

Appendix 7 - Factors to be considered in decision making

The factors which are being considered are derived from guidance issued by the Department for Education: Making significant changes (“prescribed alterations”) to maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (October 2018)

Paragraphs highlighted in **Yellow** relate to factors that are relevant to these proposal(s). Factors that are not highlighted are considered not to be relevant to these proposal(s). These have been identified as; “Not applicable to these proposals” and are in grey, however for clarity these are fully listed

CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION PERIOD

Decision-makers will need to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation and/ or representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has given full consideration to all the responses received. Decision-makers should not simply take account of the number of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school(s).

Decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

When issuing a decision, the decision-maker can:

- *Reject the proposal;*
- *Approve the proposal without modification;*
- *Approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the LA and/or GB (as appropriate): or*
- *Approve the proposal with or without modification, - subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.*

A proposal can be withdrawn by the proposer at any point before a decision is taken. When doing so, the proposer must send written notice to the LA or the GB (as appropriate); or the Schools Adjudicator (if the proposal has been sent to them) A notice must also be places on the website where the original proposal was published.

Within one week of making a decision the LA must publish their decision and the reasons for it, on the website where the original proposal was published and send copies to:

- *The LA (where the Schools Adjudicator is the decision-maker)*
- *The Schools Adjudicator (where the LA is the decision-maker)*
- *The GB/ proposers (as appropriate);*
- *The trustees of the school (if any);*
- *The local Church of England diocese;*
- *The local Roman Catholic diocese;*
- *The parents of every registered pupil at the school- where the school is a special school:and*
- *Any other body that they think is appropriate (e.g. other relevant diocese or diocesan board, faith organisation and any affected educational institutions in the area).*

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SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Representations state that they Oppose/ Object to the proposal

- Need to keep the school open. I oppose to the changes you want to make
- I would like to go on record to register my disappointment on the closure of Almondbury I object strongly to these proposals.
- We as parents strongly oppose the closure of secondary stage at A C S Community School (ACS).
- I am contacting you in respect to the proposed closure of Almondbury Community School. I wish to OBJECT to this proposal in the strongest manner i can
- I would like to register an objection to the proposal to change the age range for Almondbury Community School.
- I am writing to formally record my opposition to the proposed closure of the senior section of ACS.
- I am writing to express my deepest concern at the proposed plan to cut the secondary provision at Almondbury Community School
- The speed of the consultation process and run down towards closure has been shocking
- I would like to give my objections to the proposed changes to Almondbury Community School
- My girls love their school and the wonderful staff and i really object to it closing down
- In respect of the proposed closure of Almondbury Community School I would like to advise you of my disagreement on this matter.
- I strongly oppose the closure of the high school.
- I strongly oppose the proposals to close the secondary phase at Almondbury community school

Representation state that the proposal has created uncertainty and want clarity and support during the process.

- We need clarification before July 4th this is total madness. Am shouting help. I have no idea what to do best for my kids' education and their wellbeing which has been affected.
- we haven't been supported at all, this decision was handled wrong from the first letter that was sent home with pupils, its rushed and no concrete evidence has been put to us as to why this is happening
- Year 11 pupils (current Year 10) would remain on the Fernside Avenue site to finish their GCSE courses with their GCSE course staff wherever possible?
- Children of Almondbury have already had to face too many poor educational outcomes compared to the rest of Kirklees. Each time Kirklees have failed to step up and provide what has been promised and left them floundering. If the closure how will Kirklees properly and effectively support not only those who have to leave a school but also those who have chosen to move away from Almondbury because of the series of devastating experiences and now face further impact. Transitions will need careful planning and a high level of support from experienced professionals such as psychologists.

Representation state that this proposal is causing disruption again at Almondbury Community School.

- Not once, but twice in recent years have they disrupted the education of the Almondbury pupils to meet their own ends. The proposal to merge the junior and secondary provision met with fierce opposition from parents, who, despite a majority vote against the move, were ignored. It says a lot about the quality of staff and support at ACS therefore, that those same parents, are fighting against the new proposal to close the secondary provision - they have witnessed the good that the school has done for their children who are all happy and settled until you ruin that again.

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- My daughter has already gone through the merger with Juniors into the High School site and that was traumatic enough for her.
- Utter contempt that was then shown to parents when expressing concerns about the merger was disgusting. The meeting with councillors and those employed by Kirklees remains as the worst meeting I have ever attended because of the complete disregard for parental views.

Representations have questioned the consultation and decision making process for this proposal.

- There has been nothing but negative information put before the public and it is clear that Kirklees council are desperate to close the school. I and others believe the decision has already been made, and therefore the consultation is a sham. At no time has there been any feedback from the council to suggest any other options may be considered for the school
- Cabinet has messed them about twice now, best start in their life/education yer right. No questions are being answered again. Being open and providing guidance is what's needed to support the families and children.
- The decisions so far have been so rushed through with no apparent thought for the near future of these students that I'm really concerned that the projected plans have really not been considered. If this whole process had been slowed down, with better and more considerate communications, perhaps we wouldn't be in the position where many parents feel all they can say is No, because we simply do not have enough reassurances and future planning.
- Cabinet has messed them about twice now. No questions are being answered again. Being open and providing guidance is what's needed to support the families and children. What do we get as an answer? Nothing has been decided yet.
- I do understand that tough decisions need to be made but there must be a better way to provide good local high school provision
- Your department has precided over poor decision making and management decisions regarding changes to Almondbury Community school, occasionally with disregard to policy let alone parents. I am apalled at the lack of RSC engagement, the poor timing of events (within weeks of admission announcements), and the lack of answers to questions posed by the poor consultation either in person or the document. You failed to meet a request for an open group consultation. Individual Subject Matter Experts at the 1-2-1 consultation were both poorly briefed and unable to answer questions. They were more interested at finding out alternative school choices. the solution posed from the outset with out options fully explored or openly consulted, is merely pushing the current goverment funding constraints 'per head' around the system. Again a short term reactionary decision considering the fragile position of the current government.
- No-one can tell us what the actual plan is. So the majority again, I understand, have said "NO". We don't know enough to be able to say anything other than NO.
- I also think that the way the council has handled this proposal in respect of keeping parents updated and providing support has been unacceptable in that we are still really in the dark at this crucial time.
- If the proposal to change the upper age range is passed are the council definitely going to stick to September 2020.
- Covered by LA Description of alteration and evidence of demand LA sets out lots of reasons why they want to make changes but lots of meetings and Cabinet meetings with public attendance showed total evidence of no demand.
- While a Local Authority can propose the closure of a maintained school, alternatively a governing body of a school can also take this step if it gives two years notice of it's

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intention to close the school. The Governing body were I understand advised by Council to stand down. It could be said that this was to prevent the existing governing body at the time from making this proposal, so that the closure could be hastened! Reasons for closing a maintained school could be for wider school reorganisation, meaning the school is surplus to requirements.

- **Representation stated that local residents were not informed of the proposal**
- Why have the residents of all properties around King James School NOT been formally consulted in writing (as they received no written communication in the recent consultation phase that has now closed), as 'any other interested organisation / person that the proposer thinks are appropriate'.

Representations state that the proposal would disadvantage families who have children in the all though school.

- I've have only been at acs for 3 years and in that time I have become less shy I'm a hard worker i would like the school to stay open so I can still be close to my younger sisters and my friends having to move schools would disrupt my education please think of us students at acs and what you are putting us through my little sister in year 3 has adhd and I look out for her and help her at play time and dinner time if you close the school and I have to move to a different school it will set her back
- I have 3 at ACS currently yrs 5,8 and 10. All I want is a yes it's closing (I'll crack on and find them new schools) or no it's not and pick up the pieces and get them back learning to the grades they were getting before this shambles.
- All 3 of my kids go/have gone to this fantastic school and are thriving because of the quality teaching they have received here, I also live in Lepton and would be stuck in a horrible situation with siblings split over 2 schools which will make collecting them a nightmare.
- Never heard anything as daft as closing a school right in the middle of a housing estate

Representations state that the proposal is having a negative impact on mental health for pupils at the school

- Messed about kids =messed up adults with mental health problems.
- The increased focus on mental health, personal development and well-being is being ignored by Kirklees Councillors who do not appear to care at all about the young people involved. It seems they cannot see beyond the current difficulties and choose to take the easy way out as well as the cheapest and simply close it.
- On the first day the closure was suggested I had to console my daughter telling her all will be fine don't worry, then in a one to one consolation Kirklees representatives also told my daughter everything will be fine (again more lies) as now I have a child that is suffering from anxiety and has started to bite her nails when we discuss school. I am sure this isn't the intention of Kirklees but a 12 year old that loves the school she is at and is now having her entire education ripped from under her feet with no support from Kirklees.
- Little attention appears to be being paid to the psychological impact this is having on the kids and parents now.
- daughter has started to worry about where she will end up, at such a crucial time in her education
- Also what support is being offered to the children of ACS for their mental well being
- Are you aware that some of the children's mh is already deteriorating? affecting sleep, stress, low mood, anxiety, change in behaviour
- I have two boys who attend almondbury community school. I have 1 in year 9 who has a.d.h.d and dyspraxia. He has always struggled with school uptill year 7 when he finally started to Seattle in and he's on track for good GCSE results at the moment as they

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choose their options early at ACS and I fear that if the school closes he won't get any GCSE's at all as he will find it really difficult because of his medical condition and anxiety. I fear the bullying will start up again if I have to move him now both my children love Almondbury Community School and the staff are amazing and so helpful with everything.

