

CONSULTATION ON RELOCATION & EXPANSION OF BROADWAY EAST FIRST SCHOOL – SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK TO STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Introduction and Context

The demand for school places across Newcastle has been growing rapidly and will continue to do so (linked with a general increase in school age children across the city and growth from existing and planned housing developments). There has been significant growth in Gosforth in particular, including Newcastle Great Park, which also has very popular schools. Where school places do arise, they are filled very quickly.

The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to provide enough good school places for the children of the city and, as such, has been working with schools and trusts across Gosforth to create additional places where possible. Additional school places can be created by expanding existing schools on their existing or new sites or by establishing new academies through the free schools programme. In recent years, places have already been increased in three first schools and one middle school in recent years to meet growing demand.

The plans for further housing growth at Newcastle Great Park include proposals for new school buildings to meet the need for additional places. These schools will be part of the Gosforth Schools' planning area and the three tier provision. A free school bid by Gosforth Academy, with conditional support from Newcastle City Council, to establish a new school for 9-16 year olds in Newcastle Great Park, was given approval by the DfE in February 2016 to proceed to the "pre-opening stage" and has a proposed opening date of September 2020. Gosforth Schools' Trust and Newcastle City Council agreed that the preferred solution to create additional first school places was to expand existing first schools and to consider relocating one of the first schools to achieve this.

Proposal

Following discussion with a number of schools, the Governing Body of Broadway East First School agreed to consult on the proposal to relocate the school to Newcastle Great Park, to enable it to expand to meet the need for more school places. The final decision on the expansion and related relocation must be made by the Local Authority following the statutory process laid out in the relevant School Organisation regulations and statutory guidance for making "prescribed alterations" to maintained schools.

The proposal is to relocate Broadway East First School (BEFS) to an identified site on Newcastle Great Park, and to expand the school from an intake of 45 to 90 pupils – an increase in total capacity from 225 pupils to 450 pupils. The relocation would be to a newly built school in September 2020, with a phased increase in pupil numbers (to be determined, in line with agreed local needs).

Below is a summary of the stakeholder consultation (and first part of the statutory process) undertaken by BEFS Governing Body, supported by Gosforth Schools' Trust and Newcastle City Council.

Consultation Timeline

- A four-week consultation period commenced on 12th June 2017 – with parents and other stakeholders being sent information about the proposal and an invitation to a Consultation Meeting at the school on 15th June 2017.
- 15th June 2017 – Consultation meeting with BEFS parents and other key stakeholders to discuss proposals (with the school's leadership, governors and representatives of the City Council and Gosforth Schools' Trust in attendance). At this meeting,

information about the proposal was shared with parents, and their own views and concerns discussed and responded to (where possible), or captured for future consideration / clarification and reference in the onward decision making process.

- A leaflet drop to all Newcastle Great Park residents was conducted, inviting them to a drop-in consultation session at Great Park Community Centre on 22nd June 2017.
- Thursday 30th June & Tuesday 4th July 2017 – Two further drop-in sessions held at Broadway East First School for parents and other stakeholders who had been unable to attend the initial consultation meeting at the school.
- 7th July 2017 – end of consultation period and deadline for receiving completed consultation questionnaire responses.
- 17th July 2017 – Governing Body meeting to make decision as to how to proceed following completion of four-week consultation period.

Consultation Information & Process

The stakeholder consultation aimed to determine levels of support for the proposal, and to capture any issues which the proposers and decision-makers would need to consider before proceeding to the next phase of consultation (in line with the School Organisation regulations) and in making subsequent decisions. Information about the consultation was published on the school's website.

Stakeholders of the school were sent an explanatory letter, the consultation proposals and a response form for them to register their thoughts about the proposals, and any questions or concerns they would like to be considered in the ongoing process.

Stakeholders who received these consultation documents included:

- All staff at Broadway East First School
- All parents of children currently at Broadway East First School
- All parents of children due to start Broadway East First School in September 2017

In addition, the following stakeholders were sent consultation documents / response forms:

- All Gosforth Schools' Trust Directors
- All Newcastle state-funded schools and academies
- All NCC Councillors and local MPs
- All Council Staff
- Trade Union Branch Secretaries
- Parish Councils
- Diocesan Directors
- Newcastle Great Park community
- Newcastle Great Park Consortium

Stakeholders were asked to return their completed questionnaires to the school to inform the Governing Body to determine the next steps before the end of the summer term.

