

**Name of meeting: Cabinet**  
**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**Title of report: Revised proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School**

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan?</a>	Yes June 2011
Is it eligible for call in by <a href="#">Scrutiny?</a>	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Alison O'Sullivan 11 July 2011
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith 11 July 2011
Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Vanessa Redfearn 11 July 2011
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr Cath Harris and Cllr Peter O'Neill – Children's Services

**Electoral [wards](#) affected: Birstall and Birkenshaw**

**Ward councillors consulted: Birstall and Birkenshaw**

**Public or private: Public**

## **1. Purpose of report**

The report details for members revised proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School for their consideration; and seeks permission to begin the required statutory process by carrying out a six week period of statutory consultation beginning in September 2011.

The revised proposals are necessary because the existing decision to close the school is subject to a separate revocation proposal.

The revised proposals will be necessary in order to proceed with the change from a 3 to a 2 tier system of education in the Birkenshaw and East Bierley areas and are subject to the revocation process.

The report will detail the proposed arrangements for Discontinuing Birkenshaw Middle School and its compatibility with the pattern of primary provision for Birkenshaw and East Bierley.

## 2. Key points

### 2.1 The re-organisation of the 3-tier system in Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton and Gomersal – The Whitcliffe Mount pyramid.

As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Primary Capital Programme (PCP) Kirklees Council proposed to change from a 3 to 2 tier system of education in the Birkenshaw, Cleckheaton and Gomersal areas (known as the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid) of north Kirklees. For schools in the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid the LA carried out a series of consultations before publishing a series of statutory proposals that were decided between December 2009 and March 2010.

### 2.2 Approved proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School linked to the establishment of the co-educational E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough

Reference Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - *The linked statutory proposals to Establish a new school at Howden Clough and Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School*

As part of what was consulted and decided upon in relation to the LA's BSF programme, Birkenshaw Middle School was subject to linked statutory proposals to;

- A competition to establish a new 11-16 secondary school for 1350 pupils at Howden Clough from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013
- Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 (this was a year later than the other 3 Middle school closures because of the phasing of the capital works required to establish the new Academy)

The proposals were linked because the displaced pupils that would have been on roll at the time of closure were to be transferred to the new school. Kirklees Council Cabinet approved the proposals on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### 2.3 Post BSF – Modification and confirmation of the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in Cleckheaton and Gomersal.

Reference Cabinet Report 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – *Review of the implementation of the statutory proposals for Cleckheaton and Gomersal*

2.3.1 On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Cabinet received a report which;

- advised Members on the cancellation of the capital funding available for the BSF programme and updated them on primary capital funding available and the implications for the implementation of the statutory decisions made by Cabinet for changes to schools in the Cleckheaton and Gomersal area.
- advised that members proceed with the implementation of the approved proposals to change schools in the Cleckheaton and Gomersal areas of Kirklees in order to re-organise from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system of provision.

2.3.2 On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Cabinet Members;

- Confirmed that the reasons for the re-organisation of the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid of schools from a 3 to a 2 tier system of education still apply.
- Confirmed that the agreed proposals to re-organise from 3-tier to 2-tier, should be implemented following the agreed timetable
- Requested officers to initiate with the highest priority all necessary procedures to implement the re-organisation, including processes to support HR, finance, admissions and the planning, design and subsequent capital works to buildings to make provision for pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

## **2.4 Post BSF – Revocation of proposals to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School linked to the establishment of the co-educational E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough**

*Reference Cabinet Report 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011- Request to initiate the statutory process to revoke the approved linked proposals to establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough and discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School*

- On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011, cabinet will consider a report advising them that circumstances have so altered since the original proposals were approved which make it inappropriate and impossible to implement the linked proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough.
- Cabinet will be advised that the LA needs to be relieved of the statutory duty to implement the linked proposals and asked to approve that the statutory process to revoke the approved proposals be initiated with the publication in September 2011 of proposals to be relieved of the duty to implement under Schedule 2 to EIA 2006 (duty to implement proposals).