- Following the announcement of the proposed plans, my son began to suffer from anxiety due to the uncertainty and was worried that he would have to leave the school at a fundamental time in his education mid way through his GCSE's causing him a higher risk of failing his important exams.
- For myself and all other parents our children's well-being, mental health, education and future are the priority and the proposed plans are a threat to this.
- Since the suggestion of closure he has become very stressed with the thought that he does not know what will happen and what school he would need to go to.
- She is doing well within the school and has been massively affected by the threat of closure and been moved and uprooted to a school away from friends and prevented from choosing her school options because of all this situation. None of this has been done in the thoughts of the children currently in the school and how they are being made to feel/effects of the unsettled decisions!
- If the school closes then I might be separated from my friends. There is no guarantee that I will get into the same school.
- Now that the proposals have been made children in my school have been experiencing anxiety, afraid of leaving friends and teachers behind. Some of these children are only 12 years old, me included. We shouldn't have to feel this way, and moving schools will only increase our anxiety.
- My daughter is happy and settled and excelling in her subjects moving her will have a negative impact on her mental wellbeing.
- I am a mum of two children currently at A.C.S, I have 1 ready to start junior, and 1 to start secondary in September. Since coming back to Huddersfield 4 yrs ago, my children attended NLC school for 2 yrs and suffered non stop bullying day in day out, so we moved on to Almondbury Community School and straight away I saw a rapid change in both my children and also in myself as I suffer from depression and separation anxiety. The 2 years of stress and unhappiness got to us all.
- My daughter attends King James School which is fantastic I choose to send my daughter there as we had problems with bullies. Almondbury Community School did nothing about the situation so my daughter had her last 3 years of junior school ruined. Since you are closing Almondbury Community School down and intending to send them to King James School my daughter's anxiety has returned. I for 1 will be fighting all the way to keep Almondbury Community School open so that these bullies will not be making my daughter's life miserable again. And if you do close Almondbury Community School you will have made 2 children's mental health a hell of a lot worse than what it is.

Representations state that the proposal is not child centred.

- The children need to come first. It is their future that is important.
- Are Kirklees going to give the pupils the support now not after the consultation periods?
- Is my daughter going to get to go to a school of her choice and not be forced to go to wherever Kirklees can fit her as this whole scenario is Kirklees doing and the children are the ones that have to suffer.
- Have a child in Year 6 currently that I would like to see settled when she starts Year 7
- The children need to come first. It is their future that is important.
- Closing the school would mean you're putting extra pressure on our children and it is upsetting them you're not thinking about them your thinking about yourself help our school don't close it
- I love this school I really don't want it to close all the teachers are amazing and I love

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coming to school here I really don't want to have to move schools and be separated from my younger sister who is in year 3 all my friends come to acs I find it hard to make friends so moving schools and being separated from my friends is a scary thought

- Parents were not told in a sensitive manner, instead we got an open letter sent home via our children, who were understandably bewildered and concerned. This has not changed as time has gone on, indeed, their concern has deepened and as parents, we haven't been able to help them as we have not been given answers either. That is a helpless situation for us.
- I don't think you can guarantee that my daughter will be kept in the same friends group, the ones shes known since primary and this will mentally destroy her confidence in what is an important stage of her education. She is now in year 7 and this is the time where she needs stability and a strong direction so she can focus on her education and not worry about moving schools again. The whole proposal does not take into account any of the above issues and concerns.

Representations state that the LA should support the school

- My only problem is that there is a few named schools around huddersfield in the same situation as A.C.S been given time and help to improve.
- The current situation in the school is due to poor and ineffective leadership. Although Ofsted judged it to be inadequate, with good support and effective leadership this could be reversed. If we are to believe the article in the Examiner this is exactly what is happening in Newsome HS
- It is a relatively short time since considerable money was invested in reorganising the school and it has simply not been given the opportunity or time to grow and develop into a thriving successful establishment. There are excellent facilities at ACS and it is shameful that councillors can choose to ignore the many positives and focus only on the negatives. It is a relatively short time since considerable money was invested in reorganising the school and it has simply not been given the opportunity or time to grow and develop into a thriving successful establishment. There are excellent facilities at ACS and it is shameful that councillors can choose to ignore the many positives and focus only on the negatives.
- The council did not adequately support the Through School to succeed in the first place. The staffing structure cut any "unnecessary" roles and left the pastoral staff struggling to provide the level of support they aimed for. The high turnover of staff in that area should have indicated that support was needed. This support was requested and denied on numerous occasions. How ironic, that even more money is currently being paid out to agency behaviour workers in the wake of the media circus in November. This could have been avoided with a lower spend on permanent support staff.
- The council has not offered the support it should have to a school in difficulty - in fact it could be argued that the difficulties were caused by the actions of Kirklees. You have let them down badly. Staff and pupils may come and go, but there is nowhere in Huddersfield that has the family atmosphere of this school and by breaking this up, you are failing the children of Huddersfield.
- It can be made into a great school like it used to be when I first started working there.
- other schools have had events happen in the past and survived with help Please keep us open for our children and future children, for the parents and for the remarkable staff. They love and want our children to learn and it is their vocation. We all work together for our kids always.
- King James is not in any position to accept pupils for the foreseeable future and too much emphasis is being placed on their planning permission being granted and an additional 50 pupil places being created in accordance with new classrooms being built. As yet, this permission has not been granted and certainly questions the processes involved if it is known now by Kirklees that this application will be granted.

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- The proposal to merge the junior and secondary provision met with fierce opposition from parents, who, despite a majority vote against the move, were ignored. It says a lot about the quality of staff and support at ACS therefore, that those same parents, are fighting against the new proposal to close the secondary provision - they have witnessed the good that the school has done for their children who are all happy and settled until you ruin that again.
- The plight of the children currently being shoved around upsets me. The council has not offered the support it should have to a school in difficulty - in fact it could be argued that the difficulties were caused by the actions of Kirklees
- They settled in their new classes from day 1, went to school happy and came home telling happy stories, they wanted to go to school, looked forward to the next day. So I was happy I'd found a school that met all my children's need in every way, also I wasn't as anxious about my children been at school.
- There appears to be no account for the fact that, through your (mis) management intervening decisions over the school through the years, the school has been a destination for struggling children with additional educational support needs.
- The authority says it will be looking to use funds to help an academy(King James) to expand. Yet it looks as though it does not want to support ACS to become an all through academy, just a Primary Academy. That Primary Academy at the Greenside site will have to be expanded which will cost money.
- Almondbury community could be a great school if effort was put in look at neather hall that was exactly the same if not worse but they managed to turn it around so why not almondbury community it's the heart of the community and no one wants it to shut.
- This is not looking at the best interests of these students, this is looking at how best to walk away from a school that has suffered at the expense of an ill equipped council putting in place yet another project that has no foundation and no thought beyond the initial idea.
- Improvement should be made to ACS, you can't just give up on a school that has the potential to be great.
- I hope the council intend to offer good support to parents and children at this difficult time particularly those with SEND. ASC had a strong Nurture provision which is not something every secondary school has and which supported many of those young people. I feel that the next year will be particularly hard with children remaining in school but knowing they will move on and probably moving on to other schools if the odd place becomes free during that year.
- We thought the council would surely do everything in their powers to bring the school back to where it should be - they wouldn't let it fail after all the money that was spent on it and all the upset and upheaval for the children. We put our trust in Kirklees! The community of Almondbury needed this to work.
- Persistently let down by ineffective management. Kirklees failed to notice that Almondbury Junior School was heading rapidly towards special measures.
- I strongly feel that this proposal should be scrapped and the council should put its efforts into fixing the problems with ACS rather than its eventual closure. It is perfectly located with plenty of room for future expansion should the need arise and has plenty of facilities - some of which are not available at other schools in the area. With the right investment and leadership, ACS has the potential to become a good school once again.

Representations state that the proposal is a result of the negative media attention.

- On the back of this incident which could quite easily have happened in any number of British schools, but which unfortunately went viral, Kirklees saw the opportunity to leap on their chance to close the school, as I suspect has been their intention for years now.
- We have had the misfortune of the past events to put our school down.
- I object to the closure I feel this has been a rushed decision and a knee jerk reaction to an

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incident that occurred at the School.