Questions and concerns raised, both at the consultation meetings and through responses to the consultation questionnaire, were collated for consideration by the Governing Body, alongside a range of other information relevant to their decision about the proposals for the school. A summary of feedback received by the school can be found below.

Stakeholder Consultation Feedback

- A total of 134 responses were received to the consultation (though not all included a definitive Yes / No answer to every question). These instances are referred to as 'Did Not Answer' throughout this feedback documentation.
- Where this was the case, the general support or opposition to the proposals was assessed using additional comments made by each respondent. In a small number of instances this resulted in a 'Partial' support for the proposal being recorded.
- 5 responses were received in a format other than the questionnaire circulated.
- 4 families returned more than one consultation questionnaire for the same children (i.e. 2 separate questionnaires were received from different family members).

Summary of Responses Received by Stakeholder Group:

Stakeholder Group	No.	%
Parent of current BEFS pupil(s) <i>(13 of which also have a new reception child joining in Sept 17)</i>	70	52.2%
Parent of new BEFS reception child in Sept 17 <i>(with no current children at BEFS)</i>	13	9.7%
Other Parent <i>(of children at a school / pre-school other than BEFS)</i>	10	7.5%
Staff at BEFS <i>(18 staff responded in total. However, 1 staff member is also a BEFS parent. Their responses are recorded above to avoid double counting).</i>	17	12.7%
Head, staff or governor at other school	21	15.7%
Other (Councillor or Community member)	3	2.2%
Total Respondents	134	100.0%

Responses from Parents of Current BEFS Pupils by National Curriculum Year:

70* responses received overall from the parents of 90 current BEFS pupils	National Curriculum Year of Children (for whom responses were received)					
	R	1	2	3	4	Total
	24	20	20	10	16	90**

Proportion of children from each cohort whose parents responded	R	1	2	3	4	Total
Total numbers of pupils per NCY <i>(as of May Census 2017)</i>	45	45	45	46	46	227
% Response Rate per NCY and overall	53.3%	44.4%	44.4%	21.7%	34.8%	39.6%

NOTES:

* In a small number of cases there were two responses received from different family members for the same children (i.e. 6 responses were returned from 3 families for the same children in the school).

** New starters to reception class in Sept 2017 (with no current BEFS siblings) are not reflected in above figures, as children not attending school at time of consultation (see below for more details).

Responses from Parents of Children Due to Join Broadway East in Sept 2017:

In total, responses were received from the parents of 26 children due to start in Reception in September 2017 (57.8% of the 45 total new starters for September 2017). Of these, 13 children already had siblings in attendance at the school (included in figures above) and a further 13 did not. Responses from each of the parental groups are explored in detail in the section relating to specific stakeholder groups.

Overall Responses to Consultation Questions

Stakeholders were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with three core questions relating to the proposal to relocate and expand Broadway East First School. The questions and responses received are captured below, along with an analysis according to stakeholder group and the impact respondents felt proposals may have on them.

Q1) Do you agree with the school's vision to expand and have single year group classes and a larger staff and budget?

No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer		Total	% agree	% disagree
25*	93**	4	12***		134	69.4%	18.7%

NOTES:

* 6 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same children.

** 2 of the 'Yes' votes came from parents of the same children.

*** Of the 'Did Not Answers' (12 in total), the content of the response would indicate that 5 did not agree, 1 partially agreed and 4 agreed with the school's vision to expand. 2 further respondents suggested they needed more information before they could respond fully to this question.

Except for respondents with a child due to start at Broadway East in Sept 2017 (and with no children currently at the school), a higher proportion of all other stakeholder groups agreed rather than disagreed with the above statement (details for each group below).

Q2) Do you agree that the school and its pupils will benefit from relocating to improved facilities in a building designed for the 21st century curriculum?

No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer		Total	% agree	% disagree
28*	87**	6	13***		134	64.9%	20.9%

NOTES:

* 5 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same children.

** 3 of the 'Yes' votes came from parents of the same children.

*** Of the 'Did Not Answers' (13 in total), the content of the response would indicate that 5 did not agree, 2 partially agreed and 4 did agree with the school's vision to expand. 2 further respondents suggested they needed more information before they could respond fully to this question.

Except for respondents with a child due to start in Sept 2017 (and with no children currently at the school), or parents with a child currently in reception, a higher proportion of all other stakeholder groups agreed than disagreed with the above statement (see below).

