

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 19 March 2019

Title of report: Future options for Almondbury Community School

Purpose of report: To seek approval to undertake a non-statutory consultation about future options for Almondbury Community School in the context of wider basic need for school places across Huddersfield South East and South West.

Key Decision - 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
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs 11/03/19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	Eamonn Croston (James Anderson) 11/03/19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft (John Chapman) 11/03/19
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Masood Ahmed – Schools and Aspiration Cllr Viv Kendrick – Children's Services

Electoral wards affected: Almondbury

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

This report puts forward proposals with a view to secure good-quality school provision for all children aged from 3 to 16 years in Almondbury and the surrounding area in Huddersfield South East and takes into account the current and projected need for places across all age groups.

The report presents information in relation to the sufficiency of school places in the area, and proposes that the council makes changes to Almondbury Community School. The proposals would require the need to work in partnership with other local schools.

In summary, the key proposals are:

- To remove the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School over a period of time still to be determined, but it would not be before summer 2020.
- To explore the possibility of increasing the number of places at King James's School, and to make some adjustment to local catchment areas. In the future, children who currently attend secondary school at Almondbury Community School would have priority for a place at a different school, mainly King James's or Newsome
- To gradually reduce the number of primary places (up to and including Year 6) at Almondbury Community School by admitting 30 Reception pupils annually from September 2020 onwards. Children who currently attend primary school at Almondbury Community School would not be affected because they already have a place and could remain at the school to the end of Year 6 and would need to go through the normal admissions application process to transfer to secondary phase.
- To hold a consultation on the above proposals so that parents, carers and all interested parties can have their say and shape the way forward

2. Background

On **8th April 2014** Kirklees Council Cabinet approved proposals to create an all-through school for 3-16 year olds (including nursery) to serve the Almondbury area by bringing together Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School as part of a wider partnership of local schools including All Hallows CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School;

- to cater for pupils aged 3 to 16 years, (including nursery provision)
- with no transition at ages seven or eleven.
- with planned places and admission numbers of;
 - 60 for 4-7 year olds (180 places) (plus up to 52 part time nursery places)
 - 110 for 7-11 year olds (440 places) and
 - 120 for 11-16 year olds (600 places).

At the time of the proposals, All Hallows CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School (now All Hallows CE (VA) Primary School), had a planned admission number of 50 (PAN), and at the end of Key Stage 1, pupils at this school were given a higher priority for a place at Almondbury Community School when transferring to Key Stage 2. Therefore the admission number in KS2 at Almondbury Community School was planned at 110 (60 places at Key Stage 1 in Almondbury Community School + 50 places at Key Stage 1

in All Hallows CE (VA) Infant and Nursery School) to ensure sufficient places in KS2 were available for local children should both schools be full.

The proposals came about because;

- In April 2013, Almondbury Junior School was judged as requiring Special Measures following an Ofsted inspection. Under the government's 'Schools Causing Concern' guidance a structural solution was required. Whilst a sponsored academy solution was explored, these proposals enabled local provision to 'fit together' and offered the opportunity to secure an improved education offer that would be sustainable in the Almondbury area.
- The numbers on roll at all 3 predecessor schools had been, for several years, low compared to the size of the buildings (around 40-50% occupancy). Under old funding regimes, premises costs of schools were covered regardless of the number on roll. This became a challenge when the government changed the funding regulations and schools began to receive a smaller set 'block grant' towards the costs of premises and the income generated per pupil became the most important factor to contribute to overall running costs.

The pattern of secondary school provision in South Kirklees means that currently, there are larger sized secondary/high schools in the more rural areas (e.g. Holmfirth/Honley/Shelley), the pupil population sizes in the more rural areas are broadly static and in some cases declining. There are less young people who live in these areas than there are school places. These schools attract admissions applications from families of pupils who live in the more central parts of Huddersfield and these preferences are therefore able to be satisfied. This means that historically and at present, there has and continues to be unfilled places in Almondbury Community School in particular.