OFFICER COMMENT:

All representations have been considered in collating this document which is intended to aid decision makers.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, require a statutory process be followed set out by law when making certain changes to a Local Authority Maintained school. The Department for Education (DfE) publish Guidance for such changes, 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers - October 2018). The regulations state that because Almondbury Community School is a Community school, Kirklees Council can propose these changes, and, as long as published proposals are determined within 2 months of the end of a statutory representation period, the Council is the decision maker.

The DfE Guidance explains that as the proposer the LA must follow the four stage statutory process set out below;

Stage	Description	Timescale	Comments
Stage 1	Publication (statutory proposal/notice)		
Stage 2	Representation (formal consultation)	Must be 4 weeks	As set out in the 'Prescribed Alterations' regulations
Stage 3	Decision	LA should decide a proposal within 2 months otherwise it will fall to the Schools Adjudicator	Any appeal to the adjudicator must be made within 4 weeks of the decision
Stage 4	Implementation	No prescribed timescale	It must be as specified in the published statutory notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the decision- maker

The DfE Guidance states that '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.' (page 26)

A four week non-statutory consultation took place between 27 March 2019 and 23 April 2019, to seek the views of parents/carers, school staff, professionals, ward members, wider community stakeholders and other interested parties.

The non-statutory consultation was very important and valuable in understanding the views and anxieties of those affected by the proposals. School re-organisation is emotive for all those involved, including parents, pupils and staff.

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The purpose of non-statutory consultation is to allow interested parties to give their views and to generate possible alternatives for consideration. Consultation is not a referendum on a proposal. Decision Makers are required to make the best decision on behalf of **all families** now and into the future.

During the consultation process there were no additional factors that had not been thoroughly considered prior to making the proposals in relation to the available number of school places which exceeds the current and future pupil population. Even when taking into account future housing growth, this would not result in an alternative option that may secure the financial viability and educational sustainability of Almondbury Community School in its current form.

Considerable effort went in to ensure that the consultation could engage with as many of those affected by the process as possible. Individuals and groups were encouraged to feedback their views about the proposals. The views of everyone were considered against the rationale underpinning the proposals. The consultation outcome report explains clearly how the views expressed in the consultation have been evaluated and taken into account. Cabinet report on 29th May 2019: [Future options for Almondbury Community School – Outcome Report](#)

On 29th May 2019 Cabinet agreed for LA officers to move to the next stage of the process. On 4th June 2019 a statutory notice was published in the Huddersfield Examiner and a statutory proposal was published on the [School Organisations and Planning](#) website.

- All parents/carers at the school were notified about the proposals.
- Emails with links to the statutory notice and proposal were sent to;
 - Staff at Almondbury Community School
 - Heads of neighbouring school
 - Trade Unions
 - Ward members
 - The local Church of England diocese;
 - The local Roman Catholic diocese

In total there were 51 of representations received during representation stage.

RELATED PROPOSALS

Where proposals appear to be related to other proposals, the decision-maker must consider the related proposals together. A proposal should be regarded as related if its implementation (or non-implementation) would prevent or undermine the effective implementation of another proposal.

REPRESENTATIONS: Not Applicable

OFFICER COMMENT: Not Applicable

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS: Not Applicable

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

For many types of proposal, decision-makers may make their approval conditional on certain prescribed kinds of events. The decision-maker must set a date by which the condition should be met but can modify the date if the proposer confirms, before the date expires, that the condition will be met later than originally thought.

The proposer should inform the decision-maker when a condition is met. If a condition is not met by the date specified, the proposal should be referred back to the decision-maker for fresh consideration.

REPRESENTATIONS: Not Applicable

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OFFICER COMMENT: Not Applicable

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS: Not Applicable

EDUCATION STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY OF PROVISION

Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the needs of parents, raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Representation state the proposal would affect the children's grades at the school

- All I want is a yes it's closing (I'll crack on and find them new schools) or no it's not and pick up the pieces and get them back learning to the grades they were getting before this shambles.
- My concern are regarding the level and standard of teaching that he will receive in the final year of his education at the school.
- All this will be disruptive for their classmates and also teachers. It will be hard to retain the staff for this next year - has any thought been given to what would be done if a key member of staff eg maths or MFL were to leave? It would be almost impossible to recruit anyone in this area of shortage with any quality for this short term period with a large risk to those sitting their GCSE in 2020.
- I accept that the secondary phase in its current state is unsustainable, but the closure plans do not seem to take due consideration of the pupils who will be in key stages 3 and 4 next academic year (2019/20). Particular concern is the students entering year 10 who will have to move school half way through their GCSEs. This will likely have a significant detrimental impact on their achievement (as will the inevitable departure of permanent teaching staff during 2019/20).

Representations stated concern staffing levels at the school.

- I have serious concerns about the staff levels remaining at Almondbury Community School. I can understand teachers leaving the school at the moment, they have careers and require job stability however what teaching staff will be available in September 2019? How can high standards of teaching be assured to those pupils that are left in Almondbury Community School at this time? I also have a child in Year 4. Her class teacher has been absent for 3 weeks now. This week, they have a 3rd supply teacher. If this absence can't be covered consistently, it really does make me question how assurances can be given to parents and pupils within the high school that long term (contracted?) teaching staff will be supplied for the remaining time left at the school.
- Work does need to take place to reassure staff and redeploy where you can while trying to retain quality teaching for this last year

Representation stated that the GCSE syllabus would be different at different schools

- In the 8 days he attended Newsome High school, 6 of these resulted in him coming home unhappy. He was unable to attend all of the classes he has started for his GCSE's such as history and computing due to them either not having the room in terms of numbers in the class or because they were near completing the first year of a 2 year BTEC course and he wouldn't be able to join now or he could do the work at home during the summer holidays to maybe be able to catch up. Children will not easily be able to transition into a new school as the council seem to think, they may not be able to continue with their choice of GCSE's due to the availability in the other schools, they will more than likely receive lower grades due to the stress and anxieties caused and many other consequences that individually affect children at the most pivotal stage of their education.

Representation stated difficult for children to settle in a new school.

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- If children move it could affect their learning as they will have new teachers and will be surrounded by new people.
- There are children at that school now, who would be required to move, that have settled and thrived at ACS when they did not do so at other schools. This is due to the support and skill at the school. By moving students to other schools, much of the great work that teachers at ACS have already achieved will be undone. I see no evidence that the educational needs of these students are being prioritised. There is also no indication of the likelihood of key stage 3 students being able to attend the school of their choice when ACS closes

Representation stated that staff were leaving the school because of the proposal.

- Already he has been told that many of the teachers are leaving the school at the end of this academic year

Representation stated that staff were badly treated by the LA

- The staff have been treated appallingly. They found out about the proposals by reading the letter addressed to parents from the council. Small wonder that several have seen jobs advertised at other schools and are now leaving.

Representations state that children are happy at the school with the staff.

- The children have always come first with staff and management and good relationships have been fostered with parents who now are being railroaded into sending their children to other Schools. Great expense has been spent on Executive heads who could work to improve the School but at the moment seem to just be working towards closure, no one feels safe. I feel undue pressure is being put on staff who no longer know if they are going to have a job and because of financial security are now having to seek employment elsewhere. I feel the whole way it has been handled has been unprofessional and many parents and staff have been misled.
- The teachers in ACS are always trying their hardest to help me and other children learn. They are always there to help and believe that every child will succeed.
- The staff at ACS are amazing they have a wonderful ability to bring the best out of the children
- From the outset you have stated this is about better educational outcomes. If this was so you would have recognised the passionate teaching, pastoral care (despite a high profile media incident (coincidence) which had been managed appropriately and not a reflection on the school we know.
- Students have firm, supportive friendship groups that will be broken up. This is particularly disruptive effect on these children both socially and in terms of their education

Representation asking if other options have been explored

- Has the council looked at the options of re-positioning the high school part of the Community school as one that focuses on being a secondary modern (i.e. lower level qualification / practical skills attainment)?. By being niche this could lead to higher student numbers and lower cost curriculum provision. Or develop the high school as a specialist autism focused school that will attract PPP funding?

Representations state that other secondary schools in the area could not accommodate the extra children.

- Other secondary schools cannot cope with any increased numbers in their year groups.
- It's very clear I can't move my child (currently yr10) to other local schools as they are full and the one that isn't has a different curriculum!
- Are you aware that KJS cannot accommodate more pupils although they plan to build more classrooms?
- The council have not been able to show how educational standards will be improved

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particularly as some of the pupils will be going from a school classed as Inadequate to another school classed as Inadequate.