Q3) Do you support the proposal to relocate and expand Broadway East First School to the identified site on Newcastle Great Park?

No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
48*	75**		11***	134	56.0%	35.8%

NOTES:

* 6 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same children.

** 2 of the 'Yes' votes came from parents of the same children.

*** Of the 'Did Not Answers' (11 in total), the content of the response would indicate that 2 did not agree, 2 partially agreed, 1 respondent did agree with the proposal overall, 1 was not impacted and 5 required further information before they could respond fully regarding the proposal made.

Analysis of Responses by Stakeholder Groups

As recorded above, overall a greater proportion of respondents agreed rather than disagreed with the proposals to relocate and expand Broadway East First School. However, there were significant differences between the expressed views of different groups of respondents. These are analysed in detail below.

1.0) Responses from Parents of Current BEFS Children:

Overall, more parents of current Broadway East children agreed with the school's vision to expand and to the benefits of relocation than disagreed. However, a slightly higher proportion of parents of children currently at Broadway East disagreed rather than agreed with the proposal to relocate and expand the school overall.

Current BEFS Parent Respondents Overall	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school	15	46	3	6	70	65.7%	21.4%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school	18	40	5	7	70	57.1%	25.7%
Agree with proposal overall	34*	28		8**	70	40.0%	48.6%

NOTES:

* 4 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same children (2 responses from the same 2 families).

** Of the 'Did Not Answers' (8 in total), the content of the response would indicate that 2 did not agree with the proposal overall, 1 did and for one it did not apply. The other 4 respondents felt they needed more information to respond.

Please Note: Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 below are subsets of the 70 current BEFS parents who responded to the consultation and whose responses are reflected in full above.

Section	Respondent Group Description	Total Number / Percentage in Each Respondent Group
1.0	Total number of parents responding with a child already in attendance at BEFS (as at July 2017)	70 (100%)
1.1	Responses from parents of children in Reception Class (as at July 2017)	23 (32.9%)
1.2	Responses from parents with a child already attending BEFS (as at July 2017) with another child due to start in Sept 2017	14 (20%)
1.3	Responses from parents who do not have a child in Reception (as at July 2017) or one due to start in Reception in Sept 2017	33 (47.1%)

1.1) Responses from Parents of Current BEFS Reception Children (as at July 2017):

There was a higher proportion of current BEFS parents with Reception children who disagreed with the overall proposal for relocation and expansion of the school, when compared to parents of children in the older year groups at the school.

Current BEFS Reception Parents (with no New Starters in Sept 2017)	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school	8	12	1	2	23	52.2%	34.8%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school	10	8	2	3	23	34.8%	43.5%
Agree with proposal overall	15*	5		3**	23***	21.7%	65.2%

NOTES:

* 2 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same reception child.

** The 3 'Did Not Answers' felt they needed more information to respond to the overall proposal.

*** There were 23 responses received from this stakeholder group on behalf of 24 reception children.

1.2) Responses from Current BEFS Parents with Children Due to Start in Sept 2017:

As with parents of current BEFS reception children above, there was a higher proportion of current BEFS parents of older children – where they also have a child due to join reception in September 2017 - who disagreed with the overall proposal for relocation and expansion of the school, compared to those who agreed. However, more of these parents agreed with the school's vision for expansion, and the benefits of relocation than disagreed, and more than parents of current reception children only.

Current Parent of older BEFS Child with a New Starter in Sept 2017	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school	4	8	1	1	14	57.1%	28.6%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school	3	9	1	1	14	64.3%	21.4%
Agree with proposal overall	9*	4		1**	14	28.6%	64.3%

NOTES:

* 2 of the 'No' votes came from parents of the same child joining BEFS in Sept 2017 (i.e. 14 responses were received from this stakeholder group on behalf of 13 new starters in September).

** The respondent who 'Did Not Answer' regarding the overall proposal wanted more information.

1.3) Current BEFS Parents with No Reception Children or New Starters in Sept 2017:

There was a higher proportion of parents with children in older year groups only (i.e. who did not have children either in reception class or due to join the school in September 2017) who were favourable toward proposals to relocate and expand Broadway East than those parents who will still have children at the school in 2020 should proposals proceed.

Current BEFS Parents with no reception children or new starters	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school	3	26	1	3	33	78.8%	9.1%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school	5	24	1	3	33	72.7%	15.2%
Agree with proposal overall	10	19		4*	33	57.6%	30.3%

NOTES:

* Of the 'Did Not Answers' (4 in total), the content of the response would indicate that 2 did not agree with the proposal overall, 1 did and for 1 it was not applicable as their child would have left the school.

