

On-line reply from Parkview Governors

RecordId 102
time_submitted 11/20/2008 16:03:17
Q1 One

Parkview Governors held an extraordinary meeting on 19 November 2008 and considered the question of one or two sites in the context of the LA consultation document, and the Academy Newsletter Number 1, released the same day. We unanimously supported the single site option. This is because;The Six Mini-Schools element of the planned Academy ensures that a family feel will be achieved, even with 1200 students on site;A split site would provide a poorer education to students, because some aspects of provision (including facilities, teacher supply and expertise, student welfare support, and extra-curricular provision) would be divided between the two sites, and therefore not properly accessible to all; A split site would provide a poorer education to students, because it would be more expensive to run than a single site and a greater proportion of the annual budget will go on infrastructure rather than being spent directly on students;A split site would provide a poorer education to students, because of inefficiencies in daily routines and the loss of time when students and staff have to change site (including moving at the end of the school day),

Q2

to provide or attend enrichment activities, or attend meetings;We have some concerns over student safety where movement between sites is deliberately planned;A single site will allow commercial and community groups to support the Academy more effectively;The only advantage we can see of a split site is that fewer students would need to come to school by car; however, the Parkview site is very large and could easily be planned to handle traffic for the new Academy in a much more satisfactory way than is the case at the present We are also concerned that, because of the disruption of the LA public consultation meetings by campaigners who wished to challenge the whole notion of academy development, there have not been proper discussions about the pros and cons of the two options, and consequently opinions have not had the chance to be tested in debate.

We feel that the consultation document was misleading in suggesting that if the academy was on two sites, they would offer slightly different courses, and that this would in effect give parents some additional choice. We knew at the start of the process that this could not be the case, and our view is supported by Academy Newsletter No 1, which says: "In the two-site option there will be a full range of provision and facilities on each site". We are concerned that some parents may support the two-site option on the basis of this misrepresentation around the question of choice

Q3

Q4_1

Q4_2

Q4_3

Q4_4

Q4_5

Governor at Parkview

Q4_6

Q4_7

Q4_8

other

Q4Specify

Full Governing Body

Q5_1

Q5_2

Q5_3

Q5_4

Q5_5

Parkview

Q6_1

Mr P Mackay, Chair of Governors

Q6_2

12 Monks Croft Avenue, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1EP

Q7

60+

Eii

On line response from Thorncliffe Governors

RecordId 116
time_submitted 11/21/2008 13:47:07
Q1 Two

Q2 the GB of Thorncliffe School have decided to support a 2 site campus as this will enable future developement within the local comunity.
Q3 each campus can develope its own identity and promote areas of strength within Thorncliffe.

Q4_1

Q4_2

Q4_3

Q4_4

Q4_5 Governor at Thorncliffe School

Q4_6

Q4_7 Local resident

Q4_8 other

Q4Specify Chair of Gov Body

Q5_1

Q5_2

Q5_3

Q5_4

Q5_5 Thorncliffe School

Q6_1 craig foster

Q6_2 226 Ainslie st LA14 5BG

Q7 40-59



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Dear School Organisation team ,

19/11/08

Barrow Potential Academy Consultation 2008

I enclose an NASUWT response to the above document .

We trust that the issues and questions posed will be answered as points needing clarification in the near future .

Yours sincerely ,

A.R. Curtis

Consultation document

The previous or initial consultation document is referred to in a cursory way but the full details are necessary for any proper public consultation .
A full finalised document should have been produced .

General information and comment

a.Admissions

The formation of an Academy will reduce parental and pupil choice .
There is now national concern regarding the impact of reduced admissions from the poorest communities , covert selection , exclusions and the impact of Academies on other local schools .

It seems rather dismissive to assert that parents can seek places at any local school . Given travel times and problems this choice will be rather selective .

b.Buildings for the Academy

The Single site cost is given as £30million and the two site cost as £40-45 million
Where does the extra £10-15 million funding originate ? Will Cumbria County Council have to fund part or all of the difference ?

c.Timescale

The intention to proceed with opening in September 2009 does seem to have many organisational pitfalls . The lead in times elsewhere in Cumbria has been strongly criticised , and , the consequences of absurd timescales are now being felt in the established Cumbria Academies . The impact of an even shorter preparatory period does appear to be something that any concerned party should be frankly alarmed at . Teachers will be concerned for their future but education of pupils will suffer if such a plan proceeds .

d.Personnel implications

This statement is misleading and inaccurate for teachers . There have been no discussions with Sponsors nor Project team . Unions might reasonably expect discussions with the Sponsors , and , a Measures letter should be issued dealing with matters such as Pay and conditions and TUPE . There are understandable difficulties but we view this situation as alarming and unsatisfactory .
NASUWT members in Barrow have expressed their concerns regarding the total lack of clear information for teachers , job security , working conditions on transfer , management structure , possible specialisms , movement between sites , Alfred Barrow staff deployment and transition arrangements . Information to teachers , that are currently Local Authority Employees , has been totally lacking .