- I would also like to point out that the other schools proposed to take on the students from ACS are full in terms of capacity in space and numbers
- The effect on other educational institutions in the area. LA have suggested 3 schools, 1 of the schools needs more classrooms and the planning permission not yet agreed. It is an academy and no agreement with LA yet.
- Shelley College 360 places. Full, oversubscribed, and already has housing being built within it's catchment area through the Local Plan. Pupils applying outside the area come under criteria 5 in their admissions criteria and I was informed would be highly unlikely to be offered a place, but would have to join a waiting list, furthermore the college has been inundated with enquiries since ACS proposals were published. Moored: is full from it's own catchment, oversubscribed with 60 children on the waiting list. Children applying from outside the catchment would be at Criteria level 5 so low down the list and therefore unlikely to be admitted. Moored is an outstanding school, so I believe this would reduce a child's chance of being admitted even more where they live outside the area. Honley High School, is currently oversubscribed, but doesn't fill from within it's catchment. Distance to school is part of the criteria used in assessing whether a child meets their admissions criteria and again a child outside the area would be low down on meeting the criteria. The assessment tool used in the Local plan to work out school places measured distance to nearest school, so travelling to other schools to have their needs met defeats the objectivity of that test used in the LP. Netherhall Campus wasn't brought into this until issues around enough school places caused by the Local Plan were raised. Netherhall is full, so again there are no spare places, while this may be extended in the future, what will be the cost of that? Royds Hall Community School – rated inadequate so parents will not bother sending their children there. Newsome is rated inadequate and needs more pupils but is 2 bus journeys away for many pupils living in the Almondbury area. Now an Academy with plenty of places to fill. The explanation for giving this academy status and not ACS was ACS doesn't have the pupil numbers. But Newsome only had a hundred or so more on roll than ACS. I therefore feel that while that may currently be the case, it will not continue due to lots of housebuilding taking place and children outside admission areas being rated at criteria level 5 or 6, with little chance of being accepted. families in Lepton are now fearful for the education of their children at King James School and are looking for alternative schools, but they are all full. Additionally some pupils entering Yr 11 at ACS this September will not have access to their usual subject teachers as I understand that all the maths, science and IT teachers have left. This is an outrageous situation for those pupils at the school who are caught up in this mess and I sincerely hope they will be given the specialist support they need in this the most crucial of years.
- Netherhall may have an opportunity to expand by building additional classrooms, there will be a significant cost and those classrooms will have to be built. The numbers of children in future years is only predicted and could change. I therefore require more evidence before I am satisfied.

Representations stated that King James's School is full and cannot accommodate the extra pupils

- King James Academy is one of the schools which is expected to take in additional pupils; this school is woefully inadequate for the 21st century and is already housing pupils in portable classrooms. The campus is very poor compared with the excellent location of ACS. In the past Kirklees Council recognised this and proposed to close King James and amalgamate the two schools on the ACS site; hence the school seeking academy status so that it was taken out of local authority control and therefore protected from closure.
- It sounds like King James are not working with you to create more places or even that the

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catchment area would be definitely changed to include Almondbury kids.

- second option of school is full (King James) with no plans to add school places and is now sat on a waiting list with 100s of other pupils in fact the only nearby (not even local)
- I was given information on why KJS couldn't go one over pan last September, when my daughters appeal was rejected, due to health & safety reasons including old small corridors, inadequate dining facilities & no social areas. I want to know if KJS are also planning on widening corridors & extending their dining facilities?
- With King James School seemingly constrained by size, location and access, and over subscribed (helped by your decision making and catchment areas) questions have been posed by several parties about engaging on this matter with
- I personally am angry that when we visited King James, the headmaster himself highlighted how overcrowded his school already was and he specifically said if we weren't in the catchment area, we should not bother to apply for this school as it was already oversubscribed.
- As I understand King James is already nearly full to capacity
- The report at the 29th May cabinet meeting recommends that all AHS students are re-allocated as of September 2020. This appears to contradict the statement that a phased increase of an additional 30 places per year at KJS leading in time to an increase of 150 students on roll. KJS is an oversubscribed, cramped school with no physical room for more students currently. KJS already uses "outside" i.e. don't use a physical room as a classroom and are oversubscribed. If KJS does not get planning permission to extend what is your plan? KJS is an academy and they can set their own PAN which requires consultation. How is the council going to ensure KJS increases its PAN to meet your recommendation in the timelines of Sept 2020? Have the comments and objections lodged in relation to the proposed extension of KJS been reviewed and considered as part of the proposal recommendation to move to next stage?
- King James is already crowded and fully subscribed. It will be difficult to absorb the additional proposed 150 students in a building where current student report overcrowded corridors and dining halls. This detrimental impact will affect current King James' students as well as transferring ACS students.
- The increase of danger to students around St Helens Gate. This is already a tight, congested area with little footpath space and no crossing points. During the time students are going to and returning from school, this area is already busy and congested and the majority of the proposed 150 additional students would use this route.

Representation questioned if this proposal is dependent on King James's extension?

- Is the option to use King James's (KJ) dependable on the building of their extension

Representation suggesting that King James's have a dual site

- King James to adopt a dual site/purpose academy solution.
- seems that the proposals are a knee jerk reaction. I do not know what other options have been explored, for example use of the school site/facilities by King James.

Representations state that Newsome High School was judged by Ofsted to be 'inadequate'

- It sounds like you plan for all kids currently in the High School to get places at Newsome and that this covers the council's obligation to provide places. It also appears to be a plan to make Newsome more resilient, as that school has suffered falling numbers due to poor results and reputation causing parents to send their kids elsewhere (similar to ACS).
- school that has space is a school that has exactly the same Ofsted rating as Almondbury community school (Newsome high school).

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- No other options have been considered and that the only high school with capacity for places at this time is Newsome High School, which is also rated inadequate by Ofsted and that parents/children have been offered no other choice.
- I understand there is a great push for pupils to attend Newsome High School however it seems very strange to move pupils from one school in special measures to another school in special measures

Representations state that the proposal will not support quality of teaching.

- It is my view that the pupils currently attending the school simply cannot get the same quality of education and support that they receive in any other setting.
- It is my view that the pupils currently attending the school simply cannot get the same quality of education and support that they receive in any other setting.
- The school has a unique atmosphere and ethos, the like of which I have not seen anywhere else, despite teaching in, volunteering in and offering classes in other local schools. In fact the school motto "Together We Achieve" has never been more embedded in a school's ethos. The staff, pupils and parents pull together and the support for individuals - whether a pupil with additional needs or a member of staff having a bad day - is second to none
- With the current pace of decision making, there will be several year groups that are effectively left with no consistent teaching provision for key stages of their learning as there are no spaces in nearby schools.
- Year 11 pupils (current Year 10) would remain on the Fernside Avenue site to finish their GCSE courses with their GCSE course staff wherever possible
- What does "wherever possible" mean? If you have teachers left to teach that subject or a different supply teachers coming throughout the year.
- Small wonder that several have seen jobs advertised at other schools and are now leaving this leaves the school in another difficult position, which plays straight into the council's hands - potentially not enough specialist staff to populate the timetable.
- Can you guarantee that the replacement teachers that will be appointed will be of a high calibre will the local Further Education collage take into account the disruption of the year at ACS suffered by pupils in Year 10 and even more disruption next year in year 11?
- If you have teachers left to teach that subject or a different supply teachers coming throughout the year.

Representation state that if the proposal is agreed then would take their child out of the school and home educate their child.

- My only option IF the secondary school closes is to home school my children, together in a safe environment.

Representations state that the proposal is short sighted and places will be needed in the future.

- As proved by the wrong policy over the Junior School. It may well be that in only a few years that the Almondbury High School (Community School) will be needed again.
- There is a massive building programme planned in the nearby areas and this will result in a great increase in demand for school places; where will these children go?
- It also leaves the area short of 150 places as it relies on some parents sending their kids to schools outside the area. What if they didn't? While parents are favouring Honley and Shelley schools because of their better results, if KJS was again the best performing that parents want to get their kids to, and if Newsome stop the leak of kids from its own PAA, then there would not be enough school places. Is this right.
- I can appreciate that pupil numbers across Kirklees have fallen and are predicted to continue to fall, this proposal is moving far too quickly for the existing pupils in the school.