2.0) Parents with Children Due to Start at Broadway East in Sept 2017:

Amongst the 13 respondents with no children currently at BEFS - but with children due to start in September 2017 – there was a higher level of opposition to the proposals presented in the consultation questionnaire, both in terms of the vision for expansion and the benefits of relocation, as well as to the proposal overall.

Current BEFS Parent Respondents	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school	10*	2		1	13	15.4%	76.9%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school	9	3		1	13	23.1%	69.2%
Agree with proposal overall	10	1		2**	13	7.7%	76.9%

NOTES:

* 2 of the 'No' votes came from the family of the same child joining BEFS in Sept 2017.

** 2 respondents who did not directly answer the questions were 'Partially' in favour of proposals.

3.0) Responses from BEFS Staff Members:

In total 18 BEFS staff members responded to the consultation. All of these supported the consultation. One of these staff members is also a BEFS parent, and therefore their responses are logged against the figures for BEFS parents overall. Therefore, 17 staff responses are registered against this stakeholder group (to avoid double counting).

4.0) Responses from Head Teachers, Governors or Staff at Other Schools:

Of the 21 Head Teachers, Governors and Staff from other schools who responded to the Broadway East consultation, the response was overwhelmingly positive in favour of the proposals made for the school.

Current BEFS Parent Respondents	No	Yes	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
Agree with vision for expansion of school		18	1	2	21	85.7%	0.0%
Agree with benefits of relocation of school		18	1	2	21	85.7%	0.0%
Agree with proposal overall	1	20			21	95.2%	4.8%

5.0) Other Respondents:

There were a total of 3 further respondents (Councillors or Community Members) who did not fit into one of the stakeholders groups above, and registered their support or otherwise for proposals - using a format other than the consultation questionnaire circulated.

Of these, 1 respondent agreed with the proposal overall, 1 required more information and 1 respondent did not agree with proposals for Broadway East's relocation and expansion.

Summary of Groups with Highest & Lowest Levels of Agreement with Proposal

The **most likely stakeholders to agree with proposals to expand and relocate were:**

- Staff – 100% were in agreement with the proposal – citing reasons such as sustainability of the school; expanded budget / financial security; improved facilities and curriculum; job security; enhanced opportunities for pupils; new purpose built school.
- Headteachers, staff or governors at other schools (95%) – including strengthening of offer across Gosforth and contribution to the sustainability of other schools in Trust.
- Current BEFS parents without a child in reception or starting in September 2017 (58%)

Those **most likely to disagree with the proposal to expand and relocate were:**

- Parents of pupils starting in September with no child currently at BEFS (77%)
- Parents with a child currently in reception (65%)
- Parents of pupils starting in September with an older child already at BEFS (64%)

Geographical Split Across Responses:

Along with the age group split described above, there was also a geographical split in responses between families – with those living in the north of Gosforth more likely to agree with the proposed move and expansion than other families living more to the south.

Travel to Proposed New Site:

Respondents were asked to indicate how they envisaged they would travel to the proposed new site should proposals for the relocation of Broadway East proceed. The responses received from those who answered this question are summarised as follows:

Means by which respondents envisaged they might travel to new site if proposals were to proceed										
Don't Know	Drive	Not Possible	Walk	Cycle	Public Transport	Request School Bus	Will Not Travel	Taxi	Not Stated	TOTAL RESPONSES
8	53	9	13	17	2	7	4	1	7	121*

* Responses recorded above are for parents who may potentially travel to the new site, and also staff members who provided a response. For other respondents (e.g. Head Teachers, Governors and Staff of other schools), or parents who have indicated it will not be applicable to them (as their children will have left the school at the time of the proposed relocation), these are excluded from the above count.

* A number of respondents identified more than one potential mode of transport they might use.

Key Concerns / Queries Raised Relating To Proposals:

Respondents were then asked to identify what other information or support they would like in relation to proposals outlined in the consultation (from the City Council, the Gosforth Schools' Trust or the school). This list is not exhaustive, but reflects the most prevalent concerns raised, along with an indication of the numbers who referenced them.

NOTE: The number of times each concern was raised is not cumulative. More than one concern was often logged on a single form, and a number of less prevalent queries were also raised under each main category.