## **2.5 Revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and the review of the implementation for the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in the Birkenshaw and East Bierley areas.**

- In order to continue with the re-organisation from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system of provision across the Whitcliffe Mount pyramid, and, subject to the revocation of the existing statutory proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, members are advised that it is necessary to bring forward for statutory decision-making a revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School.
- Members are advised that the reasons for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School as set out in the cabinet report of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 still apply, and, that the proposed implementation date for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School should remain as was originally decided ie 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 in order to remain compatible with the implementation of the statutory proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School to support their transformation to all through primary schools.
- The requirement to revoke the existing proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School brings uncertainty for families of pupils, school staff and governors. To alleviate concerns for parents, school staff and governors, and, to expedite processes in order to bring certainty as soon as is possible, members are advised that the requisite 6-week statutory consultation for the revised proposal for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School could run in parallel with the 6-week representation period for the revocation notices. Therefore, it is proposed that the statutory process for the revised proposal to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School should follow the timeline outlined in section 5, commencing with a 6-week period of statutory consultation starting as soon as possible on or after Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **2.5.1 The proposal for statutory consultation is therefore;**

Kirklees Council proposes to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

This would mean;

Taking into account the current pattern of schools in the area and the potential for accommodating pupils based on historic patterns of progression, provision for displaced Y7 and Y8 secondary aged pupils would be made at Whitcliffe Mount –

Specialist Business & Enterprise College (this does not affect the rights of parents and carers to apply for a place at other schools, including any new schools that may be created in the future).

Primary aged pupils would remain at their First Schools as they retain Y5 and Y6 as part of their transformation to all through primary schools (this does not affect the rights of parents and carers to apply for a place at other schools).

Subject to cabinet approval, detailed transition pathways showing how the proposals would affect each year group would be developed for families of pupils as part of the documents to support statutory consultation in September 2011.

## **2.6 Approved proposals for the re-organisation of the First Schools to support the move to a 2-tier system in Birkenshaw and East Bierley**

*Reference Cabinet Reports 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - The linked statutory proposals to expand the physical capacity and change the upper age limit of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School*

- On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Cabinet approved the statutory proposals to expand the physical capacity and change the upper age limit of both Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(VC) First School with the proposals being implemented from 1st September 2012.

## **2.7 Review of the implementation of the approved proposals for Birkenshaw and East Bierley**

- As was required for schools in Cleckheaton and Gomersal following the cancellation of the BSF and PCP capital funding programmes (detailed in 2.3 above) it has been necessary to review the implementation of proposals for primary provision in Birkenshaw. The review has been carried out in light of the fundamental change which is the current availability of capital resources to enable members to review and consider fully the best investment of the limited capital now available to implement the changes to support the 3 to 2 tier system.
- Members are advised that the review has focussed on the best investment and use of the physical resources available in the area in order to maximise the educational benefit of the re-organised provision and to put in place smooth and effective transition arrangements that minimise any potential disruption to the education of the pupils involved.

### **2.7.1 The need for pupil places in Birkenshaw and East Bierley**

#### **Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School Priority Admission Area (PAA)**

- On average just over 55 pupils in each primary school age group live in the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School PAA and the majority of these attend Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School or East Bierley CE(VC) First School.
- On average, there are 53 children per age group that are below statutory school age currently resident in the PAA. There is no indication that this pattern is increasing or decreasing. Therefore the projected demand for places from pupils living in the Birkenshaw PAA is likely to be approximately 50 pupils per year which can be accommodated in a 2-class entry school with a PAN of 60

#### **East Bierley CE(VC) First School PAA**

- On average, there are 16 children per age group that are below statutory school age currently resident in the PAA and all of these 16 on average attend East Bierley CE(VC) First School or Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School

- On average there are just under 16 pupils per age group in the under school age children living in the PAA and so the projected demand for places from pupils living in the East Bierley PAA is likely to be approximately 16 pupils per year which can be accommodated in a school with a PAN of 20.

## **2.8 Revised implementation arrangements for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

### **2.8.1 Original proposals**

Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School is located on a relatively spacious site. There are external play spaces and the school consists of 3 structures; two main buildings each containing 5 class bases and a modular building containing nursery provision.

The agreed proposal is to enlarge the school and accommodate two additional primary school age groups, Y5 and Y6, with two classes of 30 pupils in each year group. Officers from Kirklees Council had commenced preliminary discussions with the governing body of the school regarding the possible design of permanent changes to the building.

The preferred refurbishment as part of the Primary Capital Programme consolidated the school into a single building by an extensive extension of one of the school's existing buildings to provide the required classrooms, the nursery provision, hall and dining space and kitchen facilities of sufficient size to cater for a 2 Form Entry all through primary school. Indicative costs for the delivery of a single building solution for the school were in excess of £7million.

### **2.8.2 Options considered**

As part of the review of the implementation of the proposals for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery school other options have been considered that would provide enough space to accommodate the additional Y5 and Y6 pupils;

- It would be possible to provide 4 additional permanent build classrooms to the existing building mix without addressing hall and dining or kitchen facilities and retaining the Nursery within its modular accommodation. This would require the use of temporary modular buildings to support the retention of Y5 and Y6 in 2012 and 2013 whilst permanent buildings are constructed.
- A further possibility would be to provide 4 additional classrooms using modular accommodation on site without addressing hall and dining or kitchen facilities and retaining the Nursery within its modular accommodation.
- An alternative possibility would be, as is reflected elsewhere in the pyramid re-organisation, to make use of the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School by investing the limited capital available into the refurbishment of the building and relocate Birkenshaw CE(VC) First and Nursery School.

### **2.8.3. Alternative approach to implement the prescribed alterations to Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

Consideration of the capital available as well as the location, suitability and sustainability of the buildings available, as well as the impact of transition arrangements and long term educational benefit suggest that the best value for money solution would be to re-locate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site and buildings for the following reasons;

- Investment and adaptation to the building to provide 420 place 5-11 primary school with a nursery in a single building as well as the required hall and dining space and

kitchen facilities could be delivered cost effectively for approx £1.5m and would represent good value for money.

- Modular buildings would not be required during either the transition process or on a long term basis thereby minimising any disruption for pupils in the schools during the period of transformation.
- The site is larger than that of the current Birkenshaw CE(C)First and Nursery school site and more able to accommodate the outdoor facilities required by older primary age pupils.

#### **2.8.4 Revised implementation proposal for the prescribed alterations to Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School**

The relocation of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the Birkenshaw Middle School site would not require any statutory process as the distance between the sites is less than 2 miles. Although no statutory process would be required it is recommended that it would be appropriate to undertake non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders including families of pupils, school staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield and members of the community.

The recommended proposal for non- statutory consultation is therefore;  
To relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School to the site and buildings currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School, to provide an all through primary school with nursery provision.

Subject to cabinet approval, detailed transition pathways showing how the proposals would affect each year group would be developed for families of pupils as part of the documents to support non-statutory consultation in September 2011.

#### **2.9 Revised implementation arrangements for East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

##### **2.9.1 Original proposals**

East Bierley CE (VC) First School is a part Victorian building, located on a very restricted site in the village of East Bierley, and is surrounded by common land and adjacent to the Village Green.

The agreed proposal is to enlarge the school and accommodate two additional primary school age groups, Y5 and Y6, with one class of 30 pupils in each year group. There were no fully developed plans for the physical expansion of the building but options that were being explored included complicated modifications to the existing building, which would have required a full school 'decant' whilst work was ongoing.

Another option would have been to provide a completely new school building on a suitable site located within the village.

Indicative costs for the delivery for these options were in excess of £3 million for adaptations to the existing building and in excess of £5 million for a brand new school building.

As part of the review of the implementation of the proposals for East Bierley CE(VC) First school other options have been considered that would provide enough space to accommodate the additional Y5 and Y6 pupils;

##### **2.9.2 Options considered**

- It would be possible to relocate East Bierley CE(VC) First School to a different site outside the village. However, consultation responses received as part of the non-

statutory consultation that was carried out in 2009 sought views from the community about proposals to move the school to an alternative site such as the site of Birkenshaw Middle school overwhelmingly supported the view that the school played an important part in village life and should be retained in the village.

- A further possibility would be to implement the proposals by using the existing physical capacity of the East Bierley CE(VC) First School building to provide all through primary provision but with a reduced Admission number of 20 instead of 30 places per yeargroup. The East Bierley CE(VC) First School building could accommodate 140 pupils aged 5-11 in 5 mixed age classes.

### **2.9.3 Alternative approach to implement the prescribed alterations to East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

Consideration of the capital available as well as the location, suitability and sustainability of the buildings available, as well as the impact of transition arrangements and long term educational benefit and impact on the village suggest that the best value for money solution would be to retain the school in its existing buildings on its existing site for the following reasons;

- East Bierley CE(VC) First School could become an all through primary school if the size of each year group were to be reduced to 20 pupils per year. An all through primary school to serve year groups YR-Y6 would require space for 140 pupils.
- An additional modular classroom space would be required on a temporary basis to manage an initial increase in numbers when Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are retained. All existing pupils would be retained at the school until the appropriate age of transfer but a reduced intake of 20 pupils into Reception would over time lead to an all-through primary school with up to 140 pupils in 7 age groups grouped in 5 mixed age classes fully accommodated within the existing building and could be delivered with minimal capital cost.
- To respond to the local community's desire to retain a primary school in East Bierley Village.

### **2.9.4 Revised implementation proposal for the prescribed alterations to East Bierley CE(VC) First School**

Although no statutory proposal to reduce the PAN would be required it is recommended that it would be appropriate to undertake non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders including families of pupils, school staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield and members of the community.

The recommended proposal for non- statutory consultation is therefore;

To retain East Bierley CE(VC) First School in its current building and reduce the school's published admission number (PAN) to 20 pupils into the Reception class from 2013 so that eventually, as the smaller year groups progress through the school, it becomes a 140 place, 5-11, all through primary school. Temporary additional classroom space would be required to accommodate the initial increase in pupil numbers as year 5 and then year 6 pupils are retained at the school in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Subject to cabinet approval, detailed transition pathways showing how the proposals would affect each year group would be developed for families of pupils as part of the documents to support non-statutory consultation in September 2011.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Human Resources implications**

- The staff at Birkenshaw Middle School are currently fully involved in the HR programme associated with the reorganisation of the 3-tier school system, following the agreed HR framework. The revocation of the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School could lead to uncertainty for staff at the school. It is important that if new proposals are to be made for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School that these be brought forward as soon as possible in order to bring stability and confidence to the school and families.
- The revised non-statutory proposal for the implementation of the approved proposals for East Bierley CE(VC) First school, would have implications for the staffing of the school. The number of staff required would increase as years 5 and 6 pupils are retained (as part of the approved proposal) but then decrease over time as the smaller year cohorts progressed through the school.

#### **3.2 Financial Implications**

- The review of the implementation of the approved proposals for the re-organisation of the two first schools into all-through primary schools is driven by the significant change in the availability of capital funding. Since the cancellation of the Primary Capital Programme there is significantly less capital available to invest in the necessary changes to the school buildings to enable the expansion of places at the schools.
- More cost effective and better value for money solutions are proposed which deliver a good educational experience for pupils, enable a smooth transition and address suitability, condition and location issues.
- The revised implementation plan for Birkenshaw CE(C) First & Nursery School uses the former site and buildings of Birkenshaw Middle School and delivers good quality provision and a smooth transition for approx £1.5m compared to approx £7m. This approach mirrors the way in which all the other Middle School buildings are planned to be used to provide excellent primary provision.
- The revised implementation plan for East Bierley CE(VC) First School provides sufficient school places to meet the projected need of families in the village and continues to use the existing building in the village, but requires no significant major investment in permanent buildings compared to the estimate of at least £5m to build a new school. Temporary modular accommodation would be required to house the initial increase in pupil numbers as classes of 30 year 5 and year 6 pupils were retained until smaller year cohorts of 20 pupils worked through the school. This would require up to £150k of capital expenditure.
- Revenue costs for additional accommodation would be met from the DSG through the local funding formula.

## 5. Next steps

### Table outlining indicative timeline for next stages

Activity		Date
<b>Revocation</b>	<b>Statutory Process to close Birkenshaw Middle School</b>	
Cabinet to consider and approve process to revoke proposals to establish new school at Howden Clough and linked proposal to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School	Cabinet to consider a report about revised proposals and give permission to begin statutory process to Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Publication of legal revocation notices (and six week representation period)*	Six week statutory consultation begins*	September 2011
Report to cabinet for final decision to revoke the linked proposals*	Report to cabinet detailing the outcomes of the statutory consultation and (subject to those outcomes) recommendation to move to next stage of the statutory process*  <b>NB This will be subject to cabinet approval of the revocation of the existing decided proposal</b>	November 2011
	Publication of statutory proposal and notice (and six week representation period)*	November 2011
	Report to cabinet for final decision *	January 2012
	Implementation of proposals*	(From September 2012) Closure of Birkenshaw Middle School on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013

\* Subject to cabinet approval.

## 6. Officer recommendations and reasons

The existing linked proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School and establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough are, subject to member approval, to be part of a statutory revocation process by publishing proposals to revoke the decision, under Schedule 2 to EIA 2006, at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2011.

There are compelling educational reasons for moving from 3 tier to 2 tier education in the Birkenshaw and East Bierley area as set out in the Cabinet report of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010. It is therefore highly desirable to bring about changes to these schools to enable transition from Primary to Secondary education at the age of 11 in line with all other schools in North Kirklees.

It is therefore recommended that:

- Revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School are brought forward for statutory process, following member approval of the proposal to start the revocation process.
- Officers carry out statutory consultation in September 2011 about revised proposals to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School on 31 August 2013 and bring back the outcomes of that consultation for consideration by Kirklees Council Cabinet later in the autumn term
- The requisite 6 week statutory consultation for a revised proposal for the discontinuation of Birkenshaw Middle School should run in parallel with the 6 week representation period for the revocation notices.