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- Currently numbers are low but again this could be remedied if the council focussed on the many positive aspects of the school; there are departments which are very good and have received national awards to mark their success. When Rawthorpe HS was in a similar position it restructured and became the Netherhall Learning Campus; again good leadership and management played a vital role in its improvement.
- Short term benefit against a back drop of housing expansion across Kirklees in line with recently announced LDF.
- It looks like that if 120 high school places are taken from this area of Kirklees there could be a shortage in the future. The authority is unable to prove it can provide enough places, on the information provided, unless the buildings in Almondbury are utilized
- The proposal shows that the senior schools are; South and east and Kirkheaton: - Almondbury, King James(KJ) and Netherhall South West: Newsome Planned entry(s) for yr 7 2019/20 are Almondbury 120,KJ 186, Netherhall 131, Newsome 183, Tota 620. You have also stated that the plans include using KJ but quite rightly state that KJ is not subject to control of Local Authority. If, as planned, the last intake of yr 7 to ACS will be 2019/2020 then the total available places will change. With an average of 160 pupils accessing school places outside the area section 2 of the proposal this shows a deficit in 2021, see figures above assuming that KJ agree to become involved and that their plans for further capacity are agreed. If king James do not agree the deficit of places is between 352 and 244.
- The PAN figure for ACS secondary provision is misleading and distorts the actual picture as they no longer admit the children who fed into the school from All Hallows in KS2 as they continue at All Hallows until the age of 11 years the true figure that should be relied upon is 50 children less than the 120 quoted. Homes in Lepton/Fenay Bridge area 1050 Means an additional average 21 secondary pupils per year group attending King James School, plus 12 secondary pupils per year group from the developments in Kirkheaton. There will be 33 additional primary places required, from the homes in Lelton or year grouo and 18 primary places per year grouo for Kirkheaton, plus additional places for secondary pupils from the development off bank end Lane, Almondbury at both primary and secondary. Additionally houses are now being planned to be built in Huddersfield town centre, which forms part of the Newsome Ward, so presumably any children living in these planned homes will be living in the catchment for Newsome Secondary, so I therefore question whether there will be sufficient places in the future as you are currently predicting!
- I do not believe the Council has proved this is the case and I understand in any event that despite the department's best efforts, 72 children are being admitted to ACS September 2019. This is the current number of children unable to find school places elsewhere. In the future while a decline in pupil numbers is predicted as I have already mentioned in my earlier email there is only one year when the figure dip

Representation states that the proposal does not give information about school curriculum.

- May I ask what the council propose to do about the fact that pupils learn Spanish from year 3 in a very popular and high attaining subject, yet those pupils are to be sent to Newsome High School where Spanish is not taught?

Representation states that the proposal to change the catchment area is not clear.

- I'm also concerned about the changing of the priority admission area - again there are no clear assurances that King James school have been accepting of this change to assure Almondbury residents that their children will be able to attend school within their village as they can right now

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OFFICER COMMENT:

It is important to acknowledge the praise and passion parents have for Almondbury Community School and its staff, revealed through responses to the non-statutory consultation and in the representation period. However, the school remains in a difficult position regarding the number of pupils in the secondary stage and the impact this has on viability and quality of the education offer due to the limitations of only being able to offer a very narrow curriculum choice. The recent Ofsted judgement of Special Measures means the school is eligible for intervention, and the usual course of action is by becoming an Academy, sponsored by a Multi Academy Trust. For Almondbury Community School this is not possible under the current form of the school, due to viability and lack of foreseeable opportunities for this position to change. By making a change to the upper age range, and removing the secondary phase of the school would enable the primary phase to become a sponsored academy, thereby retaining provision locally. The current circumstances described are outside the control of the council and there remain very limited options.

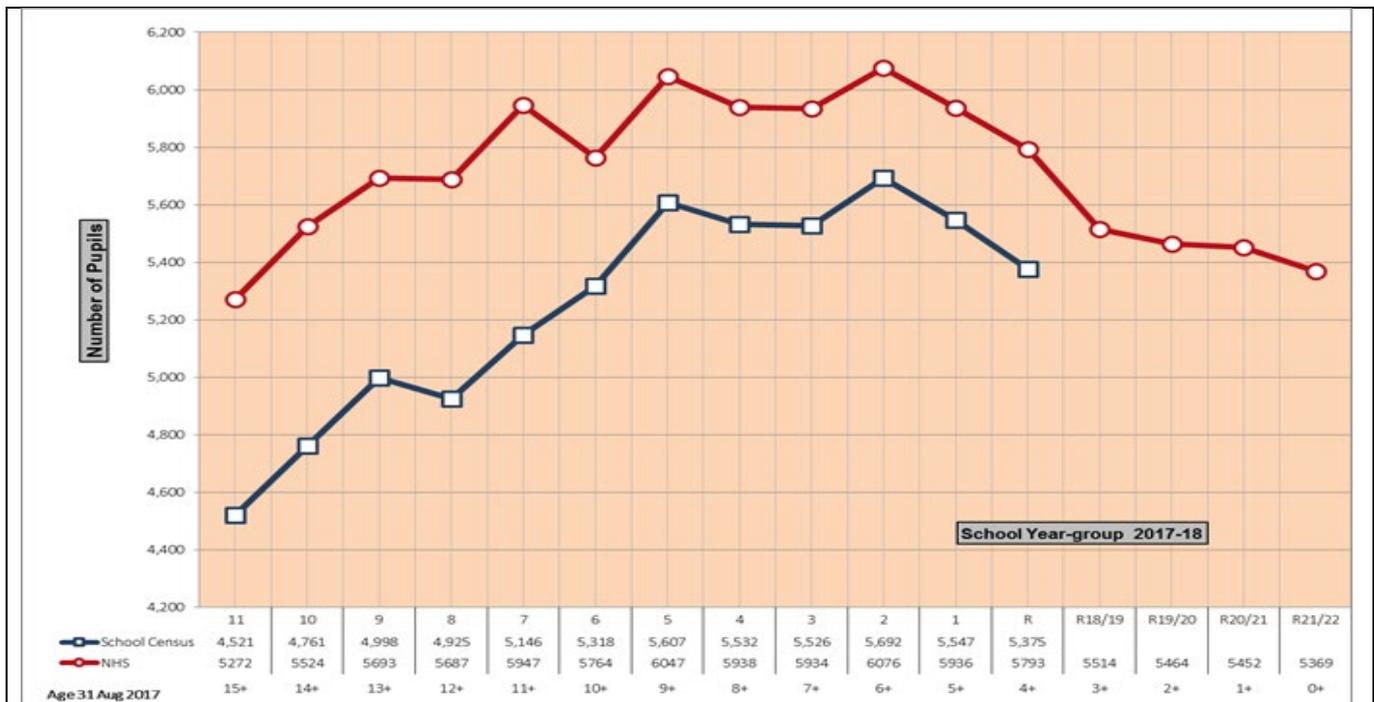
The limited breadth of the curriculum which can be offered because of the current pupil numbers in the secondary stage at Almondbury Community School is unfair to the children. It adversely affects their performance and their pathways and future opportunity. This situation therefore does not appropriately support educational outcomes and diversity of provision which can be offered by other local schools now and into the future.

Intensive support and improvement activity is already being provided to Almondbury Community School to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for existing pupils in these challenging circumstances. Experienced school leadership has been brokered and an Interim Executive Board is governing the school. For the pupils currently on roll it is imperative that this would continue to be available to ensure the planning for transition is appropriately resourced.

Questions have been raised through representations about the sufficiency of secondary school places evidence. One illustration which was included discounted all 186 places per year group being offered currently by King James's School for which there is no reasonable rationale. Other representations highlighted the planned house building in the Kirklees Local Plan. Whilst significant house building is expected this will be over a the 15 year period of the Local Plan and will therefore provide no more than gradual impact on the viability challenges experienced by Almondbury Community School and the evidence presented associated with sufficiency of school places. A significant factor is the evidence of a declining population and this extends beyond the modelling below to 2026. Although there are geographical variations, house building will help to counter the decline in child population rather than present a challenge to the sufficiency of places. There is a widespread decline in the primary phase and future reception cohorts which will form future secondary school cohorts within the local plan period as illustrated in the following graph:

Year Group Numbers 2017-18 – NHS Data and Kirklees School Pupil Census

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Sources: NHS GP registration data February 2018 - Kirklees Public Health

Kirklees School Census January 2018 – Information Unit, Directorate of Children’s Services

The above graph also illustrates a difference between child population and the number of mainstream school places accessed (school census). This is due to a number of factors including those accessing education in non-mainstream provision, private schools and those elective home educated. For Huddersfield South and East alone this represents on average 39 secondary phase pupils per year. This provides an additional cushion to modelling provided below and the basic need for school places.

Beyond Huddersfield South & East and South West there is also evidence of population decline in other areas where many parents living in the Huddersfield South & East and South West currently preference a place such as Holme Valley, Honley and Meltham. Here, Year 7 cohorts drop from an average of 457 in 2019 and 2018 to an average of 337 in 2025 and 2026. This will provide an increased opportunity for parents to secure a place in popular secondary schools in these areas.

Ultimately this proposal does not restrict the opportunity to expand places in the future in good quality viable schools to continue to ensure there are sufficient places should this be needed.

It is recognised that transitional arrangements will need a different approach, with the creation of some additional temporary places by working in partnership with other local schools. The use of the Almondbury Community School Key Stage 3 and 4 building is likely to continue for a period of time to support these temporary arrangements. This will help to guarantee that no pupil is left without a school place.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

This proposal is 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

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- Provide a breadth of curriculum offer that enables young people to have access to the widest opportunities to fulfil their aspirations and ambitions
- Be financially viable and therefore have future security
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Strengthen community cohesion
- Use sustainable travel and transport for school

Sufficient places

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;

Planning Area	School Name	Y7 PAN 2019/20 by school
Huddersfield South & East and Kirkheaton	Almondbury Community School	120
	King James's School	186
	Netherhall Learning Campus High School	131
	Total	437
Huddersfield South West	Newsome High School and Sports College	183
	Total (Newsome only)	183
Overall number of places available each year group across both planning areas		620

PAN – Planned Admission Number

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
Planning area													
Huddersfield South East and Kirkheaton	473	436	490	501	492	519	478	499	488	554	463	450	467
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 these secondary planning areas, a significant number of children are accessing school places outside the area where they live;

- 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. Given the size of schools in surrounding areas, future child population cohorts and longstanding patterns of parental choice this position is not expected to change significantly.