On **10 March 2017** the office of the schools Adjudicator approved the school's Governing Body proposals to extend the age range of All Hallows' Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant and Nursery School from 1st September 2017.

The proposal was to extend the upper age limit of the infant and nursery school from 7 to 11 years so that it become a primary school for children aged 3 to 11 years from 1 September 2017. In order to implement the proposals, the school reduced its admission number from 50 Key Stage 1 places to 30. The school changed its name to reflect that it had become a primary school and since that time, pupils in KS1 are now able to stay at KS2 at All Hallows CE (VA) Primary School¹. This means that very few pupils join Almondbury Community School for their Key Stage 2 education as would have happened when All Hallows was a Nursery and Infant school.

¹ The school is growing year on year as a primary school and will have pupils in all year groups (YR to Y6) in September 2020.

2.1. The current pattern of school provision in Almondbury and the wider Huddersfield South East planning area in the context of adjacent primary and secondary planning areas

As described in the document '*Securing Sufficient High Quality Learning and Childcare Places*' that the Council produces every year (published on the website at the link below), Kirklees is divided into 'planning areas' when making an assessment about the need for school places.

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/pdf/securing-sufficient-school-places18.pdf>

Kirklees Planning Areas

It is normal practice for local authorities to undertake their duty to ensure there are sufficient school places by forecasting and planning at a planning area level rather than individual school level. Being an authority that consists of a mix of urban and semi-rural settlements, the geography of Kirklees is an important contextualising factor in understanding the impact of areas of growth. For place planning purposes the areas of Kirklees have been split into "planning areas" which are customised to fit the local geography at primary and secondary (including middle schools) level.

Rationale for grouping primary schools into planning areas

The primary schools have been organised into planning areas that are reflective of the geographical make up of Kirklees. The planning areas are mainly subdivisions of the secondary school priority admission areas, localised into clusters of schools that match the spread and density of population. The planning areas correlate to the predominant patterns of parental preference, taking into account faith provision and reasonable travel distance in urban areas as well as in the more rural areas of the authority.

Rationale for grouping secondary schools into planning areas

The secondary and middle, deemed secondary, schools have been organised into planning areas that too are reflective of the geographical make up of Kirklees. The secondary planning areas are aggregated from the primary planning areas and grouped, broadly mirroring the priority admission areas (where applicable), matching the spread and density of population. The planning areas correlate to the predominant patterns of parental preference, taking into account selective and faith provision as well as reasonable travel distance in urban areas as well as in the more rural areas of the authority.

Planning Areas for Almondbury Community School

A map illustrating the locations of these schools can be found at Appendix A

Primary

Almondbury Community School is in the primary planning area of 'Huddersfield South East'. The 2 adjacent primary planning areas of 'Newsome' and 'Kirkheaton, Lepton and Grange Moor' are particularly relevant in the assessment of sufficient primary places. The schools and number of available places per Key Stage are detailed in the table below;

School Name	Planned Admission Number (PAN) 2019/2020	
	KS1	KS2
All Hallows CE(VA) Primary School	30	30
Almondbury Community School	60	110
Dalton School	70	70
Moldgreen Community Primary School	50	50
Rawthorpe Junior School	No KS1	90
Rawthorpe St. James CE(VC) I & N School	90	No KS2
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	45	45
Huddersfield South East planning area total	345	395
Grange Moor Primary School	15	15
Kirkheaton Primary School	60	60
Lepton CE(VC) J, I and N School	30	33
Rowley Lane J, I and N School	60	66
Kirkheaton, Lepton and Grange Moor planning area total	165	174
Berry Brow I and N School	60	No KS2
Hillside Primary School	45	45
Lowerhouses CE(VC) J, I and EY School	29	29
Newsome Junior School	No KS1	60
Newsome planning area total	134	134
Overall number of places available across all 3 planning areas	644	703

The table below shows the child population resident in the 3 planning areas in each year group for Reception to Year 6 and future Reception cohorts from September 2019 to September 2021, based on NHS population data February 2018.

Pupils resident in Planning area	Future primary age pupils			Primary school age						
	R 2021	R 2020	R 2019	R 2018	Y1 2018	Y2 2018	Y3 2018	Y4 2018	Y5 2018	Y6 2018
Huddersfield South East	301	291	323	286	317	311	324	324	298	294
Kirkheaton, Lepton & Grange Moor	108	113	106	103	135	135	134	146	132	172
Newsome	182	145	161	149	142	169	136	167	146	151
Total pupils resident across all 3 planning areas	591	549	590	538	594	615	594	637	576	617

Secondary

Almondbury Community School is in the secondary planning area of 'Huddersfield South & East and Kirkheaton'. The adjacent secondary planning area of 'Huddersfield South West (Newsome only)' is particularly relevant in the assessment of sufficient secondary places. The schools and number of available places per year group are detailed in the table below;

School Name	Planned Admission Number (PAN) 2019/2020
Almondbury Community School	120
King James's School	186
Netherhall Learning Campus High School	131
Huddersfield South & East and Kirkheaton planning area total	437
Newsome High School	183
Huddersfield South West planning area (Newsome only)	183
Overall number of places available each year group across both planning areas	620

The table below shows the child population resident in the 2 planning areas in each year group for Year 7 to Year 11 and future Year 7 cohorts from September 2019 to September 2026, based on NHS population data February 2018.

Pupils resident in	Future secondary school age pupils								Secondary school age				
	Y7 2026	Y7 2025	Y7 2024	Y7 2023	Y7 2022	Y7 2021	Y7 2020	Y7 2019	Y7 2018	Y8 2018	Y9 2018	Y10 2018	Y11 2018
Huddersfield South East and Kirkheaton	473	436	490	501	492	519	478	499	488	554	463	450	476
Huddersfield South West (Newsome only)	148	122	131	149	136	147	135	153	110	140	113	129	126
Total pupils resident across both planning areas	621	558	621	650	628	666	613	652	598	694	576	579	602

Across all school phases parents preference school places for many different reasons including access to faith schools, selective schools and single gender schools.

Across these primary and secondary planning areas, a significant number of children are accessing school places outside the area where they live;

- On average around a fifth of primary age pupils are attending schools outside the collective planning areas (i.e. on average 100 pupils per year group)
- On average around a quarter of secondary age pupils are attending schools outside the planning areas (i.e. on average 160 pupils per year group)

Therefore, this impacts upon the number of children who are on roll at the schools in the planning area, meaning some schools have unfilled places. Further detail illustrating this can be found in the '*Securing Sufficient High Quality Learning and Childcare Places*' document;

- [Primary Planning Area 16](#): Huddersfield South East page 142
- [Primary Planning Area 18](#): Kirkheaton, Lepton & Grange Moor page 154
- [Primary Planning Area 21](#): Newsome page 172
- [Secondary Planning Area 31](#): Huddersfield South & East & Kirkheaton page 233
- [Secondary Planning Area 32](#): Huddersfield South West page 237

At present, a total of approximately 300 pupils attend the secondary phase of Almondbury Community School (which covers Year 7 to Year 11) and this means half of the available places are not taken. In the future, these pupils could be accommodated at other secondary schools in the area, mainly King James's and Newsome, if some adjustments were made and if the Local Authority worked with King James's School to explore whether a small number of extra places could be created.

In addition, the primary school places at Almondbury Community School (up to and including Year 6) are also under-subscribed and the evidence shows that if adjustments were made the Local Authority could gradually reduce the number of primary places available and there would be enough primary places for local children. Further detail illustrating this can be found in the '*Securing Sufficient High Quality Learning and Childcare Places*' document.

3. Information required to take a decision

Numbers on roll at Almondbury Community School have been consistently lower than the number of available places. As the funding for schools is predominantly driven by the numbers of pupils on roll, this has resulted in lower rates of income which has contributed to some challenges in balancing a budget. This in turn impacts on the breadth of curriculum that can be provided in Key Stage 3 and 4.

The table below shows the number of pupils on roll (from October 2018 census) and the school Published Admission number for each Key Stage and illustrates that currently in most year groups Almondbury Community School is undersubscribed between 40-60%.

Almondbury Community School													
School Year	Nursery	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
National Curriculum Stages	Early Years Foundation	Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2				Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4	
PAN Almondbury all-thorough school		60			110				120				
NOR from Census October 2018	19	32	43	41	43	53	56	65	54	72	61	67	52

On the 11 February 2019 Almondbury Community School was judged by Ofsted as requiring Special Measures. The Secretary of State for Education has a duty under Section 4(A1) of the Academies Act 2010, (as inserted by the Education and Adoption Act 2016), to intervene where a school is eligible for intervention and make an Academy order to allow it to become a sponsored academy as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The Secretary of State’s powers in this area are exercised by Regional School Commissioners (RSC).

However, as has been illustrated from the planning data in section 2.1 above, the school in its current form means that it would be highly unlikely to pass any due diligence processes due to low pupil numbers and the associated budget challenges. This would make it very difficult to find a sponsor Multi Academy Trust.

‘Where a maintained school is judged inadequate by Ofsted the RSC is under a duty to make an academy order. Before the RSCs exercise this duty, they may consider the viability of the school.’

(Schools Causing Concern - Guidance for local authorities and Regional Schools Commissioners on how to work with schools to support improvements to educational performance, and on using their intervention powers November 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754974/Schools_causing_concern_guidance-November_2018.pdf

Given the context, Kirklees Council would wish to work with the Regional Schools Commissioner to consider alternative options for the future of Almondbury Community School in the context of securing sufficient school places. There are opportunities to provide enough high quality, inclusive school places for children in a different way which can also improve the sustainability of the school and bring more certainty for parents.

There are two options available;

- A. The Local Authority propose a full closure of Almondbury Community School
- B. The Local Authority to propose to retain Almondbury Community School, but remove and phase out the secondary provision (Key Stage 3 and 4), consolidate the school as a 210 place primary provision (with Nursery) in the current Key Stage 1 building on Fernside Avenue and seek an Academy Sponsor (in partnership with, and approved by the RSC).

Officers recommend that option B is taken forward in order to retain necessary Key Stage 1 and 2 places for Almondbury, and the wider Huddersfield South East area.

3.1. The Proposals

In order to take forward option B above would require statutory proposals made by the Council to;

- Change the age range of the school from age 3 –16 years to age 3 – 11 years (to be implemented from September 2020).
- Change the planned admission number of the primary phase from 60 (KS1) and 110 (KS2) to 30 (starting from September 2020) in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, thereby resulting in 210 places across Reception to Year 6 (to be phased in over time).
- Admit no new pupils into year 7 from September 2020.

This would also require the Council to;

- Work with neighbouring schools (King James's School and Newsome High School) to realign the existing Almondbury Community School secondary Priority Admission Area (PAA) so that future children have priority for their secondary education in one of the neighbouring secondary schools by -
 - King James's School changing their catchment area (PAA) to include the primary admission areas of Almondbury Community School and All Hallows CE (VA) Primary School
 - Newsome High School changing their catchment area (PAA) to include the primary admission area of Lowerhouses CE(VC) J, I and EY School.
- Explore the opportunity to work with King James's School to create 30 additional planned places from September 2020 (so that over time there are an additional 150 secondary places at the school i.e. 5 year groups x 30 places). This modest increase in places will ensure there are sufficient local secondary school places available for the future to serve the Almondbury area, recognising that significant numbers of pupils living in Almondbury already attend this school each year. To achieve this there would need to be capital investment in the school buildings.
- Work with the Regional Schools Commissioner who would secure an Academy sponsor for Almondbury Community School as a future primary school.
- Consolidate Almondbury Community School as a future primary school into the current KS1 building on Fernside Avenue.

Should the admission number be reduced at Almondbury Community School in KS1 and KS2 to 30 places, the total number of places in the area would be 315 in both

KS1 and KS2 meaning there would be sufficient places to meet the current and future demand within the planning area and would enable the school to be sustainable into the future. Current pupils on roll will not be affected. They would continue to have a place at the school as the larger year groups work through the school. The building is suitable for Primary pupils and currently accommodates KS1 pupils. If the proposal is approved minor adjustments to toilets etc. would be undertaken. As the school buildings are part of a PFI contract, further work would be required with the PFI provider in relation to this.

Should the secondary phase be removed by changing the age range of Almondbury Community School, it is proposed that no new admissions would take place into Year 7 from 2020.

It is vital to note that, if all of these changes were agreed, every family at Almondbury Community School would receive a high level of personalised support on the options available for their children. No child would be left without a school place and the council would do everything possible to minimise disruption. For children who have are due to start Year 7 at ACS in September 2019, there would be the opportunity to discuss alternative options with each parent/carer.

It should be noted that the School is a PFI school and more work will need to be done to consider the future use of the Site as part of that Contract. A number of options are being considered.

3.2. Decision Making

The Council is not the decision maker for all the outlined proposals.

The following table illustrates the decisions required, who is able to propose and the decision maker.

Decision	Proposer	Decision maker
Change of age range at Almondbury Community School	LA	LA
Change of PAN at Almondbury Community School	LA	LA or Schools Adjudicator (depending on timing)
Change of catchment area at Newsome High School	LA	LA or Schools Adjudicator (depending on timing)
Issue an Academy order and approve a sponsor for Almondbury Community School		Regional Schools Commissioner
Change of PAN and catchment area at King James	King James's Academy Trust	Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and/or Schools Adjudicator (depending on timing)

3.3. The statutory process for significant changes to a maintained school.

School organisation decisions for Almondbury Community School as a Local Authority maintained school must follow a process set out by law. Kirklees Council can propose these changes and is the decision maker. The regulations require a statutory process be followed;

- Publication
- Representation (statutory consultation)
- Decision
- Implementation

The revised regulations removed the statutory requirement to carry out a 'pre-publication' consultation, however the LA proposes to carry out a 4 week non-statutory consultation on the proposals with interested stakeholders. This would provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review the proposals and comment on them. The outcomes of these discussions would inform the final proposals.

'Although there is no longer a statutory "pre-publication" consultation period for prescribed alteration changes there is a strong expectation that schools and LAs will consult interested parties, in developing their proposal prior to publication, to take into account all relevant considerations.'

Making significant changes "prescribed alterations" to maintained Schools, Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (October 2018)

The purpose of this report is to seek Kirklees Council Cabinet approval to undertake a 4 week period of non-statutory consultation in late March/early April.

4. Implications for the Council

4.1. Working with People

The LA intends to undertake a four week non-statutory consultation to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders can express their views. LA officers would work closely with affected families and with staff ensuring they are aware of the proposals at the earliest opportunity, how they could participate in the consultation process. Conversations with families of pupils would be arranged with officers so that they are aware of choices that would be available to them should the proposals be approved.

4.2. Working with Partners

Work to improve Almondbury Community School is being overseen by the Executive Principal of a partner school Carr Manor Community School, based in Leeds.

To take forward the proposals as presented above in option B requires the Council to work with neighbouring secondary schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

4.3. Place Based Working

The assessment of the need for school places in the Almondbury area has been assessed taking into account the current and future pupil cohort sizes. The proposals aim to secure long term sustainable, high quality educational opportunities for children locally.