Choosing between two options

The document accepts that there were significant concerns about the planned changes to Secondary education but does little to address those concerns . The only options offered relate to one or two buildings . It is impossible for any experienced teacher , let alone any member of the public to ascertain real operational consequences , given the lack of detail .

Consultation process

Meetings have been called in the local Secondary Schools but we are concerned that teachers have been inhibited from active debate given fears for their futures and job prospects .

There has been no facility made for full and proper Union consultation . This seems to be a significant flaw in the consultation .

Concluding remarks

NASUWT is concerned about the format for this consultation , and , the lack of Formal Union Consultation .

The timescale for the opening of an Academy is fraught with unnecessary risks and difficulties .The consequences of this framework could be detrimental for pupil education and the careers of professional teachers .

Given the lack of information in the document the funding commitment of the Sponsors needs to be clarified .

NASUWT has asked some questions in this response and would like answers to these serious concerns that do affect the futures of teachers , pupils , and , parents in Barrow .



A.Curtis
On behalf of NASUWT – Cumbria Federation

November 2008



The Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP
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Mr J Mitchell
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CA1 1PE

Friday 21st November 2008

Dear Jim

Planning 11-16 Education for Barrow

In response to the consultation taking place on the above matter I would wish to submit the following response. I have done so electronically but am also doing so in this form in order that I can share it with others.

There appears to be consensus that change is necessary and that an Academy offers considerable educational beneficial opportunities for the area. There are however concerns about the size of a single site academy, initially proposed as being for 1200 students.

I support the dual campus option indicated as being option 2 in the consultation questionnaire. During the transitional period there will, of necessity be two campuses on the Parkview and Thorncliffe sites. If standards can be maintained for that transition period there can be little argument that suggests they could not be beyond that time.

The sponsors being from the sectors they are have very considerable experience in curriculum delivery and management on a wide range of site circumstances and would be ideally placed to address any concerns about such issues of curriculum delivery on a multiple site basis.

It appears to me that the option of dual campuses offers opportunity to establish differing specialities for each site, allowing for choice by parents and students on the basis of proximity, or specialty and provides for any potential expansion to be accommodated that the single site option does not currently accommodate.

There may also be opportunity to further consider the number of students allocated to the roll of each campus and school in the area to more closely match both each other and the current distribution of pupils.



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Taking the area as a whole then it would seem sensible to seek establish a 700 place school as a Parkview Furness Academy Campus, (as considered in the original consultation last year as option 1) A new build or re-modelled 700 place school Thorncliffe Furness Academy Campus (As per option 1 of the initial consultation) Revamping Walney School ensuring accommodation standards are raised to those of the new Academy, in particular delivering the new sports hall facilities, to accommodate 800 pupils and some re-modelling of St Bernard's RC school to provide 900 places.

The benefits of this proposal are that it offers greater choice. It would provide greater flexibility for development.

There would seem to be demonstrable consensus amongst those who are already engaged that this is a viable and desirable option (even if timing might be considered an issue by some).

The proposals attracts even more investment than initially envisaged and the sponsors and others engaged from the outset have already expressed the view that the dual campus option was one that was initially sought but not felt to be achievable at the time of the initial consultation.

Those circumstances have now changed that suggest better prospects for this option than for others. The numbers of pupils in total remain those projected in the initial consultation of 3100 by 2012 and seem therefore to meet with the requirements to address the needs of that number of pupils in the community.

Thank you for ensuring my contribution can be taken into account as part of the consultation process I hope I have made my views clear in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hutton".

Rt Hon John Hutton MP

Mr P Stybelski
Chief Executive
Cumbria County Council
C/O School Organisation
FREEPOST RRBS-RLBG-GZGL
18 Portland Square
Carlisle CA1 1PG

Dear Mr Stybelski

**Response to consultation: Planning 11-16 Education for Barrow
The potential Academy - one site or two?**

I am writing to register my objection to the way this consultation is being set out and to its limited scope. I welcome the rethink by the County Council on the Barrow Academy plan but reject the presentation of only a single alternative for an academy and the attempt to rush this through alongside continued planning for the opening of an academy in September 2009.

This timescale is completely unacceptable as it requires parents to make secondary school choices in the absence of vital information. By the closure date for applications for school places of 24 October, nothing will be known about the headships, curriculum, uniform, and key policies of the academy schools, nor the full implications for school choices and transition arrangements.

For the academy to come into existence in September 2009, it will be necessary for the closure plans for Alfred Barrow, Parkview and Thorncliffe schools to be prepared, published, consulted upon and decided upon. This will require satisfactory arrangements for new school admission policies and catchment areas to be agreed. This would be difficult enough but as Walney School is in the process of changing its status from Community School to having Trust status, so that it will gain control of its own admissions it now impossible for this to be done properly given the huge importance of getting these complex matters right for the future education of our children.

I am therefore demanding that the opening date of any new academy in Barrow should be put back September 2010 regardless of the outcome of the consultation on the number of sites.

Please formally register and acknowledge receipt of this letter. I would appreciate a reply within fourteen days.

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____