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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 summary, approval of this proposal would result in 500 secondary places being offered in these planning areas. With on average 160 pupils accessing school places outside the area there would be sufficient places to accommodate the expected future population cohorts which average 622 per year between 2020 and 2026 resulting in an average of 38 surplus places per year.

This proposal is not dependent upon the creation of additional places at other schools either within or beyond the planning area. The Local Authority is of the view that if the proposal is implemented it will remain able to meet its duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for secondary education in the area without the need to create extra places.

The Local Authority is working with local secondary schools to explore the opportunity for a small increase in places to enable greater parental choice and meet any future demand resulting from new housing developments.

Under transitional arrangements for existing pupils from September 2020, additional transitional places would be made available working in partnership with other local schools. The use of the Almondbury Community School Key Stage 3 and 4 building is likely to continue for a period of time to support these temporary arrangements. This will help to guarantee that no pupil is left without a school place.

Education Standards

To offer breadth at Key Stage 4 a school needs a combination of enough pupils, and a range of teachers able to teach the specialisms.

Most small schools will be able to offer the Ebacc (English, mathematics, science, Modern Foreign Languages and history/geography) because these subjects are taught at Key Stage 3 and therefore there it is possible for the subjects to be taught by specialist staff.

Other subjects such as art, music, dance, design technology are not large subjects at KS3 and can also be quite specialist and therefore less likely to feature in the KS4 offer.

The subjects that are just at KS4 are for the same reason unlikely to be offered, such as, business, health and social care, sociology, graphics, psychology, law and BTECs in a range of subjects etc.

It is widely accepted that to be able to run a reasonable KS4 offer there would need to be around 120 pupils in a year group at KS4.

At ACS this academic year there were 50 pupils in Y11. This results in ACS offering just the Ebacc and one or two set options at KS4, where larger schools are in a position to offer more options from a much larger pool of subjects to pupils.

The current ACS model is unaffordable and unfair to the children. It adversely affects their performance and their pathways and future opportunity. This is not our aspiration for our young people.

The school is operating at less than 50% full, and so this impacts upon the amount of funding that is generated.

Across the wider Huddersfield South West and South East area there are more places available than there are young people. Even when more houses are built, which has been considered in the context of the local plan, there will still be far more places than will be

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needed. For Almondbury Community School, this is its single biggest challenge. Parents who live in the school's catchment area are able to preference and get a place at other schools and this is what has been happening for a number of years.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ISSUES

The decision-maker must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) , which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- *eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;*
- *advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it: and*
- *foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.*

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Representation state that the proposal will disadvantage SEN pupils

- The school has helped loads of students who suffer with learning disabilities and anxiety
- My daughter started going to this school 3 months ago and the school has been excellent at accommodating her with her ADHD. Most schools avoid children with these sort of issues to look better on statistics so there are very few schools that can help give the help required to allow all children to learn.
- My child is smart and thriving within the school reaching targets and has amazing friendship circle! As a child of dual heritage she has never faced any form of racism or attacks!

OFFICER COMMENT:

It is acknowledged that a number of parents have shared positive experiences of the support provided by Almondbury Community School for children with a range of additional needs through the consultation and representation periods.

The Council is committed to supporting children and their families who have additional needs. Personalised support will be made available, provided by appropriately experienced staff, during a transition period to ensure the needs of pupils continue to be met through transition.

Additional support for the emotional wellbeing of pupils has emerged as a theme in the responses to the consultation and the representation stage. All staff at Almondbury Community School have been trained to be vigilant for any causes for concern around safeguarding or emotional well-being. There are wider pastoral support systems in place to ensure pupils receive the support they need including, one to one conversations and advice, alternative arrangements for unstructured time, access to 'time out' as needed, signposting to external support from agencies and services. Parents are contacted and included in the support for the pupil as appropriate. The LA is providing additional support to the school where it is needed on an individual basis.

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The council has also listened to the feedback from parents about communication and as a result is now working with the school to text information to parents and signposting them to the school and/or council website rather than sending letters home with pupils.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

The LA have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and continue to review this.

A revised EIA (to be published prior to a final decision) will include the following:

It is intended that this proposal would create more equality of opportunity. The current limited breadth of the curriculum which can be offered because of the pupil numbers in the secondary stage at Almondbury Community School is unfair to the children. It adversely affects their performance and their pathways and future opportunity. This situation therefore does not appropriately support educational outcomes and diversity of provision which can be offered by other local school now and into the future

Parents expressed concerns about the impact of uncertainty and transition including the current emotional wellbeing of a number of pupils. The LA have therefore confirmed the support mechanisms available to pupils from the school and agreed to provide additional support where required on an individual basis

Intensive support is already being provided to Almondbury Community School to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for pupils in these challenging circumstances. It is expected that intensive support will continue to be available to support existing pupils and the schools who may provide support for them during a transitional period.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will need specific support with transitional arrangements. Pupils (currently 6 in year 6 to 10) in the secondary phase of the school who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will receive personalised support identified in a similar way to the annual review process as required. To mitigate negative impact the LA will work with families with EHCP plans to carefully plan transition.

Subject to approval of the proposals, further time would be taken to carefully plan any transition, working with parents, pupils and other local schools. Personalised support will be available where needed. A specific focus will be specialist support for children with additional needs to ensure successful transition (54 children in years 6 to 10 receive some form of SEND support)

A negative impact on some staff cannot be ruled out. There will need to be ongoing discussions to mitigate the impact on individual Staff in the secondary phase. Human Resources staff would need to work with school leaders at the school regarding any revision to structures should they be required. Following this, consultation would need to be held with staff and recognised Trade Unions. The Council would support staff wellbeing and work alongside staff, trade unions and other schools to look at how to access other opportunities. If the proposals are approved, other schools in the area will be increasing their pupil numbers and would need additional staff

COMMUNITY COHESION

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Schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from, and about each other; by encouraging through their teaching, an understanding of, and respect for, other cultures, faiths and communities. When considering a proposal, the decision-maker must consider its impact on community cohesion. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the community served by the school and the views of different groups within the community.

REPRESENTATIONS:

Representations state that the proposal will have a negative impact on the Almondbury Community

- Almondbury is a village which needs a community school which serves as a hub for the whole community; closing it and sending pupils to schools outside will effectively fracture the already fragile community.
- This is the biggest building in Almondbury.
- Are you aware of the impact this is having on the local community?
- I am also very concerned at the damage these proposals are causing to the community
- If the school closes it will have a massive negative effect on not just the children who go there but also the community as a whole. You will be ripping the heart out of the village and the effects of this can only have catastrophic consequences for the poor children it effects and the wider community
- Why should a large village like Almondbury face all these closures? Do the people proposing them not realise that they are destroying the heritage of the village: This is what has been closed or is under threat. Almondbury Junior School, Almondbury High (Community) School, 2 public houses, facilities at Southfield Road park - i.e. tennis courts and crazy golf. Almondbury Library has closed recently and the nearby Tolson Museum is under threat. The government is saying that austerity is nearing an end, so stop these closures.
- Staff and pupils may come and go, but there is nowhere in Huddersfield that has the family atmosphere of this school and by breaking this up, you are failing the children of Huddersfield.
- This is a School at the heart of the Community
- impact of changes upon the future use of the site and options for use of the site/ buildings.
- What will happen to the school site is also of concern
- The KS1/2 provision will continue on the Greenside site but that leaves a rather large building unoccupied in the village. It would be a waste of resources not to use it so what are the plans for it as well as for the assets within it eg the library books and other equipment? There is a sports centre on the site which was shared with the local community which would also be lost once the school closes. Additionally the swimming pool is used by other schools and providers for swimming lessons. If the school is closed who will open and close up this site securely for the swimming pool or will it too close? This would be a loss to the community. There is a risk of it just being opened for swimming that as no-one else is on site you will get vandals etc entering the site.
- It's a fantastic site, great playing fields, great gym and swimming facilities that other members of the community also enjoy the use of. Plus it's the local school and our children get to walk there and interact with their friends- that's what it's all about- gaining that independence and confidence within the confines of what's local, safe and familiar.
- By removing the High school age range, the buildings would only be housing the Junior school age range. These buildings would be too big for just the Junior school so how long before they are moved into smaller premises. This would then leave the buildings empty and the site unused.
- concerns about the proposed 3-11 school. It appears that the plan is to use the Greenside Centre in its current form. I do not believe that the building is currently adequate for the

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pupil numbers and year groups involved, and I have not seen any mention of capital expenditure to address this. I am not sure that there has been any consideration of the issues of accommodating the older learners in a building designed for only those up to key stage one.

