

# **Consultation Meetings Buildwas Primary School**

**Wednesday 23 September 2015**

# Introductions and Agenda

- Introduction to Council personnel
- Agenda
  - Welcome
  - Background information
  - Questions and discussion
  - Next steps

A note will be taken of the meeting

# Purpose of Consultation

- The Council is consulting on a proposal to close Buildwas Primary School with effect from 31 August 2016
- It is gathering views from all stakeholders to inform the decision-making process by Cabinet
- Consultation runs through to 18 October

# Background

The consultation is being carried out as:

- the school is in special measures and previously required improvement
- the school does not have permanent leadership arrangements
- efforts to secure partnership arrangements have been unsuccessful
- the decline in pupil numbers since January 2013 leaves the school educationally and financially vulnerable

# Background (cont'd)

When Ofsted place a school in special measures:

- the local authority is expected to consider the closure of the school

Where a school remains open:

- the Secretary of State for Education expects the school to become a sponsored academy

# Key Considerations

In coming to a decision Cabinet needs to consider:

- Quality of education over time
- Use of resources and financial sustainability
- Access to education

# Other Considerations

Will include:

- Alternative schools and impact on the catchment area
- School admissions arrangements
- Early years provision
- Impact on the school staff
- School land and buildings
- Transport arrangements
- Community impact
- Non-faith school places
- Secondary transfer

# What will happen to the pupils?

- Opportunity to apply for any 3 alternative schools of preference
- Advice and support to be provided to parents throughout process
- Local authority to collaborate with all schools in the area to secure provision for children in other local schools
- All 5 immediately local schools are judged by Ofsted to be good or better
- All 5 schools are within approximately 4.5 miles travelling distance
- Schools and local authority will support pupils to ensure smooth transition
- Priority regarding transition to secondary school remains unchanged



# What will happen to children in early years?

- There are 4 local school-based early years settings
- Each of the settings that has been inspected by Ofsted are judged to be good or better

# What will happen to the staff?

- Council will work with trade unions and the governing bodies of other Shropshire schools to seek alternative employment for all the staff
- Some staff might choose to take voluntary redundancy while others might consider retirement
- If a significant number of pupils transfer to alternative schools it is possible that one or more of the staff might be employed by the receiving school

# Rurality

As a designated rural school, the case for closure has to be strong and the proposal in the best interests of education in the area. Detailed consideration will be given to:

- likely effect of the discontinuance of the school on the local community
- availability, and likely cost to the local authority, of transport to other schools
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school
- likely of any such increase and any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school

# Questions and Discussions

This is your opportunity to:

- Seek clarification on the process
- Raise any issues for further exploration
- Put forward viable alternative proposals
- Ask any factual questions

# Next Steps

- Consultation responses by 18 October 2015
- Cabinet Meeting 28 October 2015 – decision to publish closure proposal
- If required,
  - publication of notice of closure proposal 2 November 2015
  - 4 week statutory representation period 2 November to 29 November 2015
  - Final decision 9 December 2015
  - Implemented July 2016

# Responding

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