4.4. Improving outcomes for children

The proposals are intended to improve outcomes for children. By taking a strategic approach Kirklees council wants to ensure that sufficient secondary school places are available in Huddersfield South East and South West and maximise opportunities to;

- Offer high quality and inclusive education and diversity of provision to all
- Provide a breadth of curriculum offer
- Be financially viable and therefore have future security
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Strengthen community cohesion
- Use sustainable travel and transport for school

4.5. Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

4.5.1. Finance - Revenue

The education budget that the Council receives from government can only be spent on education – so the proposals have no revenue impact for the Council. The proposals are intended to bring long term sustainability for Almondbury Community School, other schools in Almondbury and the wider Huddersfield South East/South West planning areas.

4.5.2. Finance - Capital

If there is agreement from King James's School to explore the creation of 150 additional places, capital investment in the buildings would be required. Estimated costs would need to demonstrate value for money and would need to be brought to Cabinet to support decision making.

It is envisaged that minor investment would be required to enable the existing Key Stage 1 building of Almondbury Community School on Fernside Avenue to be utilised by the revised age range. Estimated costs would be brought to Cabinet to support decision making at the next stage of the statutory process.

4.5.3. Finance – PFI Contract(Public Finance Initiative)

The existing buildings that house Almondbury Community School are part of a PFI contract. Further work would be required in relation to the implications of the proposals and would be undertaken as part of the implementation planning.

4.5.4. Human Resources

There would be Human Resources implications resulting from the proposed changes to Almondbury Community School. Human Resources staff would need to work with school leaders at the school regarding any revision to structures. Following this, consultation would need to be held with staff and recognised Trade Unions.

4.5.5. Equalities implications

The Equality Act 2010 places the Council under a duty - the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to achieve equality objectives when carrying out its functions. An initial equalities impact assessment has been carried out to assess the implications of the proposals and will be developed into a full assessment. The proposals are intended to have a long term positive impact for local families and the educational outcomes of their children. A negative impact for some members of staff cannot be ruled out. The proposed non statutory consultation will assist in identifying

opportunities to mitigate against negative impact and the equalities impact assessment will remain under review. The equalities impact assessment can be found by following the link below;

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/equality-impact-assessments.aspx>

Then select 2018/19 and 'Children'

The stage 1 report is named '190311 Stage 1 Future options for Almondbury Community School'

The stage 2 report is named '190311 Stage 2 Future options for Almondbury Community School'

5. **Consultees and their opinions**

It is intended to carry out a 4 week non-statutory consultation involving all key stakeholders, particularly parents and carers of existing pupils at Almondbury Community School. Arrangements would be made for officers to speak with parents and carers of existing pupils. In addition, school staff, governors, ward members, wider community stakeholders and other interested parties would have the opportunity to feedback their views.

The responses received as part of this consultation would be reported to members and would shape the proposals for a decision on the next steps.

6. **Next steps and timelines**

Subject to decisions made by Cabinet, the indicative timeline for the next stages of the Local Authority's proposals are set out below:

Activity	Date * <i>These dates are indicative and may change; they are also subject to Cabinet approval.</i>
Consultation and engagement (non-statutory)	March - April 2019
Report back to cabinet on the non –statutory consultation and seeking cabinet approval to move to next stage Publication of Statutory notices and proposals and period of representation (formal consultation on statutory proposals)	May 2019
Publication of Statutory notices and proposals and period of representation (formal consultation on statutory proposals)	May – June 2019
Kirklees Council Cabinet take a final decision regarding the proposals	July 2019
Implementation would begin	From 1 st September 2019

7. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

It is recommended that Members:

- 7.1. Authorise officers to develop plans for consultation that would retain Almondbury Community School, but remove (over time) the secondary phase (Key Stage 3 and 4), consolidate the school as a 210 place primary provision (with Nursery) in the Key Stage 1 building on Fernside Avenue and seek an Academy Sponsor (in partnership with, and approved by the RSC). Officers recommend that this is taken forward in

order to retain necessary Key Stage 1 and 2 places for Almondbury, and the wider Huddersfield South East area.

7.2. Delegate authority to the Director for Children Services in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holders to;

- Develop consultation materials on the basis of the proposals.
- Organise and carry out a non-statutory consultation about the proposals.

7.3. Authorise officers to work with neighbouring schools (King James's School and Newsome High School) to explore their willingness for the realignment of the existing Almondbury Community School secondary Priority Admission Area (PAA) so that future children have priority for their secondary education in one of the neighbouring secondary schools.

7.4. Authorise officers to work with King James's Academy Trust to assess the level of capital investment that would be required to enable King James's School to create 30 additional planned places from September 2020 (so that over time there are an additional 150 secondary places at the school i.e. 5 year groups x 30 places).

7.5. Authorise officers to assess the level of investment that would be required to enable the existing Key Stage 1 building of Almondbury Community School on Fernside Avenue to be utilised by the revised age range.

7.6. Require officers to report the outcomes of the non-statutory consultation to Cabinet for further consideration of the next steps.

7.7. Note that the School is a PFI school and ask officers to report back in due course on the impact of the changes on the future use of the Site and the options for use of the Site/ buildings.

8. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

We are committed to improve the quality of education in our schools to give every child the best possible start and ensuring there are sustainable high quality school places in the areas where communities and families need them.

We welcome local collaborative solutions where schools and our partners work both with each other and the Local Authority in order to meet the needs of the communities they serve both now and in the future.

From the analysis of the current and future need for places in Almondbury and the wider area of Huddersfield South East and West we understand the challenges that Almondbury Community School has when considering the number of children attending the school compared to the places that are available. This impacts upon the school's future sustainability, and we understand that makes it very difficult in the context to continue without proposed changes.

Therefore we want to seek the views of parents and carers, school staff and others in the local community so that everyone can have their say on the future of education in Almondbury and the surrounding area. That feedback would help to shape our proposals.

For these reasons we support the recommendations set out by officers in section 7 of this report.

9. Contact officer

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10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Office of Schools Adjudicator: 10 March 2017: A statutory proposal to extend the age range of All Hallows' Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury, Huddersfield.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/598360/STP628_All_Hallows_Church_of_England_VA_Infant_and_Nursery_School_Kirklees_-_10_March_2017.pdf

Cabinet: 28th November 2016: Decision about the published statutory proposal made by the Governing Body of All Hallows' CE(VA) Infant and Nursery School to change the upper age range from 3-7 years to 3-11 years and become an all through primary school
<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s15539/2016-11-28%20All%20Hallows%20final%20report.pdf>

Cabinet: 8th April 2014: Report on the related statutory proposals to discontinue Greenside Infant and Nursery School, to discontinue Almondbury Junior School and to change the lower age limit and expand Almondbury High School in order to develop an all-through school for 3-16 year old pupils, including nursery provision, to serve the Almondbury area.
<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201404081530/Agenda/CABINET08041450933D.pdf>

Cabinet report 28th January 2014: Report on the outcomes of the statutory consultation on the proposals affecting Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School.
<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201401281600/Agenda/CABINET28011450315D.pdf>

Cabinet report 16th September 2013: Report in relation to proposals affecting Greenside Infant and Nursery School, Almondbury Junior School and Almondbury High School.
<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201309161600/Agenda/CABINET16091349240D.pdf>

Schools causing concern - Guidance for local authorities and Regional Schools Commissioners on how to work with schools to support improvements to educational performance, and on using their intervention powers - November 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754974/Schools_causing_concern_guidance-November_2018.pdf

Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools - Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers October 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756572/Maintained_schools_prescribed_alterations_guidance.pdf

11. Service Director responsible

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Appendix A

Almondbury Community School, King James's School, Netherhall Learning Campus High School, Newsome High School