Main Category of Concern / Query	Most prevalent concerns / queries raised in this category	No. of times this query / concern was referenced
Travel & Transport	Distance to new site	48
	Logistics of dropping off at more than one school	31
	Transportation Issues	30
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to Travel & Transport		64
School Places & Feeder School Arrangements	Clarity / Guarantees Relating To Feeder School Arrangements	51
	Access To / Transfer to alternative First School places in local area	30
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to School Places & Feeder School Arrangements		57
Splitting Up of Siblings, Community Impact & Childhood Relationships	Splitting Siblings Up / Different School Routes / School Systems	26
	Impact on Local Community	21
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to Splitting Up Siblings & Community Impact		56

Main Category of Concern / Query	Most prevalent concerns / queries raised in this category	No. of times this query / concern was referenced
Consultation Process & Information for Parents	Loss of Choice / Lack of Information to New Applicants for Sept 2017	28
	Dissatisfaction with Consultation Process / Timing of Information	19
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to Consultation Process & Information To Parents		42
Changes to the Nature of Provision	Impact on School Ethos / Family Feel	13
	Increased School Size	13
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to Nature & Quality of Provision		34
Childcare & Wrap Around Cover	Impact on Current Childcare Arrangements	14
	Availability / Clarity About Wrap Around Cover	13
Total Number of Respondents Who Recorded Concerns or Queries relating to Childcare & Wrap Around Cover		27

Other concerns noted (but less frequently) included:

- Visibility of plans for new site / school / facilities.
- Funding / resources being held back for new school (disadvantaging current pupils).
- Ages of children at new free school (middle and high) proposed in close proximity.
- Environmental issues (relating to traffic congestion and also building on proposed site).
- Health and wellbeing factors (walking to school / extended length of school day / potential distress and disruption caused by move).
- Additional costs of travel and childcare for parents.

Potential Benefits of Proposals Recorded

Many respondents (predominantly those in favour of proposals, but also some not in favour overall) could see some benefits in the proposed relocation and expansion.

Benefits of proposals noted most commonly by respondents included:

- Making the school financially sustainable.
- Expansion of a highly regarded school and its associated ethos.
- A modern purpose built school with better facilities.
- New premises enabling improved security and safeguarding.
- Access to more outdoor learning space and more free-flow potential.
- Opportunities for expanded curriculum and specialisms not currently available.
- Enhanced school team organisation and subject leadership.
- Expanded learning opportunities and activities for pupils.
- A larger budget enabling greater resources and staff to support learning.

- Safeguarding current school staff / jobs.
- Better geographical spread of school places across Gosforth.
- Improved sustainability of all first schools in Gosforth.
- Helping secure future of 3-Tier System.
- Benefits of possible breakfast / after school provision.

Alternative Solutions / Options Suggested by Respondents

Throughout the detailed feedback provided by respondents, there were a number of questions and/or suggestions with regards what alternative solutions might be considered or explored for the future of Broadway East First School (other than the relocation and expansion proposed in the consultation documents).

Some of these suggestions and their feasibility had already been considered by the Governing Body, with feedback relating to these provided either via the Frequently Asked Questions document circulated, or in person at the Consultation Meetings and Drop-In Sessions held in June and July 2017.

The suggestions made / questions asked related largely to the following:

- Potential for a new school to be built at NGP and BEFS remain at its current location.
- Merger between BEFS and GPFS to improve financial sustainability.
- Expansion of Broadway East School on the current site.
- Improvements to current school / facilities.
- Delay relocation of BEFS until 2022, when new intake (Sept 2017) will have moved on.
- Guaranteed place at another first school (e.g. expanded Gosforth Park First School) for those families who want to transfer rather than move to a relocated school.
- Guaranteed feeder link to Gosforth East Middle School for most impacted families.

'Do Nothing' Impact for Broadway East First School

A number of respondents made reference in their comments to potential detrimental impacts if no changes are made to the current situation for the school.

Potential impacts noted by respondents if no changes are made:

- Crisis of provision across Gosforth with insufficient places to meet demand.
- Constraints of ageing building / site to improve learning environments / outdoor space.
- Limitations to curriculum and extended activities for pupils.
- Loss of resources / staff due to budget constraints.
- Potential closure of school due to lack of finances.
- Alternative of new free school being established by an unknown provider that might destabilise existing Gosforth schools and not sign up to joint working including alignment with three-tier system, and co-ordinated admissions