Representation state that increase at King James's school would have an impact on traffic and crime in the area.

concerns about student safety as well as impact at several levels on the community immediately surrounding school with the proposed increased student intake at King James School proposed under your options document.

OFFICER COMMENT:

The proposal is not to close the school, it is to lower the age range of the school so that a primary school continues to be available within the community. There is another high school in Almondbury, King James' School. Beyond the provision of a primary school there have been no decisions about the future use of the remaining site and buildings. It is however recognised importance of the swimming and sports facilities which exist on site.

Opportunities to support community cohesion will continue to be considered in the planning for transition.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

The proposed prescribed alteration would retain a primary school in Almondbury.

If the proposals are agreed, transitional support would be an important element to limit any risk with cohesion. As implementation is planned for September 2020, there is sufficient time to work with families and other schools to carefully plan for transition. This would involve a high level of personalised support for families. In response to parent's views through consultation periods and conversations with local schools, any pupil movement will, wherever possible, be carefully planned and will be for groups of pupils. This would support the retention of friendship and wider support groups to help transition and integration.

Schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from and about each other. In the future there are positive opportunities for local secondary schools to work together for the Almondbury Community.

TRAVEL AND ACCESSIBILITY

Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.

A proposal should also be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Representation state the proposal would have a negative impact on travel.

- Newsome School is over 2 miles away. Even further for those in the village. It is too far to

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walk to/from every day, not a very safe route, and there are no direct buses. While I drive (many don't), I also work full time. Newsome School is a 20 minute diversion from my commute and no-one to pick her up after school.

- Simple questions have not been answered for example: school bus provision from Almondbury to Newsome so parents and pupils are not assured of either pupil safety or forward planning.
- Even if I could consider Newsome High School, right now I just can't get her to the school in a morning or collect her when school finishes which rules this forced choice out for me!
- If the secondary phase of the school is to shut i have no way of getting 2 children to 2 different schools in 2 different parts of Huddersfield at the same time , i don't drive either so this would make things very difficult for our family, the fact that our schools cover all ages makes a massive difference to families with more than 1 child , as they can be collected and dropped off in the same place.
- especially as you deem it appropriate for children to travel up to 3 miles and 2 buses to attend a secondary school.
- The council has not shown how it can transport pupils to the other schools in the area if they cannot attend ACS
- I also dont drive so I'd have no way to get my boys to school as i cant really trust them to get there on their own especially if king James is full and Newsome is too far away.
- I find it very unreasonable to close the school as the staff there are amazing and without the school we would struggle to find one that is as local to us as ACS. Most local schools are at capacity except newsome which to me is not an option as its 3.3 miles from our location. I would not want my daughter travelling this distance twice a day by herself.
- We are strongly opposed to the closure of Almondbury Community School on the grounds of increased school related traffic in Sharp Lane (where we reside); more pupils at King James' will of course, mean more 'school run traffic' which is already a safety issue. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious road traffic collision. As residents of Sharp Lane for over 25yrs we have seen a huge increase in school run traffic, especially from 08:15 to 08:45hrs (it would appear children no longer walk to school?!). There is a constant stream of cars passing our home, many travelling far faster than the (supposed) 30mph. Along with this, there are regular 'near misses' as vehicles attempt to exit the junction of Arkenley Lane to Sharp Lane which has very limited visibility for drivers; it is best described as a blind junction. The 'noise nuisance' aspect of this convoy of traffic is most unpleasant, and should not be ignored. We urge you to take the time to visit Sharp Lane at 'peak school run times' to experience this issue, and then appreciate why we are wholly opposed to the closure of Almondbury Community School.
- LA sets out their argument of educational standards except with their suggestion for using Newsome High school. This is classified by Ofsted as requires improvement.
- What health & safety review and impact analysis has been done with regards to the infrastructure and community/ residents of St Helens Gate, St Helens Fold, Dark Lane, St James Court, Birks Lane, Arkenley Lane, Sharp Lane, Grasscroft and Fenay Lane (i.e. all roads that will be affected) if a further 150+ students from Almondbury are put on roll at KJS? St Helens Gate is seriously overloaded at school times. Dark Lane does not have a footpath and the footpath to and from Grasscroft is crumbling and not maintained. What actions do the council propose to stop children being injured on their way to KJS? What actions will the council and the police take about the dangerous parking at the top of St Helen's Gate to ensure safety of drivers and pedestrians as there will be increased 'traffic' as result of these proposals. Due to the significant impact of the proposal with specific regard to transfer of students to King James School on the infrastructure and community/ residents around the school (St Helens Gate, St Helens Fold, Dark Lane, St James Court, Birks Lane, Arkenley Lane, Sharp Lane, Grasscroft and Fenay Lane (i.e. all roads that will be affected))

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- The tool used in the Local Plan to assess sufficient places at schools was based on distance to nearest school, taking the spare places at Newsome into account, this then defeats the assessment used in the Local Plan and makes a total nonsense of the Local Plan! Some children in the Almondbury area are no doubt unable to travel to Newsome School by car, it is too far to walk, they will therefore have to resort to catching two buses each way to school.
- I would urge the council to encourage KJS to welcome the change to its PAA. In practice many local Almondbury children do attend KJS already. Children living within the proposed PAA will tend to walk to school - there isn't an environmental cost of them being driven to other schools further away or using buses.
- I have 3 children in acs from September 2019 the school is in walking distance from home I know my children will be safe getting to school and back if this school stays open.
- The increase in danger to student due to increased journey times. Many students will face lengthy journey times, on foot to alternative schools. Transport links to the alternatives offered are inadequate.

OFFICER COMMENT:

The proposed prescribed alteration would retain a primary school in Almondbury and secondary provision within a reasonable distance.

A distance of up to three miles is normally considered to be a reasonable distance for a secondary school place. If the proposal is agreed there will remain one or more school(s) within this distance for all families living in the current secondary school catchment area of Almondbury Community School.

For illustration purposes, the distance from the current Almondbury Community School site to King James' School is approximately 0.6 miles, to Netherhall Learning Campus is approximately 1.2 miles and to Newsome High School is approximately 2.2 miles.

Kirklees Council has a school transport policy which provides a free bus pass to pupils where their nearest school with a place is more than 3 miles from their home address. The distance is reduced to 2 miles for families with a low income.

Further support will be considered during the detailed planning for transition where required to meet the specific need of a family.

This proposal is not dependent upon the expansion of places in other local school other than those needed for transitional arrangement. The continued use of the Almondbury Community School site is likely to continue for a period of time to support these temporary arrangements. This will help to guarantee that no pupil is left without a school place.

Significant building work to expand a school would be subject to other decision making processes including a formal planning process.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

The proposal is planned to be implemented on 1st September 2020. On this date the secondary phase would no longer exist at Almondbury Community School. Therefore from 31st August 2020 all pupils (Y7 to Y10) would transfer from the roll of Almondbury Community School to another local secondary school (Y8-11).

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- **Year 11** pupils (current Year 10) would remain on the Fernside Avenue site to finish their GCSE courses with their GCSE course staff wherever possible.
- **Year 10** pupils (current Year 9) would be given the opportunity to express a preference for transfer to another school with places. Pupils would be able to remain on the Fernside Avenue site for the academic year to July 2020, during which transition would be carefully planned for them to finish their GCSE courses at another local school.
- **Year 9** pupils (current Year 8) would be given the opportunity to express a preference for transfer to another school with places. Pupils would be able to remain on the Fernside Avenue site for the academic year to July 2020, during which transition would be carefully planned for them to finish their Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 studies at another local school.
- **Year 8** pupils (current Year 7) would be given the opportunity to express a preference for transfer to another school with places. Pupils would be able to remain on the Fernside Avenue site for the academic year to July 2020, during which transition would be carefully planned for them to finish their Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 studies at another local school.
- There would be an admission of **11 year old (Year 7)** pupils to Almondbury Community School –. Pupils would be able to remain on the Fernside Avenue site for the academic year to July 2020, during which transition would be carefully planned for them to consolidate their Year 7 learning and finish their Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 studies at another local school.

Wherever possible, displaced pupils would be encouraged to walk or cycle to the alternative schools. Personalised planning for transition will explore options with families to take account of individual circumstances.