The cancellation of the BSF and PCP Capital Funding Programmes has made it necessary to review the implementation of proposals for primary provision in Birkenshaw and East Bierley. Consideration has been given to issues of location, suitability and sustainability of each of the school building sites in Birkenshaw and East Bierley as well as the important considerations of value for money in the light of the very limited capital available to support these changes.

Following a review of options it is recommended that Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School should relocate to the Birkenshaw Middle School site. This site remains central to the population served and offers a more suitable building for the long term future. Conversion of this building would also represent better value for money than other options and better facilities for outdoor play and serving the needs of pupils in the older age range, use of this site also enables transitions from the current 3 tier system to 2 tier education to be managed more effectively for pupils during the period of change, representing less disruption for them and their families. It is recommended that:

- Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School operates as an all-through primary school by relocating the school into the building, which is currently occupied by Birkenshaw Middle School, from September 2013, accompanied by appropriate capital investment.

Following a review of options it is recommended that East Bierley CE(VC) First School converts to an all-through primary school by reducing the planned admission number from 30 to 20 per year and remaining in the current building. The school is an integral part of this small local community and at this size can meet the demand for primary age places from the village. The current building is suitable for use for these numbers and therefore represents a sustainable option for the future. This represents a cost effective means of meeting both the need to create all-through primary education and the expressed wishes of local people to retain a school in the village. It is recommended that:

- East Bierley CE(VC) First School operates as an all-through primary school by retaining the school in its current site, using the existing buildings and reducing the PAN from 30 to 20 per year from 2013.

The proposed plans for implementation of the proposals for Birkenshaw CE (C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE (VC) First School require no statutory proposals. It is however recommended that it would be appropriate for non-statutory consultation to take place.

It is therefore recommended that:

- Non-statutory consultation should take place at the same time as the statutory consultation to discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School, with families of pupils, schools staff, governors, the Diocese of Wakefield, members of the community and other interested parties in September 2011 and that the outcomes of that consultation be reported to Kirklees Council Cabinet later in the autumn term.
- Officers, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holders for Children's Services develop appropriate documentation and materials to support both the statutory and non statutory consultation.

## **7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

We, the Cabinet Members for Children's Services, support the recommendations set out by officers in the previous section of this report. We set out below the considerations which have led to our arriving at this position. We will consider any further material matters that are brought to our attention in advance of, and during, the Cabinet meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and will make our final, oral, recommendations at the end of the discussion of this item at the meeting.

Kirklees Council had approved a strong plan to bring innovative co-educational secondary provision to serve the Batley-Birkenshaw-Birstall area as part of the multi-million pound Building Schools for the Future (BSF) capital programme. Unfortunately the decisions by the Government to cancel BSF and to encourage and grant academy status to Batley Girls' High School now mean that the plan would be very difficult to implement in its original form. This also means that the linked closure of Birkenshaw Middle School would be very difficult to implement in its original form.

We have therefore earlier today considered starting the technical process of revocation of the approved statutory proposals so that certainty can be brought to the schools and families involved.

If we are to fully implement the re-organisation of the 3-tier system in the Birkenshaw-Cleckheaton-Gomersal areas of Kirklees we need to bring forward new proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School. It would make sense to start the consultation for this alongside the revocation process so that schools and families can be given certainty about the future provision in the area.

We are also mindful of the very limited capital resources that are available to implement the changes to the first schools in Birkenshaw and East Bierley to make them all through primary schools. We wish to seriously consider a more cost effective alternative implementation plan for Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School which makes use of the superior facilities and location of the Birkenshaw Middle School site and buildings. We have planned to use the other three middle school sites and buildings in a similar way to give the best primary school provision that is possible.

We are also aware of the strong wish to retain a village school in East Bierley but believe that the most cost effective way to do this would be to reduce the number of pupils admitted into each year so that seven reduced-size year groups can be accommodated in the existing building without the need for major capital investment. This would provide sufficient school places to serve the village and keep the school in the village location.

We will also consult about these revised implementation plans for the first schools.

## **8. Contact officers**

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## **10. Relevant papers**

- Cabinet Reports 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - The linked statutory proposals to expand the physical capacity and change the upper age limit of Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School and East Bierley CE(V) First School
- Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - The linked statutory proposals to Establish a new school at Howden Clough and Discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School
- Cabinet Report 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – Review of the implementation of the statutory proposals for Cleckheaton and Gomersal
- Cabinet Report 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011- Request to initiate the statutory process to revoke the approved linked proposals to establish the E-ACT Academy at Howden Clough and discontinue Birkenshaw Middle School