ofsted inspectors stated that this is a school that has serious weaknesses.

- 6 Due to the 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement about Sunnydale, the Local Authority (LA) and Governing Body were required to take swift action to address the key issues that were highlighted in the Ofsted report.
- 7 Having given consideration to the current position of Sunnydale in terms of its surplus places (57%), low attainment and progress (which has now been confirmed by Ofsted), officers believe that students in this area of the county will have wider opportunities for educational improvement if Sunnydale was to amalgamate with Greenfield which is a Good school.
- 8 In the delegated decision report (attached in Appendix 2), the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved that consultation could begin on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014. This would result in the schools being amalgamated into a single school.
- 9 Consultation documents (attached in Appendix 2) were distributed widely (distribution list attached in Appendix 2) and meetings were held between 23 June and 16 July 2014 with Governors, staff, parents, pupils and members of the local community.
- 10 Although the proposal is to enlarge Greenfield and close Sunnydale, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If agreed, the single Greenfield School would become a split site school making use of accommodation on both sites, to enhance curriculum provision. Some investment will be required to address condition issues on some of the buildings on the Sunnydale site. The level of funding has yet to be agreed but would be met from the DfE grant allocation to the LA.
- 11 Initially, the single school would have the combined capacity of both schools. There would continue to be surplus places in the single school but as the use of accommodation is reviewed, there is inevitably likely to be changes in the way buildings across both sites are used. Once this review is carried out, appropriate investment could be made to improve accommodation, where necessary. A re-assessment of the overall capacity of the school would then be carried out.
- 12 From 1 September 2014 the Headteacher of Greenfield took up post as acting Executive Headteacher across both schools. This was agreed by the Governing Body.

Decision to Issue a Statutory Notice

- 13 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 Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014. A statutory notice was therefore published on 4 September 2014 (attached as Appendix 3).

- 14 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). A decision on the proposal must be made within 2 months from the end of the representation period ie: before 27 November 2014.

Responses to the Proposal Published on 4 September 2014 for 4 Weeks (the Statutory Notice Period)

- 15 No objections or comments were received by the end of the 4 week statutory notice period.

Decision Making Process

Factors to be considered by Cabinet

(a) Related Proposals

- 16 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.
- 17 The proposals to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014 are 'related' therefore they must be considered together.

(b) Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period

- 18 Cabinet needs to be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and representation period has 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.
- 19 Cabinet must consider all the views submitted, including all objections and comments on the proposal. Details of the consultation are included in paragraph 20-22. The Statutory Notice published on 4 September 2014 is attached as Appendix 3. Officers prepared the notice as set out in the regulations and complied with statutory requirements.
- 20 The report attached as Appendix 2 provides full details of the responses received during the consultation period. In summary:

- Stakeholders were invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, e-mail or completing the response form online via the County Council's website.
- 69 responded in writing using the response form, letter and e-mail.
- 8 responded using the online response form (DCC website)
- 120 members of staff attended the staff meetings
- 190 parents of pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 or parents of pupils in primary schools attended parents meetings.
- 21 parents of pupils in Year 10 and 11 attended parents meetings.
- 12 members of the local community attended open meetings.

Summary of Written Responses

21 The following information provides an analysis and summary of the written responses received:

- 14 parents of pupils at Sunnydale are in favour of the proposal and 3 against.
- 4 parents of pupils at Greenfield are in favour of the proposal and 8 against.
- 9 parents of pupils from other schools are in favour of the proposal and 3 against.
- 9 members of staff at Sunnydale are in favour of the proposal and 1 against.
- 3 members of staff at Greenfield are in favour of the proposal.
- 14 respondents who are Governors of the school (including staff governors) are in favour of the proposal.
- 2 members of staff or governors from other schools are in favour of the proposal.
- 2 Parish / Town Council representatives are in favour of the proposal and 1 against.
- 2 members of the local community are in favour of the proposal.
- The School Council in both schools representing the pupils support the proposal.

22 Themes that emerged from the written responses and discussions at consultation meetings:

- There was general support for the proposal and parents welcomed the approach that the Local Authority and Governors had taken to address the issues raised by Ofsted about Sunnydale, which would help to avoid the school to be taken out of Local Authority control.
- Parents of pupils who attend Sunnydale are pleased that there is still going to be secondary education provision in Shildon but some raised concerns that the Sunnydale name would be lost and the history attached to it.
- If pupils had to travel between the two sites this could be disruptive and reduce time spent in the classroom.

- Parents could see the advantages of pupils having access to a wider range of resources by using the two sites, such as the sports facilities at Sunnydale and performing arts facilities at Greenfield.
- Parents of pupils at Greenfield raised concerns that by amalgamating with Sunnydale their results could suffer and Ofsted judgement could be affected.
- Parents want to be able to choose which site their child attends and not simply placed at the site nearest their home address. This was a particular issue for families living in Middridge.

(c) Education standards and diversity of provision

- 23 In making its decision, Cabinet is reminded that the principle reason for amalgamating Greenfield (Newton Aycliffe) and Sunnydale (Shildon) is to address the issue of educational underperformance at Sunnydale. Parents in the local community of Shildon were in support of the proposal as it would retain secondary provision in the area, at the same time as enhancing educational provision by amalgamating with a 'good' school where the standards have significantly improved in recent years. While some parents in the local community in Newton Aycliffe were concerned that amalgamating with an 'inadequate' school would impact on standards at Greenfield, they were reassured that the model of Governance, Leadership and Staffing across the two schools would ensure that there would not be a detrimental impact on the quality of provision at Greenfield.

(d) Demand for places and school size

- 24 The combined capacity of Greenfield and Sunnydale is for 1,750 pupils which is larger than is required to accommodate the number of pupils expecting to be seeking a place in the school in future years. However, reducing surplus places in this instance is not the principle reason for proposing amalgamation of the two schools. If the proposal is agreed, the single Greenfield School will make use of accommodation on both sites, to enhance curriculum provision. As there are surplus places across the two sites there is an opportunity to review the use of space to deliver an effective curriculum to help raise standards.

(e) Proposed Admission Arrangements

25. The current admission number for Sunnydale is 130 and Greenfield is 160. If the proposal to establish a single school is agreed an admission number of 240 will be set for entry to the single school. This is an appropriate number to accommodate the pupils expected to apply for a place at the school in the future.

(f) National Curriculum

26. All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community. The proposed single secondary school will follow the National Curriculum.

(g) Equal Opportunity Issues and Community Cohesion

27. 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.
28. An equality impact assessment (attached as Appendix 4) has been carried out on this proposal. There are no potential impacts in relation to age, gender, disability and race/ethnicity for pupils and parents/carers. The current schools provide education for boys and girls aged between 11 and 16 years and the proposed single school will continue to provide education for boys and girls across the same age range. The location of the buildings remains unchanged, both buildings are accessible and will continue to provide facilities for pupils with sight impairment.

(h) Travel and Accessibility

29. The proposed single school will be on the sites of the current Sunnydale and Greenfield schools. Consequently there will be no increases to travel or journey time and no changes to the current accessibility of both schools.

(i) Capital

30. The LA has submitted an application to the DfE for capital funding to improve buildings on the Sunnydale site via the National Priority School Building Programme. If this is not successful there may be in the region of £1-£2m required to improve the buildings. This would be met from future allocations of DfE School Capital Maintenance Grant funding allocated to all LAs on an annual basis. The implementation of the proposal to establish a single school is not dependent on these capital works being carried out. The works proposed are part of a repair and maintenance rolling programme.

(j) School Premises and Playing Fields

31. 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 Sunnydale and Greenfield do have suitable outdoor space.

Recommendations and reasons

- 32 Officers believe that proceeding with the proposals will preserve and enhance secondary education provision in Shildon and address the educational underperformance at Sunnysdale Community College. Amalgamating Greenfield and Sunnysdale will create a more viable single school for the communities of Shildon and Newton Aycliffe
33. Cabinet is recommended to agree:
- (i) to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015; and
 - (ii) to close Sunnysdale Community College as a separate school on 31st December 2014

Background papers

Appendix 2 - Delegated Decision Reports

Appendix 3 - Statutory Notice

Appendix 4 - Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment

Contact: Sheila Palmerley Tel: 03000 265 731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The LA has submitted an application to the DfE for capital funding to improve buildings on the Sunnysdale site via the National Primary School Building Programme. If this is not successful there may be in the region of £1-£2m required to improve the buildings. This would be met from future allocations of DfE School Capital Maintenance Grant funding allocated to all LAs on an annual basis.

Staffing

Staff from both schools are employed by the single Governing Body. If the proposal is agreed the Governors will establish a staffing structure to meet the needs of the single school.

Risk

If the LA and the Governing Body were not proactive in proposing a solution to address the poor attainment and poor progress of students at Sunnysdale, the DfE would intervene and propose its own solution, which may not meet the needs of the local communities that Greenfield and Sunnysdale serve.

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".

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. An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as appendix 4. The assessment provides details about any impact the proposals will have on age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Accommodation

Both sites will continue to be used if a decision is taken to amalgamate the schools.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

Human Rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

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

Procurement

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

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for enlarging Greenfield and closing Sunnydale will be applied in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD

Please complete all sections

DECISION MAKER

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

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

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

SUBJECT

To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to issue a Statutory Notice on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1st January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31st December 2014.

DECISION

If Key Decision insert No.

Not a key decision at this stage. Will be a key decision for Cabinet in October or November 2014.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

Aycliffe North and Middridge, Shildon and Dene Valley.

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Local Members for Shildon and Dene Valley and Local Members for Aycliffe North and Middridge were consulted on 11th August 2014 about moving to the next stage in the process to issue a Statutory Notice.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

N/A

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

N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached - Delegated Decision Report – Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1st January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31st December 2014

CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT No.

03000 265731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

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

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services and notified to you.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
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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.
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7. List papers used which the decision was based – must be retained and readily accessible.
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9. Enter the date the decision was made.

13 August 2014



Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014

Report of Children and Adults Services

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Service

Purpose of the Report

- 8 To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to issue a statutory notice on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014.

Background

- 2 Greenfield and Sunnydale Schools are Foundation schools with an overarching Trust (Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust – The Asset Trust), and a single Governing Body which oversees the running of both schools.
- 3 Both schools provide education for pupils age 11-16. Greenfield has the capacity to accommodate 800 pupils (currently there are 658 pupils on roll at the school) and Sunnydale has the capacity to accommodate 954 students (currently there are 402 pupils on roll at the school).
- 4 Greenfield Community College was inspected by Ofsted in October 2012. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **Good**.
- 5 Sunnydale Community College was inspected by Ofsted in April 2014. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **Inadequate**. Ofsted inspectors stated that this is a school that has serious weaknesses.
- 6 Due to the recent 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement about Sunnydale, the Local Authority (LA) and Governing Body were required to take swift action to address the key issues that are highlighted in the Ofsted report.
- 7 Having given consideration to the current position of Sunnydale in terms of its surplus places (57%), low attainment and progress (which has now been confirmed by Ofsted), officers believe that students in this area of the county will have wider opportunities for educational improvement if Sunnydale was to amalgamate with Greenfield which is a Good school.

- 8 It was on this basis that the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services agreed that consultation should begin on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College and close Sunnydale Community College.

Consultation

- 9 In a report dated 2 June 2014 (attached as Appendix 2), the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services approved that consultation could begin on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014.
- 10 Consultation documents (attached as Appendix 3) were distributed widely (distribution list attached as Appendix 4) and meetings were held between 23 June and 16 July 2014 with Governors, staff, parents, pupils and members of the local community.
- 11 Although the proposal would be to enlarge Greenfield and close Sunnydale, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If agreed, the single Greenfield School would become a split site school making use of accommodation on both sites, to enhance curriculum provision. Some investment will be required to address condition issues on some of the buildings on the Sunnydale site. The level of funding has yet to be agreed but would be met from the DfE grant allocation to the LA.
- 12 Initially, the single school would have the combined capacity of both schools. There would continue to be surplus places in the single school but as the use of accommodation is reviewed, there is inevitably likely to be changes in the way buildings across both sites are used. Once this review is carried out, appropriate investment could be made to improve accommodation, where necessary. A re-assessment of the overall capacity of the school would then be carried out.
- 13 From 1 September 2014 the Headteacher of Greenfield will take up post as Executive Headteacher across both schools. This has been agreed by the Governing Body.

Responses to the Consultation

- 14 Stakeholders were invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, e-mail or completing the response form online via the County Council's website.
- 15 69 responded in writing using the response form, letter and e-mail.
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- 2 members of staff or governors from other schools are in favour of the proposal.
- 2 Parish / Town Council representatives are in favour of the proposal and 1 against.
- 2 members of the local community are in favour of the proposal.
- The School Council in both schools representing the pupils support the proposal.

17 Themes that emerged from the written responses and discussions at consultation meetings:

- There was general support for the proposal and parents welcomed the approach that the Local Authority and Governors had taken to address the issues raised by Ofsted about Sunnydale, which would help to avoid the school to be taken out of Local Authority control.
- Parents of pupils who attend Sunnydale are pleased that there is still going to be secondary education provision in Shildon but some raised concerns that the Sunnydale name would be lost and the history attached to it.
- If pupils had to travel between the two sites this could be disruptive and reduce time spent in the classroom.
- Parents could see the advantages of pupils having access to a wider range of resources by using the two sites, such as the sports facilities at Sunnydale and performing arts facilities at Greenfield.
- Parents of pupils at Greenfield raised concerns that by amalgamating with Sunnydale their results could suffer and Ofsted judgement could be affected.
- Parents want to be able to choose which site their child attends and not simply placed at the site nearest their home address. This was a particular issue for families living in Middridge.

Current Position

18 If the proposal is agreed, the intention is to maintain reference to Sunnydale / Shildon in the name of the single school as the school will be run across two

sites. Governors will make a decision on this in due course, if the proposal is agreed.

- 19 Parents were reassured that there is no intention to have pupils travelling across the two sites on a daily basis. There may be some instances where pupils will need to have access to resources on either site as part of their curriculum provision.
- 20 Senior leaders of both schools have already been working across Sunnydale and Greenfield to help to raise educational standards. From 1 September 2014 this arrangement will be enhanced under the direction of the Executive Headteacher.
- 21 To address the concerns raised by parents about which site their child will be educated at, it has been agreed that as part of the admissions process parents who state a preference for their child to attend the single Greenfield School will be able to highlight which site they would prefer their child to go to.

Recommendations

- 22 After full consideration of all the responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services is recommended to give approval for officers to issue a statutory notice proposing the enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014.

Background Papers

Attached

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding required to address condition issues on the Sunnydale and Greenfield sites will be met from the DfE grant allocated to the LA.

Staffing

Staff from both schools are employed by the single Governing Body. If the proposal is agreed the Governors will establish a staffing structure to meet the needs of the single school.

Risk

If the LA and the Governing Body were not proactive in proposing a solution to address the poor attainment and poor progress of students at Sunnydale, the DfE would intervene and propose its own solution, which may not meet the needs of the local communities that Greenfield and Sunnydale serve.

Equality and Diversity

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

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

Both sites will continue to be used if a decision is taken to amalgamate the schools.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

Human Rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults Services and local members have been consulted about this proposal and believe that an amalgamation is the best way forward to address the issues at Sunnydale School. Under the Council's scheme of delegation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services has within her remit to use delegated powers to approve that a statutory notice can be published. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder has been consulted on this.

Procurement

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

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for enlarging Greenfield and closing Sunnydale will be applied in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

REF No.

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

Rachael Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

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

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

SUBJECT

To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1st January 2015 and to close Sunnysdale Community College as a separate school on 31st December 2014.

DECISION

If Key Decision insert No.

Not a key decision at this stage. Will be a key decision for Cabinet in September or October 2014.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

Aycliffe North and Middridge, Shildon and Dene Valley.

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder was consulted on 4 April 2014. The Local Members for Shildon and Dene Valley were consulted on 22 April 2014. The Local Members for Aycliffe North and Middridge were consulted on 7 May 2014.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

N/A

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

N/A

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached - Delegated Decision Report – Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1st January 2015 and close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school from 31st December 2014

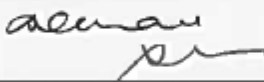
CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT No.

03000 265731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY



21/6/14

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

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services and notified to you.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
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5. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
6. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
7. List papers used which the decision was based – must be retained and readily accessible.
8. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
9. Enter the date the decision was made.

22 May 2014



Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnysdale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014

**Report of Children and Adults Services
Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children and Adults Service**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services to begin consultation on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnysdale Community College as a separate school from 31 December 2014.

Background

- 2 Greenfield and Sunnysdale Schools are Foundation schools with an overarching Trust (Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust – The Asset Trust), and a single Governing Body which oversees the running of both schools.
- 3 Both schools provide education for pupils age 11-16. Greenfield has the capacity to accommodate 800 pupils (currently there are 658 pupils on roll at the school) and Sunnysdale has the capacity to accommodate 954 students (currently there are 402 pupils on roll at the school).

Pupil Numbers

4. Pupil numbers are expected to fall to their lowest in 2015 before they increase again as illustrated below:

School	Capacity	Projected Rolls							
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Greenfield	800	652 (actual number – 658, May 2014)	625	605	617	604	629	640	620
Sunnysdale	954	407 (actual number – 402, May 2014)	406	405	407	429	449	460	459
TOTAL	1754	1059	1031	1010	1024	1033	1078	1100	1079

Education Standards

5. Standards at Greenfield have risen in recent years, whereas standards at Sunnydale have dropped. The table below illustrates the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and Maths compared to the Local Authority (LA) and national average.

School	2011			2012			2013		
	5 A*-C (incl English & Maths)	LA Average	National Average	5 A*-C (incl English & Maths)	LA Average	National Average	5 A*-C (incl English & Maths)	LA Average	National Average
Greenfield	50%	60%	59%	53.9%	62.5%	59.4%	70.3%	63.1%	59.2%
Sunnydale	52.9%	60%	59%	56.5%	62.5%	59.4%	37.8%	63.1%	59.2%

Ofsted Inspections – Summary of Findings

6. Greenfield Community College

Greenfield was inspected in October 2012. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **GOOD**.

Osted inspectors reported that:

- Students make good progress and examination results have improved in recent years.
- Teaching is typically good and sometimes outstanding. Inadequate teaching has been eradicated and leaders provide a wide range of training and development opportunities that are closely matched to teachers' needs.
- Students are very positive about the school and their attendance is good. They behave well in class and around the school. Students feel safe and bullying is rare.
- The curriculum, together with an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, makes a strong contribution to students' achievement, including for students supported through the pupil premium.
- The school is well led. School leaders, including the governing body, are rigorous in monitoring all areas of the school's work including students' progress and the quality of teaching.

7. Sunnydale Community College

Sunnydale was inspected in April 2014. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be **Inadequate**. Ofsted inspectors stated that this is a school that has serious weaknesses.

Osted inspectors reported that:

- As a result of weak teaching over time students do not achieve well enough in mathematics. Standards in the subject at GCSE have been significantly below those seen nationally over the last three years.

- Achievement across some other subjects is too low. In 2013, the proportions of students attaining good grades in GCSE English, science and geography were significantly below the national average.
- Weaknesses in teaching also mean the achievement of students supported by the pupil premium is well below that of other students in the school.
- Too much teaching is mundane, causing some students to lose interest. As a result behaviour requires improvement because students' attitudes to learning are not always positive. Marking does not consistently inform students about how they can improve.
- Levels of attendance, although improving, are below the national average. Too many students supported by the pupil premium have poor attendance.
- Checks on the quality of teaching have been over-generous because leaders have not recognised weaknesses in students' learning. Consequently, teachers have not received the detailed feedback they need to improve.

Leadership Arrangements

8. From 1 September 2014 the Headteacher of Greenfield will take up post as Executive Headteacher across both schools. This has been agreed by the Governing Body. This decision was taken to strengthen the leadership arrangements across both schools.
9. This is based on the fact that when Greenfield was inspected, Ofsted inspectors reported that "the school is very well led. The Headteacher and leadership team have taken effective action to raise standards and the school is in a good position to continue its improvement. Leaders act vigorously and take robust action to correct identified weaknesses".
10. In contrast, Ofsted inspectors reported that "the Headteacher at Sunnydale, hampered by the long-term absence of key members of staff, has not secured good enough achievement, especially in mathematics. The school leadership has not focused sufficiently on raising achievement and improving teaching in English and mathematics since the previous inspection".
11. If Cabinet agreed to enlarge Greenfield and close Sunnydale, the current Headteacher would become Headteacher of the single school. An appropriate leadership team and staffing structure will be established to raise standards in the school and address the key areas of concern identified by Ofsted.

Proposed Changes

12. Due to the recent 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement in relation to Sunnydale, the Local Authority (LA) and Governing Body are required to take swift action to address the key issues that are highlighted in the report.
13. Having given consideration to the current position of Sunnydale in terms of its surplus places (57%), low attainment and progress (which has now been confirmed by Ofsted), officers believe that students in this area of the county will have wider opportunities for educational improvement if Sunnydale closed and the pupils transferred to the roll of Greenfield which is a Good school.

Statutory Consultation Process

14. In order to do this, the LA would consult on a proposal to enlarge Greenfield School from 1st January 2015 and to close Sunnydale School as a separate school from 31st December 2014. Greenfield would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school. Consultation would begin in June 2014 for a period of 6 weeks. At the end of the 6 week period, the LA would consider all the responses received. If it is decided to proceed, a statutory notice would then be published in September 2014 for a period of 4 weeks. At the end of this period, the County Council's Cabinet would be asked to make a decision on the proposal.

The Proposal

15. Although the proposal would be to enlarge Greenfield and close Sunnydale, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If agreed, the single Greenfield School would become a split site school making use of accommodation on both sites, to enhance curriculum provision. Some investment will be required to address condition issues on some of the buildings on the Sunnydale site. The level of funding has yet to be agreed but would be met from the DfE grant allocation to the LA.
16. Initially, the single school would have the combined capacity of both schools. Paragraph 4 provides more details about projected pupil numbers. There would continue to be surplus places in the single school but as the use of accommodation is reviewed, there is inevitably likely to be changes in the way buildings across both sites are used. Once this review is carried out, appropriate investment could be made to improve accommodation, where necessary. A re-assessment of the overall capacity of the school would then be carried out.

Recommendations and Reasons

17. As a result of Ofsted's recent 'Inadequate' judgement the quality of education provided at Sunnydale School, and the need for the LA and Governing Body to take early action to address the low attainment and progress achieved by students at the school, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services is recommended that consultation should begin on the proposal outlined in paragraph 14.
18. The schools have already been working closely together and expertise is being shared to help raise standards. Establishing a single school would strengthen this further. Ofsted noted the benefit of this work during the recent inspection of Sunnydale in April 2014.
19. There is a single Governing Body which oversees the running of both schools. The Governing body has agreed that the existing Headteacher of Greenfield School will become the Executive Headteacher across both schools from 1 September 2014.
20. Officers within the Council's Education Service have met with the Governing Body, which has agreed to work with the LA to secure the leadership of the Executive Headteacher over both schools in the interim. Key Governors and

members of staff will support the LA in its planning of the consultation on the proposed changes.

Decision

21. The Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services, agrees that consultation can begin on the proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnyside Community College as a separate school from 31st December 2014.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding required to address condition issues on the Sunnydale site will be met from the DfE grant allocated to the LA.

Staffing

Staff from both schools are employed by the single Governing Body.

Risk

If the LA and the Governing Body were not proactive in proposing a solution to address the poor attainment and poor progress of students at Sunnydale, the DfE would intervene and propose its own solution, which may not meet the needs of the local communities that Greenfield and Sunnydale serve.

Equality and Diversity

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

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

Both sites will continue to be used if a decision is taken to amalgamate the schools.

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

Human Rights will not be affected by this proposal.

Consultation

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults Services and local members have been consulted about this proposal and believe that an amalgamation is the best way forward to address the issues at Sunnysdale School. Under the Council's scheme of delegation, the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services has within her remit to use delegated powers to approve that consultation can begin on the proposal. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder has been consulted on this.

Procurement

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

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

The statutory process for enlarging Greenfield and closing Sunnysdale will be applied in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance.

Greenfield Community College and Sunnydale Community College



Durham County Council would like to hear your views about a proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014.

Public Consultation Information



The Proposal

To enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014.

Both sites will continue to be used so that students in Shildon and Newton Aycliffe will be educated on their 'home' site.

Background

Greenfield Community College in Newton Aycliffe and Sunnydale Community College in Shildon are currently two separate schools but there is a single Governing Body which oversees the running of both schools. The schools are 2.2 miles apart.

Both schools provide education for pupils age 11-16. Greenfield has the capacity to accommodate 800 pupils (currently there are 658 pupils on roll at the school) and Sunnydale has the capacity to accommodate 954 students (currently there are 402 pupils on roll at the school).

Pupil numbers are expected to fall to their lowest in 2015 before they increase again as illustrated below:

School	Capacity	Projected Rolls (including any additional pupils expected from planned new housing in the area)							
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Greenfield	800	658	625	605	617	624	629	640	640
Sunnydale	954	402	406	405	407	429	449	460	460
TOTAL	1754	1060	1031	1010	1024	1053	1078	1100	1100

Education Standards

Greenfield Community College was inspected in October 2012 and was judged by the inspecting body, Ofsted, to be a **Good** school.

Sunnydale Community College was inspected in April 2014 and was judged to be **Inadequate**. Ofsted inspectors stated that the school has serious weaknesses.

The most recent GCSE results in 2013 for Greenfield were significantly above the Local Authority and National average, whereas the results at Sunnydale were significantly below average:

School	2013		
	5 A*-C (incl English & Maths)	LA Average	National Average
Greenfield	70.3%	63.1%	59.2%
Sunnydale	37.8%	63.1%	59.2%

Proposed Changes

Due to the recent 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement in relation to Sunnydale, the Local Authority (LA) and Governing Body are required to take swift action to address the key issues that are highlighted in the inspection report.

Having given consideration to the current position of Sunnydale in terms of its surplus places (57%), low attainment and progress (which has now been confirmed by Ofsted), officers believe that students in this area of the county will have wider opportunities for educational improvement if Sunnydale closed and all pupils will then be on the roll of Greenfield which is a good school.

You will no doubt have many questions to ask about the future arrangements for education provision across the two schools, for example:

1. What will happen between June and December 2014 before the single school might be established?

The Local Authority's Education Service will be working very closely with both schools to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to help raise educational standards. The Headteacher at Sunnydale is due to retire on 31 August 2014.

The Governing Body of the schools has agreed that the Headteacher of Greenfield will be the Executive Headteacher across both schools from 1 September 2014. A leadership structure will be put in place to ensure that there is strong leadership in both schools.

2. If the two schools amalgamate to become a single larger school, will it affect the education of pupils at Greenfield Community College?

Greenfield is already a good school and it is the responsibility of the school leaders to ensure it continues to progress with increased opportunities and enhanced curriculum provision, at the same time as sharing the good practice that exists to help raise standards at Sunnydale.

3. What will happen to the Sunnydale site?

Although the proposal would be to enlarge Greenfield and close Sunnydale, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If agreed, the single Greenfield School would make use of accommodation on both sites, to enhance curriculum provision. There will continue to be education provided on both sites for pupils aged 11-16. Some investment will be required to address condition issues in relation to some of the buildings on the school sites. This will be supported by the LA.

4. How many pupils will the single school cater for?

Initially, the single school would have the combined capacity of both schools. As previously highlighted, there will be just over 600 pupils educated on the Greenfield site and just over 400 on the Sunnydale site. There would continue to be surplus places in the single school, but as the use of accommodation is reviewed, there is inevitably likely to be changes in the way buildings across both sites are used.

5. My child will be starting secondary school in September 2015. How do I apply for a place at Greenfield and/or Sunnydale and will I get free transport?

From 12 September 2014 you will be able to apply for a school place at Greenfield or Sunnydale schools in the normal way. The closing date for this is 31 October. The decision about whether or not to agree the proposed changes will not have been made by then so both schools will still be open at that point. Wherever your child has a school place, the Council's home to school transport policy will still apply. This means free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 3 miles. In addition to the Council's policy, for pupils who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum of Working Tax Credit, under national "extended" transport rights, free transport will be provided to one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the pupil's home.

6. If the proposal is approved, will pupils and teachers move between the two sites from 1 January 2015?

Small numbers of staff and pupils already move between the two schools to allow additional opportunities. This will continue, however the majority of pupils will complete their secondary education on one site.

7. What will happen to the staff at both schools?

The Governors and management of the school will establish a staffing structure from staff at Greenfield and Sunnydale to ensure that the curriculum can be delivered across both sites with staff who have the skills and experience to do so.

8. If the proposal is approved, will the school uniform change from 1 January 2015?

Yes. There will be a review of the school uniform in the autumn term. Any changes will not involve parents in additional expense.

9. Will pupils with Special Educational Needs continue to have their needs met in a single larger school?

Yes. Full support will continue to be provided for any pupils on either site who have Special Educational Needs.

10. Is enlarging Greenfield and closing Sunnydale the only option that the Local Authority has considered?

No. The Local Authority considered consulting on the closure of Sunnydale only. However, there are not enough school places in the nearest schools to where the pupils live to accommodate all the pupils who would be displaced by the closure of the school. It was also considered important to maintain secondary education provision in Sildon with a model that will bring about improvement.

When a school is judged inadequate by Ofsted it is necessary to respond quickly and there is an expectation by the Department for Education that the Local Authority will consider closure of the school as an option.

A further option that was considered by DfE, Governors and the LA was that Sunnydale would convert to become an Academy. As the schools already work closely together it was

agreed by all of these Bodies that the most appropriate option for consultation with interested parties, is the one that will establish a single school across the two sites.

The LA recognises that this option gives the opportunity to enhance the quality of education at Greenfield in its drive to be an outstanding school.

10. How do we respond to the consultation?

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

We are holding the following meetings for interested parties:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 23 June 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Meeting for parents of pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 at Sunnydale. Pupils are welcome to attend.
Venue: School Hall at Sunnydale Community College. |
| | - Parents of pupils attending primary schools in Shildon are also invited to this meeting. |
| Wednesday 25 June 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Meeting for parents of pupils in Year 7, 8, 9 at Greenfield. Pupils are welcome to attend.
Venue: School Hall at Greenfield Community College. |
| | - Parents of pupils attending primary schools in Newton Aycliffe are also invited to attend this meeting. |
| Tuesday 1 July 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Meeting for parents of pupils in Year 10, 11 at Greenfield. Pupils are welcome to attend.
Venue: School Hall at Greenfield Community College. |
| Thursday 3 July 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Meeting for parents of pupils in Year 10, 11 at Sunnydale. Pupils are welcome to attend.
Venue: School Hall at Sunnydale Community College. |
| Tuesday 8 July 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Members of the local community in Newton Aycliffe are invited to attend this meeting.
Venue: School Hall at Greenfield Community College. |
| Wednesday 16 July 2014 –
7.00 pm | - Members of the local community in Shildon are invited to attend this meeting.
Venue: School Hall at Sunnydale Community College. |

You can also respond in one of the following ways by 25 July 2014:

- (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 form online via the Education and Learning Section of the County Council's website: www.durham.gov.uk

11. What happens after 25 July 2014 when the consultation period ends?

All the responses to the consultation will be considered carefully. If the Local Authority decides to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice would then be published in September for 4 weeks. This is the final opportunity that interested parties will have to comment on the proposal.

The County Council's Cabinet members would make a decision on whether or not to agree the proposed changes, after the Statutory Notice period ends.

RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO: Enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014

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

Greenfield Community College

Sunnydale Community College

*Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a Pupil at

Greenfield Community College

Sunnydale Community College

*Other School

*Please state which school:

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

Greenfield Community College

Sunnydale Community College

*Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a

Resident

Local Member

Trade Union Representative

Parish/Town Council Representative

Community Group

Diocese

Neighbouring Authority

MP

Other (please state):

2. Looking at the information in this document do you support the proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014?

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 25 July 2014 to:

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

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

Name:

Address:

.....

Signed: **Date:**

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Children and Adults Services

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form for Consultation

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

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

1. Are you

Male Female

2. How old are you?

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

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

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

Yes No

4. What is your religion or belief?

Christian Hindu Jewish Muslim Sikh Buddhist

Other (please specify)

5. How do you describe your sexuality?

Heterosexual/Straight Gay Woman/Lesbian Gay Man Bisexual

Other (please specify)

6. To which of these groups do you belong?

White Asian or Asian British Black or Black British

Travelling Community Mixed Arab or Middle Eastern

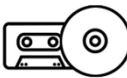
Other (please specify)

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

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



Braille



Audio



**Large
Print**

APPENDIX 4

**PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE GREENFIELD SCHOOL COMMUNITY & ARTS COLLEGE AND
SUNNYDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR MATHS & COMPUTING
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST
JUNE 2014**

School	Govs	Staff	Pupils	Total	How Delivered	Date Del/Posted
Greenfield School Community & Arts College	16*	113	657	800	AW ¹	17/6/14
Sunnydale Community College for Maths & Computing		77	401	500	AW ¹	

Aycliffe Village Primary	N/A	5	34**	40	AW ¹	17/6/14 (spares left in school reception area)
Byerley Park Primary	N/A	5	61**	70	AW ¹	
Horndale Infant	N/A	5	N/A	10	AW ¹	
St. Francis CE Voluntary Aided Junior	N/A	5	53**	60	AW ¹	
St. John's CE Aided Primary, Shildon	N/A	5	54**	60	AW ¹	
St. Joseph's RCVA Primary, Newton Aycliffe	N/A	5	42**	50	AW ¹	
St. Mary's RCVA Primary, Newton Aycliffe	N/A	5	49**	60	AW ¹	
Stephenson Way Community Primary	N/A	5	92**	100	AW ¹	
Sugar Hill Primary	N/A	5	123**	130	AW ¹	
Thornhill Primary	N/A	5	60**	70	AW ¹	
Timothy Hackworth Primary	N/A	5	106**	115	AW ¹	
Vane Road Primary	N/A	5	89**	100	AW ¹	
Woodham Burn Community Primary	N/A	5	51**	60	AW ¹	

Horndale Infant Nursery	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	17/6/14 (left in nursery reception area)
St. Joseph's Nursery, Newton Aycliffe	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Stephenson Way Nursery	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	
Sugar Hill Nursery	N/A	10	10	10	AW ¹	

Bishop Barrington School	N/A	20	20	20	AW ¹	17/6/14 (left in school reception area)
King James I Academy	N/A	20	20	20	AW ¹	
St. John's Catholic School & Sixth Form	N/A	20	20	20	AW ¹	
Woodham Community Technology College	N/A	20	20	20	AW ¹	

*Governors consultation letter posted (18/6/14)

**Handed out by school to pupils in Years 5 and 6 only

¹ AW – delivered by hand

**TOTAL number of hard copies of consultation documents distributed = 2600
and also the consultation document was placed on the DCC website**

Elected DCC Members	
Simon Henig, Ossie Johnson, Olwyn Gunn, John Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Henry Nicholson, Trish Pemberton, Brian Stephens	Emailed 17/6/14

MPs	
Phil Wilson MP phil.wilson.mp@parliament.uk Helen Goodman MP goodmanh@parliament.uk	Emailed 17/6/14

INTERNAL – Email (17/6/14)
CAS SLT, Julian Wilson, Barry Piercy, Liam Cairns, Gerard Darby, John Wilkinson, Joanne Barker, School Places & Admissions Team, Julie Arnett, Irene Lavelle, Joanne Walt, Paul Rockett, Lynn Elliott, Jane-le-Sage, Margaret Hanratty, Linda Bailey, Chris Young, David Shirer, Adrian White, Phil Hodgson, Sheila Palmerley, Sarah Armstrong, Linda Bailes

RC and CE Diocese and DfE	
RC Diocese Director education@diocesehn.org.uk	Emailed 17/6/14
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	Emailed 17/6/14

Directors of CYPS of Neighbouring LAs	
Murray Rose DARLINGTON murray.rose@darlington.gov.uk	Emailed 17/6/14

Colleges and Sixth Forms	
Bishop Auckland College Natalie Davison, Principal natalie.davison@bacoll.ac.uk Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College Nikki Vaughan, PA to Principal nvaughan@geliz.ac.uk	Emailed 17/6/14

Children's Centres (5 each)	
Byerley Road Pre-School , 2 Scott Street, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 2DX	Posted 18/6/14
House of Eden (Cobblers Hall) , Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Cobblers Hall, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4SF	
House of Eden (Stephenson Way) , Sure Start Building, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 7DD	
Little Acorns , Durham Way, North/Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 6HP	
Little Cubs Day Nursery , Aycliffe Business Park, 2 Long Tens Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 6AP	
Playdays Nursery , 15 Simpasture Gate, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 5HH	
Shildon Children's Centre , Byerley Road, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1HN	
St. Oswald's Pre-School , Wren Close, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4BG	
Woodham Burn Pre-School , Humphrey Close, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4EX	

Libraries (10 each)

Newton Aycliffe Library, Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 5QG
Shildon Library, Church Street, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1DU

Posted
18/6/14

Parish Councils (AWa & BR passing on to Parish Councils and AAP in North Aycliffe/Shildon area)

Andrew Walker (Shildon) a.p.walker@durham.gov.uk
Brian Riley (North Aycliffe & Middridge) brian.riley@durham.gov.uk

E-Mail
17/6/14



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014

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 Greenfield Community College (Foundation), Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Darlington, DL6 7LE and to close Sunnydale Community College (Foundation), Middridge Lane, Shildon, DL4 2EP.

It is proposed to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 to accommodate all pupils from Sunnydale Community College which is proposed to close on 31 December 2014. It is proposed that the existing sites of both schools will continue to be used to accommodate all pupils.

Greenfield Community College was judged by Ofsted in 2012 to be a 'Good' school. Sunnydale Community College was judged by Ofsted in 2014 to be an 'Inadequate' school with serious weakness. Having considered the current position of Sunnydale in relation to the Ofsted judgement and low attainment and progress of pupils it is believed that pupils in this area will have wider opportunities for educational improvement if Sunnydale Community College closed and all pupils would then be on the roll of Greenfield Community College.

The admission number for the proposed enlarged Greenfield Community college will be 240 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 community will continue to be provided if the school becomes 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/pages/service.aspx?serviceid=9542

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/pages/service.aspx?serviceid=9542; or
- e-mailed to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk.

Signed:

Rachel Shimmin
Corporate Director
Children and Adults Services

Publication Date: 4 September 2014

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: 16 June 2014

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

The proposal is to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014.

The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Greenfield and Sunnydale Community Colleges and pupils attending Primary Schools in Shildon and Newton Aycliffe.

The recent 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgement in relation to Sunnydale requires the Local Authority and Governing Body to take swift action to address the key issues that are highlighted in in the Inspection Report.

The current position of Sunnydale in terms of its surplus places, low attainment and progress has been considered and it is proposed students would have wider opportunities for educational improvement at Greenfield, which has been graded 'good' by Ofsted.

It is proposed to enlarge Greenfield Community College making use of 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 11-16.

The Governors and management of the school will establish a staffing structure from staff at both Greenfield and Sunnydale to ensure that the curriculum is delivered across both sites with staff who have the experience and skills to do so.

There will be no travel or travel cost implications due to the proposed enlarged Greenfield Community College being located on the same sites as the current Greenfield and Sunnydale Community Colleges. The County Council's home to school transport policy will apply which means that free transport will be given to the nearest suitable school where the distance from home to school is over 3 miles. In addition to the Council's policy, for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents receive their maximum of Working Tax Credit under national "extended" transport rights, free transport will be provided to one of the three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the pupil's home.

The proposal will ensure that secondary education in Shildon 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, 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 will follow in due course.

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

Reminder of our legal duties:

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

The proposal to enlarge Greenfield Community College from 1 January 2015 and to close Sunnydale Community College as a separate school on 31 December 2014 will create a Secondary 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.

We have a statutory duty to ensure that all pupils in County Durham can have a place at a school in County Durham and this proposal does not deny them that opportunity. The opportunity that pupils will have access to a more effective education by implementing this proposal would create a positive opportunity.

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Greenfield and Sunnysdale Community Colleges and pupils attending Primary Schools in Shildon and Newton Aycliffe.

If the proposal is approved it will maintain secondary education provision in Shildon with a model that will bring about improvement. It is not expected that pupils and staff will be adversely affected.

A consultation was undertaken between 16 June 2014 and 25 July 2014.

Consultation documents were distributed widely and meetings were held with staff of Greenfield and Sunnysdale Community Colleges, parents, and members of the local community at Information Sharing Evenings.

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.

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

8 responded using the online response form (DCC website)

- 20 people attended the Information Sharing Evenings
- 120 members of staff attended the staff meetings
- 200 people attended the meetings for parents

- Of the 78 responses received during the consultation period, 58 supported the proposal. Stakeholders believe that the proposal will benefit pupils as the staff from both of the schools can share their strengths and good practices to give students the best educational opportunities.
- Although the majority of responses to the proposal were positive some concerns were raised including potential changes to the school uniform and the costs associated with this; travel between the two sites being disruptive and reducing education time; parents want to be able to choose which site their child attends and not simply be placed in the site nearest to their home address; parents at Greenfield are concerned that by amalgamating with Sunnysdale their results could suffer.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No **Date: 25 July 2014 (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	There is no evidence to indicate a specific gender impact on pupils.	The proposal is not intended to displace any pupils. Pupils will continue to receive an education on the same site as they currently do.	No further action.
Age	There is no evidence to indicate a specific age impact on pupils or staff.	The proposal is not intended to displace pupils or staff. The same number of pupils will be taught in the proposed enlarged Greenfield Community College as there are in the current Greenfield and Sunnysdale Community Colleges. It is not intended therefore that there will be staff reductions.	No further action.
Disability	Profile information has not been included to ensure disabled pupils and staff are not identifiable.	Pupils' needs will be met as appropriate to ensure they are treated fairly. Home to school transport policies include provision for disabled pupils.	Ensure appropriate transition arrangements and reasonable adjustments are in place at the receiving schools for disabled and special

			educational needs pupils.
Race/Ethnicity	<p>There is no evidence to indicate a disproportionate impact on pupils.</p> <p>Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.</p>	<p>The proposal is not intended to displace any pupils. Pupils will continue to receive an education on the same site as they currently do.</p> <p>No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process</p>	No further action.
Religion or belief	<p>There is no evidence to indicate a specific impact on pupils.</p> <p>Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process</p>	<p>The proposal is not intended to displace any pupils. Pupils will continue to receive an education on the same site as they currently do. Neither Sunnydale nor Greenfield Community Colleges are faith schools.</p> <p>No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process</p>	No further action.
Sexual orientation	<p>There is no evidence to indicate a specific impact on pupils.</p> <p>Information on staff has not been included but any individual impact would be considered as part of the HR process.</p>	<p>Both schools currently accommodate pupils regardless of their sexual orientation and the proposal does not change this.</p> <p>No individual impact identified but would be considered as part of HR Process.</p>	No further action.

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 Greenfield Community College will become a larger school operating across its current site and the site of Sunnysdale Community which will close as a separate school to enable this to happen. This will ensure that education provision is maintained in Shildon 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
Consultation with staff	Head Teacher and Governing Body	31 Dec 2014	
Ensure fair treatment for staff through agreed HR procedures and appropriate advice to Head Teacher and Governing Body. Includes reasonable adjustments for disabled staff and arrangements for staff on maternity/paternity or adoption leave.	Sheila Palmerley	31 Dec 2014	
Ensure appropriate transition arrangements and reasonable adjustments are in place at the receiving schools for disabled and special educational needs pupils.	Sheila Palmerley	31 Dec 2014	
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: In November 2014 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: <i>Sheila Palmerley</i> Sheila Palmerley	Date: 4.8.14
Service equality representative - sign off:  Claire McLaren	Date: 22.9.14

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