FUNDING

*The decision-maker should be satisfied that any necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. Trustees of the school, diocese or relevant diocesan board) have given their agreement. A proposal **cannot** be approved conditionally upon funding being made available.*

Where proposers are relying on the department as the source of capital funding, there can be no assumption that the approval of a proposal will trigger the release of capital funds from the department, unless the department has previously confirmed in writing that such resources will be available: nor can any allocation “in principle” be increased. In such circumstances the proposal should be rejected, or consideration deferred until it is clear that the capital necessary to implement the proposal will be provided.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Representation stated that proposal did not give information about finances

- Due diligence, which should have considered the financial implications involved with the closure of ACS, had not been done, or if it had, it was not made available at the meeting. The only consideration raised repeatedly at the meeting, was how much it would cost to continue with the school
- As I am lead to believe it seems to be a financial must in Kirklees eyes to close the secondary phase at ACS but the cost of the children's education and wellbeing doesn't seem to come into account

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- It is a relatively short time since considerable money was invested in reorganising the school and it has simply not been given the opportunity or time to grow and develop into a thriving successful establishment. There are excellent facilities at ACS and it is shameful that councillors can choose to ignore the many positives and focus only on the negatives.
- The council will still be paying the contract on the school buildings for the next 15 years no matter what happens with this decision. The council has been unable to supply the statistics, to the people who have asked for them, to prove their financial case. Given the time restrictions the council has been unable to provide the cost of building improvements to carry out the closure plan and demonstrate a cost/benefit analysis for the council
- Key Decision Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250 K or more or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards answer yes Have the council not a more exact figure or decide if it is +£250K or -£250K?
- Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved This is the section where the LA has FAILED to answer. There is no explanation of how the costs will be met, what long-term value there is: Cabinet meeting dated 29th May agenda 9 stated that it was likely to result in spending or saving £250K or more but no mention on the current PFI for the school
- I understand that the council are paying about £650,000 a year to the management company and there is 15 or so years to run on the PPP contract.(£650k x 15 = £9.75million). How will you fill that gap? However it also seems that according to information supplied at the time of the proposed extension to All Hallows that the cost would only be £3m to get out of the PFI contract. What is the actual cost?
- The latest proposal to remove the High school age range from the site seems outrageous. Not only does it undo all the hard work already carried out but it also makes a mockery of the previous investment such a short time ago. Agree to such a huge investment knowing full well that it would all change again a few years later. This is a waste of public funds at a time when councils are making more and more cuts to services.
- I do not think the full costs associated with this proposal have been fully made clear, especially in regard to the closure of the senior years, outstanding PFI payments and the additional cost to be incurred at the alternative schools

Representations questioned funding for Staffing.

- As part of the transition mentioned in the proposal are the council planning to allow teachers from Netherhall, Newsome and KJ to use ACS to teach pupils. If so will the funding for the pupils be paid to Netherhall, Newsome and KJ. This will result in a greater deficit. On the question of finance the cabinet meeting 19th March (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) considered the following agenda items which were signed by the Strategic Director, Service Director (Finance) and Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning.

Representation stated that that proposal does not take into account extra costs.

- Nothing in the proposal covered the potential extra costs to be covered by parents in extra uniform costs, travel costs.

OFFICER COMMENT:

Schools are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant by a national funding formula, predominantly driven by pupil numbers. There is very limited flexibility to change this locally.

As a result Almondbury Community School is currently operating with a deficit budget due to

Appendix 7 - Factors to be considered in decision making

low pupil numbers. At the end of the financial year (18/19) the school had a deficit budget of around half a million pounds. Doing nothing, would see this deficit continue to increase with projected pupil numbers not anticipated to increase.

Short-term contingency funding can be made available from the Dedicated Schools Grant and re-organisation budgets to support the transitional arrangements associated with the proposals. The exact cost of transitional arrangements cannot be accurately determined due to the many variables but council is committed to providing support for the best possible educational outcomes for the existing pupils of Almondbury Community School. The school funding formula will ensure that the funding follows the children however additional revenue costs may include:

- Additional staffing costs to manage reducing numbers of pupil
- Additional staffing costs to support pupils settle into a new school
- Additional leadership and other resources to plan for and manage transition
- Additional resources to engage with parents to ensure they are involved in planning transition and additional support for their family circumstances where appropriate
- Support with the cost of uniforms where a change of school occurs in a planned way
- After taking account of creative opportunities for staff, any required severance costs
- Additional building costs

In this context it is important to consider the requirement for a relatively short-term investment in highly supportive transitional arrangements alongside the alternative option of the indefinite inability to return a balanced budget under the current structure of Almondbury Community School. Without additional pupils attending the school, not enough funding is generated to cover the costs of being able to provide the current limited curriculum. Therefore if the current deficit was to continue over a 4 year period for example it would be value for money to invest £2m in transitional arrangements.

The cost associated with the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) on the Almondbury Community School site is part of a contract of 19 school in Kirklees which runs until 2033. There is a cost to all schools associated with their building which includes heat, light, cleaning and other planned and reactive maintenance cost. Schools with PFI sites contribute to their share of the PFI contract which includes many of the building costs paid separately by other schools. The contract payment also includes an element of borrowing costs relating to the original PFI capital investment, lifecycle costs required to maintain the asset, and insurance. Subject to the proposal, consolidation in the KS1 building and a future Academy conversion an appropriate proportion of the PFI contract cost will be recalculated and passed to Almondbury Community School as a primary academy. There are options relating to the remaining parts of the contract costs associated with the secondary school and KS2 buildings which will be the subject of future decision making for the council. These could include:

- continued contributions to the cost of the contract while the secondary phase remains operational
- contribution to the cost of the contract by other building users where applicable and/or an alternative whole building custodian (subject to an alternative use being agreed)
- 'moth balling' sections of the building in order to significantly reduce contract costs associated with facilities management services.

The 2018/19 annual charges paid under the PFI are as follows:

- Almondbury High - £1,030,000
- Greenside I & N - £248,726

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The estimated capital debt outstanding for the ACS site is £2.3M

Further details will be made available to aid decision makers

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

The annual Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation that the Council receives from Government can only be spent on education and would fund the recurrent revenue implications of the changes being proposed.

The proposals are intended to bring long-term sustainability of provision for primary-age children in the area traditionally served by Almondbury Community School (ACS) and for other primary and secondary schools in Almondbury and the wider Huddersfield South East / South West planning areas.

There would also be a range of one-off revenue costs associated with delivering the proposed changes to provision. Existing DSG-funded budgets would be deployed first to absorb the revenue costs insofar as is possible but it is anticipated that some input from the Council would be required.

The existing buildings that house ACS are part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract. No decision has been made about the future use of the whole site. Should the proposals go ahead, ACS would consolidate in the Key Stage 1 building retaining an appropriate proportion of the PFI costs for the facilities in its use.

The future of the Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 school building would be considered after a final decision is made. The building would be required for at least one academic year. However, it is recognised that the site, including the pool facility, is important to the community and there are options that would be considered for alternative educational use. The PFI contract is ultimately a Council liability but the amount of liability is dependent upon decisions about its use in the future when it is no longer required for the current pupils of the school.

Should the proposals go ahead, some modest capital investment would be required to the Key Stage 1 building to ensure it is fit for purpose as a primary school, for example, ensuring personal hygiene facilities were age appropriate. This would be met using Council resources

RIGHTS OF APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION

The following bodies may appeal to the Schools Adjudicator against a decision made by the LA decision-makers, within four weeks of the decision being made:

- *The local Church of England diocese;*
- *The local Roman Catholic diocese; and*
- *The governors and trustees of a foundation, foundation special or voluntary school that is subjected to the proposal.*

On receipt of any appeal, a LA decision-maker must then send the proposal, representations received and the reasons for their decision to the Schools Adjudicator within one week of receipt. There is no right of appeal on determinations made by the Schools Adjudicator.

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

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IMPLEMENTATION

The proposer must implement a proposal in the form that it was approved, taking into account any modification made by the decision-maker

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

MODIFICATION POST DETERMINATION

Proposers can seek modifications from the decision-maker before the approved implementation date. However, proposals cannot be modified to the extent that new proposals are substituted for those that have been published.

Details of the modification must be published on the website where the original proposal were published.

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

REVOCAION OF PROPOSALS

If the proposer no longer wants to implement an approved proposal, they must publish a revocation proposal to be relieved of the duty to implement, as set out in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations.

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Where a LA is required to provide a site for a foundation, foundation special or voluntary controlled school, the LA must;

- Transfer their interest in the site and in any buildings in on the site which are to form part of the school's premises to the trustees of the school, to be held by them on trust for the purposes of the school: or*
- If the school has no trustees, to the GB, to be held by the body for the purposes of the school.*

In the case of a dispute as to the person to whom the LA is required to make the transfer, the adjudicator will make a decision.

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS

Where a LA is required to provide a site for a voluntary aided school, they must transfer their interest in the land to the trustees of the school, and must pay the reasonable costs to the GB in connection with the transfer.

REPRESENTATIONS:

OFFICER COMMENT:

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RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

SCHOOL PREMISES AND PLAYING FIELDS

Under the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012, all schools maintained by local authorities 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.

REPRESENTATIONS: none

OFFICER COMMENT: n/a

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSALS:

Subject to the proposal, consolidation in the existing KS1 building and a future Academy conversion, an appropriate proportion of school premises and playing fields will form part of the required long term lease to the appointed Multi Academy Trust for Almondbury Community School as a primary academy. This will ensure that suitable outdoor space is available in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely.