Consultation on the provision of Education at High Down Infant School and High Down Junior School

Additional Information Addendum
Proposed Changes to High Down Infant School and High Down Junior School

Addendum to Consultation

Dear Stakeholder,

As part of the statutory arrangements for making changes at schools my officers were authorised to undertake a consultation specifically about creating two 420 place primary schools on the High Downs campus. It became clear early on in the consultation process that the local community were looking for wider solutions and were unhappy to provide their views on the High Down proposals without understanding other options. This addendum to the consultation document provides information about the alternatives within Portishead which have been assessed and may continue to be progressed. It also includes responses to the key questions raised at the consultation meeting events. As there is now new information for the community to consider, it has been agreed that this first stage of consultation will be extended until 12 October 2012.

As part of the consultation process, two public meeting events were held in July this year to seek the views of the community on the proposals for High Down Infant and High Down Junior Schools to expand and to move towards Primary Status. We have received considerable criticism that publicity information about the consultation was not disseminated widely enough. We are therefore hopeful that all interested members of the community are now able to read and make comments on the proposals and attend the additional public meeting (see details below). If you are aware of any stakeholders who may not have seen this or the earlier consultation material may I please ask for your help in ensuring that they have access to it so the consultation is considered by all those affected by the proposals.

It has become clear from the responses received to date that some members of the public felt the consultation process was not a genuine request for views. Please can I reiterate the comments of our Chief Executive, Graham Turner that the ‘review of the High Down schools is not a done deal and we are looking seriously at a range of other options to see if they are viable.’

The key messages from the public meetings are summarised below:

- A request for the opportunity to consult on other options for the provision of primary school spaces within Portishead
- You wanted background information about why the decision was made to consult on the High Down proposals
- A request for further information around the works being done / to be done to address existing and future traffic, congestion and parking issues at the High Down sites
- Further information on the plans for any building and site changes at the High Down schools to accommodate the additional children
- You had queries around children’s education during the process of change at the High Down schools. This included mainly the allocation arrangements to one or other of the High Down Primary schools and the impact of change on children at both schools in the immediate and longer term until, if progressed both schools become full primary schools
Over the summer period, further work has been undertaken to bring together the information in answer to the questions in the above areas. The information is included in this addendum for your information.

Please can I encourage you to make your responses. These will be read and collated to help inform the decision makers as to whether or not the proposals for the High Down schools should be stopped or progressed. They will also help to inform any other next steps.

Thank you for your contributions and involvement in this important decision making process.

Sheila Smith
Director of Children and Young People’s Services
Consultation Process Update

In light of the above requested additional information and the concerns raised that not all affected stakeholders were contacted in the early stages of this consultation, it was considered only right that the consultation period be extended and additional information provided. An approval to extend the consultation period has now been given. The consultation end date has been extended from the original completion date of 24 September 2012 until a revised date of 12 October 2012.

An additional consultation meeting has been arranged for:

24 September 2012 between 6:30 – 8:00pm at
Somerset Hall, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6AH.

If you plan to attend the information sharing event it would be helpful if you could notify the team either by email; school.organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk. or telephone 01275 884 727.

This consultation document has been issued to all pre-school providers; Childminders, Nurseries and Pre-School playgroups; All existing High Down Infant and Junior school parents and other school stakeholders; High Down local residents – all surrounding roads via house drops and via the High Down Residents Action Group; Village Quarter parents – via the Village Quarter Action Group; All North Somerset Councillors; Portishead Town Council; the local MP and other groups as required within the statutory consultation regulations; and all other Portishead Primary school communities (including the families, staff, governors and immediate neighbours of St Peter’s C of E Primary School). Posters advertising the extension to the consultation period and the additional meeting on 24 September 2012 have been displayed in a number of local shops, Town Council display boards, public buildings and churches. Communications have also gone out via the Council’s facebook and twitter accounts and advertised on the Council’s eConsult website.

A number of consultation responses have already been received to date from members of the Portishead community. If you have already responded and wish to change or update your response as a result of the additional information provided within this document and at the additional consultation meeting, please do so. We have added at the end of this document, before the site options appendix, the opportunity for you to highlight if you have already responded. This will give us a rounded view if opinions have changed in light of the revised consultation material. Online responses can be completed at
http://consult.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult.ti/highdown_infjun/consultationHome

If you would like a copy of the original consultation document please contact the School Organisation team, using the above contact details or it can be accessed online at the address above. Alternatively spare copies are available at all Portishead primary schools.
We are particularly interested in receiving your comments about the alternative options as this will help to inform our next steps.

Please see a table below which highlights the steps for the remainder of this School Organisation consultation process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 October 2012</td>
<td>Consultation period ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November/December 2012</td>
<td>Results of the consultation and proposed next steps are reported to the Children &amp; Young People’s Services (CYPS) Policy &amp; Scrutiny Panel. The Panel will make their recommendations to the Executive Member for CYPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November/December 2012</td>
<td>Executive Member for CYPS makes his determination</td>
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**A ‘Do not Proceed’ Decision**

If the decision in relation to the High Down Schools is not to proceed with the changes proposed, the consultation process in relation to this option will end. It may be necessary to ask for permission to start a new consultation about an alternative option.

**A ‘Proceed to Next Stage’ Decision**

If the decision is to proceed with the proposal, the Council will publish a Statutory Notice giving a further chance for the local community and stakeholders to express their views.

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**The provisional timeline for a publication of a Statutory Notice (only if agreed)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 2013</td>
<td>Publish Statutory Notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>January – February 2013</td>
<td>Statutory Notice Representation Period (6 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>Report to the Council’s Executive Committee where a decision to approve or reject the proposal will be determined</td>
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If the Executive Committee’s decision is not to proceed, the proposal will not be progressed (subject to appeals).

If the Executive Committee’s decision is to proceed with the proposal, it will be implemented from September 2013 onwards. Stakeholders would be notified of the decision (subject to appeals).

| April 2013               | 4 week appeal period (only the Governing Bodies of the schools, the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Clifton Diocese can appeal). |

If there are no appeals, the proposal will be implemented.

If an appeal is received, the case will be referred to Secretary of State for Education for a final decision.
1.0 Further Background Information

The Children & Young People’s Services policy documents used when making decisions about new school places in Portishead within the last 9 years have been the Council’s School Organisation Plans 2003 – 2008 and 2007 - 2012. These will be replaced by the new Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2012 – 2015. The latest draft document, at the time of writing this addendum, is in the final stages of being submitted for adoption. It is available to view at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx199-2012.asp.

The strategy for Portishead within the 2007 – 2012 plan was as follows:

- Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School will open in the Village Quarter part of the town in September 2008. The school will initially offer 210-places but is being designed to enable it to increase to a 420-place site should pressure for school places necessitate its expansion. The Local Authority will support the Diocese in any bids for resources to expand this school.

- Amalgamation possibilities for the Infant and Junior Schools in Portishead may be reviewed if one of the Council’s triggers for change is reached. Changes may be considered as part of a wider review of provision within the town.

- St Barnabas C of E Primary School will continue to be supported to enable the school to thrive as a small school.

- During the life of this plan, a review of primary place provisions in Portishead will be undertaken to ensure that they meet parental demand and the principles of this plan.

In partnership with the governors of the school and the Diocese of Bath & Wells, Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School opened in September 2008 and has been a 420-place school since September 2011. The governors of St Barnabas C of E Primary School asked the Council to close their school as they could no longer meet the needs of the children and maintain standards within the low numbers of pupils in attendance and their resulting constrained budget and other resources.

In looking to the future the Council has to meet the short, medium and long-term primary and secondary pupil place needs of the town of Portishead. The short-term options progressed to date have been:

- The provision of 30 extra school places from September 2010 for Reception aged pupils (who will remain at the school for up to 7 years) at Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School. These children can now be accommodated within the expanded school.

- The provision of 30 extra school places from September 2011 onwards for Reception aged pupils (who will remain at the school for up to 7 years) at Portishead Primary School.

- The provision of 30 extra school places provided from September 2011 onwards for Reception aged pupils (who will remain at the school for up to 7 years) at St Peter’s C of E Primary School.

- The provision of 30 extra school places provided from September 2012 for Reception aged pupils (who will remain at the school for up to 3 years) at High Down Infant School. Agreements have been made with High Down Junior School for 30 additional year 3 places to be available at this school from September 2015. The additional places will be available for applicants for all their junior aged academic years.
This consultation addendum focuses on the medium-term options for Portishead, based on the resources available to the Council at this time. The arrangements to be progressed need to provide for extra places, preferably from September 2013 onwards, but by September 2014 at the latest. Further details of alternative medium-term options are given in table format at the end of this document. They cover:

- Options for creating extra school places on all existing school sites
- Options for creating a new school on other Council owned land or sites within the town of Portishead
- Options for purchasing or leasing industrial sites to remodel into a new school

In future, new school sites or the sites of existing schools capable of expansion will initially be identified within the Council’s Sites and Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD). This document provides further details to the broad strategy, set out in the Council’s Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to extensive consultation procedures and the Sites and Policies DPD will also be subject to further public consultation before it is adopted.

Initial discussions have taken place on the possibility of providing a site for a new primary free school or academy. These will continue but can only be realistically seen as a longer-term option due to the time needed to progress a land purchase (probably via a Compulsory Purchase Order), the planning application process and finally the need to seek a provider for a new school – the latter process normally takes around a year to progress once the delivery of the option can be guaranteed. Currently there are no capital funds to progress either a land purchase or the buildings for a new school. We regret that at this stage, due to commercial sensitivities, we are unable to divulge details of the exact locations of these sites, although the Council will continue to investigate and keep an open mind on any opportunity that arises.

The Council will be working with the staff and Governing Body of Gordano School to plan for the needs of secondary aged pupils within Portishead. As this academy is independent of the Council, such plans would need to be formally progressed by the school’s Governing Body.

2.0 An exploration of the alternative options to the High Downs proposals

One of the key requests from the community earlier this year was the need for extra information to help understand all other options within Portishead; and why the High Downs proposal became the option to be consulted upon.

We have included a provisional ‘RAG’ (Red, Amber, Green), rating to these schemes to indicate weather there are significant risks that could affect the delivery of them. With your help, we may be able to alter these ratings to bring about a deliverable scheme.

The options assessed are tabled at the end of this document. The tables highlight the ideas explored at each site, the positives and negatives/risks of the sites and, where not chosen to pursue further, the predominant reasons why. Ultimately the only sites capable of expansion without the need for extra land purchased/leased are those on the High Downs campus and at the St Peter’s C of E Primary school sites. At the time of making the decision to progress proposals to expand and change the status of the High Down schools, planning constraints in relation to St Peter’s C of E Primary School made it, in planning terms, a less viable option.
In addition to these option appraisals, the availability of the provision of new schools on other Council owned land in Portishead was considered. The Council does not own any land sites or buildings large enough to accommodate at least a 210-place primary school with the exception of sites such as the Lake Grounds. It is considered that the latter option would be an inappropriate use of this amenity and represent an irrevocable and damaging loss of part of this space that serves the whole town. Previous school sites such as the St Joseph’s and Portishead Primary school sites have been considered but as there were educational restrictions on the sites that necessitated the schools relocations, they are not considered a preferable location for a new school. In addition, the land for these is no longer in local authority ownership.

Non Council land has also been assessed as part of the options appraisal. Further details are tabled at the end of the document.

The Council’s legal responsibilities in relation to the provision of school places is to ensure that across the district as a whole there are sufficient places for all North Somerset school-aged residents. The last and least favoured alternative to resolve the shortage of primary school places in Portishead is the utilisation of vacant school places in schools outside of Portishead. This option does not fit with the Council’s aspiration of providing local school places to local children, but might need to be used as a last resort to fulfil our legal responsibilities.

2.1 Reasons why the High Down option was chosen

As indicated earlier, at the time of requesting permission to start a consultation the option to progress changes at St Peter’s C of E Primary School was considered to be more difficult in planning terms than the proposals for the High Down campus. Taking this, the review of other deliverable sites within the timeframe and the Council’s preference for all-through primary provision into consideration, the decision to progress the proposals on the High Down sites was made.

Since this time and during the consultation process, work has continued to evaluate other options and to understand in greater detail some of the issues and risks that may influence the decision as to whether or not to proceed with the changes proposed.

One factor that has become very clear during the consultation process is that if the schools are expanded the traffic implications of the proposals, not only outside the High Down sites but also across the town, are such that without the provision of alternative parking for parents and school staff the risk of not receiving planning permission to make the necessary site changes has risen. The Council had commenced negotiations to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the High Down Campus to partly alleviate this problem, but the money requested for the purchase has proved prohibitive. Whilst the Council could commence compulsory purchase procedures, this is lengthy, costly and has no guarantee of a satisfactory outcome.

The Council has been looking at alternative options for parking around the sites of other schools within the town. These are listed in the option tables within the appendix and appear to offer greater opportunities in relation to travel solutions at schools closer to the centre of Portishead.
3.0 Existing and future traffic, congestion and parking issues

3.1 Current Position

As indicated above, many stakeholders have expressed their concerns about the likely increase in traffic that would cause more disruption in terms of the volume of traffic, parking and the safety of pupils at drop off and pick up times outside the High Down schools. It is also noted that the volume of school–related traffic would also increase across the town as a whole.

3.2 Planned Changes and Work in Progress

Officers from the Children & Young People’s Services Directorate have been working closely with colleagues in the Development and Environment Directorate to review the impact of the proposed increase in size of the two High Down Schools on transport and travel around the school sites. The work conducted to date and in progress is described below.

In terms of traffic and the road network around the High Down Schools, the existing crossing on the main road is to be raised and the tree canopies along the Down Road are to be reduced to improve visibility. The impact of these measures will then be assessed and monitored in comparison to previous data to review their effectiveness.

Advisory 20mph signage is also already in place on Down Road, although this is advisory and not legally enforceable. The Development and Environment Directorate review requirements for 20mph zones in relation to an individual site’s merit. Initial discussions in relation to creating a statutory 20mph zone in the area have concluded this would not ease congestion or necessarily improve safety at drop off and collection times.

The Zebra Crossing on Down Road is currently allocated as a School Crossing Patrol site which means the Council will fund the employment of a School Crossing Patrol employee at the site. This post is currently vacant and is being advertised.

A full independent Transport Assessment has been commissioned, scheduled for completion in September. It is hoped that details of this assessment will be reported at the public meeting on 24 September 2012.

Existing historic records of traffic flow immediately outside of all schools with designated School Crossing Patrol sites (irrespective of whether or not the posts are filled) are available to the Council. As noted above, there is a designated School Crossing Patrol site outside the High Down schools. These assessments record the movement of children to and from schools, the volumes of traffic and other factors that could pose a risk to the safety of children during their journey to school. These assessments will be considered in conjunction with the information from the school’s travel plans and data from the independent Transport Assessment. The results will also be compared against currently available data in relation to other schools across the town and the district.

The Transport Assessment will include an analysis of:

- Impact on traffic flows and traffic management along Down Road
- Options for alternative vehicle access to the site
- Safety of pedestrian and cycle movements at the site access at Down Road
- Parking capacity
- Construction traffic management (should this become applicable)

3.3 Further Community Transport Considerations
Many stakeholders have expressed concerns about the likely increase in traffic that could cause more disruption in terms of the volume of traffic, parking and the general safety of pupils. It is acknowledged that the High Downs solution would increase the volume of traffic outside these schools and would be detrimental to the carbon footprint of Portishead due to the additional travelling of families from areas such as the Village Quarter.

We are aware that this proposal does not fit with Council and National aspirations for encouraging our children to be physically active and healthy as children from outside the High Down community area would be less able to walk or cycle to school. These factors will be taken into account as part of the decision making process for the consultation.

Considerations have been given to implementing measures such as creating double yellow lines or an exclusion zone on one side or both sides in a defined area on Down Road. It is considered this would not ease the congestion at peak hours but rather relocate the congestion in areas further down the main road and therefore only move the problem rather than solve it.

Provision of a school bus for those children living in the newer areas of Portishead is evaluated as a good solution to easing congestion. However this could not be funded by the Council as it would set a precedent for supplying non statutory transport which the Home to School Transport Policy does not cover. This would mean that all parents / schools in North Somerset would have grounds to request a similar service which would not be affordable; therefore overall the solution would create a wider inequality issue.

Community responses to date indicate that not everyone currently embraces the Schools’ Travel Plans, therefore limiting their effectiveness. It is acknowledged that Travel Plans will not resolve all transport issues, however the Council will continue to support the schools in managing the School Travel plans and finding new solutions. This work will be ongoing in any outcome.

4.0 Plans for building and site changes at the High Down Schools

We are currently working on the designs to remodel and expand the current High Down schools buildings. Plans showing the general location of where the changes might be are below.
If the proposals to expand the schools are agreed the Council would undertake a further consultation with stakeholders providing full details of the specific build changes proposed. At this time, the proposals for change are not a done deal and plans for the schools have not been finalised. It is not considered appropriate to share the provisional detailed plans to date as this could cause unnecessary concern to residents in areas where the physical impact of change ‘could be an issue but may not be progressed’, or provide reassurance to other neighbours that changes may not impact on their homes but they find out later that this is no longer the case.

The design will seek to extend the buildings in both the junior and infant schools within the existing footprint of the buildings thereby reducing the impact on the existing play/field space. This will be achieved mainly by infilling void spaces within the existing sites. There would also be a need to provide improved all-weather sports facilities to ensure that the junior aged curriculum requirements for sport can be delivered by both proposed schools. This solution will avoid the need to expand the school onto sensitive Green belt land.

As yet there are no finalised design plans agreed by the Governing Bodies of either school or authorised by the Council. The desire is for equity of provision across the two schools. This is part of the challenge for the architects within the local authority budget constraints.

We did investigate the possibility of a new entrance to the High Down Junior School site via The Downs but this would give rise to objections on traffic and related grounds which would be likely to render submission of a planning application inappropriate.

The design also looks to provide a new staff car park from The Downs to reduce the impact of staff parking outside of residential properties during the school day.

5.0 Educational Impact

i) The disadvantage to the oldest children and other children at the schools

Concerns have been raised that pupils attending the High Down schools prior to their full move to primary status may be at a disadvantage as the oldest children remaining at the infant school will always be the oldest children at the school. In addition, without the full range of year groups across both schools, the interactions between different aged pupils could be compromised.

If the proposal is agreed, council officers experienced in the delivery of education will work with the schools to ensure that in the same way as the transfer of pupils is managed across the infant and junior schools already, opportunities for the interaction of all pupils across all age ranges within the campus would be developed. This may include opportunities for dining, play and specific activities across the two schools, mirroring the arrangements available to other already existing primary schools.

Some concerns have been expressed that each school has expertise in its own Key Stage but not in the other. Both schools employ staff with expertise in all Key Stages and all-through Primary experience.

In the move to primary status, if agreed, both schools will carry out significant work into transforming their schools into a primary school. This work will involve joint initiatives, but will support the retention of the ethos and values of the individual schools.

If progressed, both schools will be supported by educational professionals to ensure that standards of education are not compromised during the period of change.
ii) Building works

Some responses have included concerns about the impact of the building works on the High Downs children’s education during construction and of the impact to the standards at the schools during both the construction period and for the longer period of change to full primary status.

The Council carries out a significant number of construction projects at schools. There are strict legal Health and Safety requirements which ensure children remain safe when any construction works take place. Work areas are fully segregated from the rest of the school and strict child protection procedures are followed.

In our experience, building works bring very little disruption to a pupil’s education (although it is accepted that the input of ‘adults’ within the school community to any proposed building scheme, whilst vital, is time-consuming). The contractors we use, on a long standing relationship basis, work closely with school representatives to agree how best to deliver the project around the school needs. Our main contractors are also part of the Considerate Constructors scheme which monitors contractors against a code of practice to ensure that the disruption to neighbours is minimised as much as possible.

We recognise the interest of the children in the building works and believe children should be curious. There are huge curriculum based opportunities for children with building works on their school site. Our main contractors carry out events with children and staff to make the most of these opportunities.

The infant school carried out a major building project in 2005. This provided extra classrooms, an extended nursery and an extension to the office and entrance area. The school used the build to stimulate the curriculum and the high standards of the school were maintained during this period.

iii) Competition across the two schools

The two schools do have a very close existing relationship and work very successfully together in many respects. To help them move towards primary status (noting that this is still subject to Member approval and consultation and any reference to primary status comes with this caveat), the schools will need to work even closer together to make these changes a great success. It is noted that a formal collaboration agreement was signed in June 2012 by both schools and this will further strengthen in a formal way the working together of both Governing Bodies. This will remain in place regardless of whether the schools expand or continue as separate infant and junior schools.

Through the Council’s Future Schools Service, Council officers will encourage and support the schools in enhancing and extending their levels of working together. For example, the two schools would be able to support one another during the change process i.e. sharing expertise and resources in working with different age ranges. Many of the staff at both schools have experience of working in primary school environments.

In the same respect, we would expect the schools to continue working very closely together once they had both reached primary status. There are a number of different formal and informal ways in which the schools may choose to work together. The Council’s Future Schools Service has already worked very closely with a group of three schools moving to primary status in Weston-super-Mare using an informal partnership model to help them support one another through the change.
iv) Admission arrangements to the two High Down Schools

Mixed views have been received on whether decisions about the allocation of places should be based on a lottery of whole class transfers or on the basis of individual parental preferences. We would encourage stakeholders to make their comments and concerns known. In making a response it would be helpful if you could indicate whether or not you are affected by the changes. This will enable us to give greater weight to the comments of those parents who could be directly affected should the proposals be progressed.

It is accepted that further thought to these proposals is needed as there is no clear preferred option to date.

v) School standards and the perception that, according to Ofsted reports, one school may be better than the other

Ofsted provide an independent assessment of the quality and standards of education in schools, and check whether pupils are achieving as much as they can. In both schools, the inspectors found that children leave school with standards above national average. Inspectors found good and outstanding features in both schools. The key recommendation from Ofsted for High Down Juniors is to ensure pupils make, at least, good progress through the school.

In 2012, attainment across key indicators was strong for both schools. For example:

**High Down Infants**

**Key Stage 1 provisional results**

(2011 national results in brackets):

- L2+ Reading: 97% (85%)
- L3 Reading 50% (26%)
- L2+ Writing 98% (81%)
- L3 Writing 27% (13%)
- L2+ Mathematics 98% (90%)
- L3 Mathematics 49% (20%)

Both schools will make all efforts to support pupils currently attending the schools so they can continue to learn and make good progress. The main aim for these pupils is to ensure that they experience as little disruption as possible to their studies.

**High Down Juniors**

**Key Stage 2 provisional results**

(2011 national results in brackets):

- L4+ English & Mathematics 86%(74%)
- L4+ English 90% (81%)
- L5 English 46% (29%)
- L4+ Mathematics 91% (80%)
- L5 Mathematics 52% (35%)
6.0 Other Comments and Concerns

Funding and Council Tax

In 2010/11 the Council had around £160.8m to operate its services of which £93.4m was received from Council Tax revenue, £45.4m from Business rates and £22m in Government grants.

The Children and Young People’s Services Directorate (CYPS) received gross income of £181.2m of which £161.5m formed part of the Dedicated School’s Grant (DSG) (the DSG is not part of the Council’s overall budget allocation i.e. not part of the £160.8m). This provision is ‘ring-fenced’ i.e. kept separate from other services provided by the Council and cannot be used for any other purposes other than running schools.

Of Council funds, the CYPS budget of £19.6m was spent on providing essential services to children and families such as Social Care, running Children’s centres, paying for statutory services. The Directorate is expected to make 16% savings in the 2011/12 financial year rising to 25% savings in 2012/13 and 30% savings in 2013/14.

Funding allocations for building schools and providing places for schools are unfortunately not funded in any way by Council Tax contributions. Council Tax income for Children and Young People’s services is limited to statutory or regulatory duties such as pupil and parent support, curriculum support and special educational needs.

Funding to create new places within schools has traditionally come from Government capital funding and Grants, rather than Council Tax. This capital funding source is under review nationally.

7.0 Consultation Responses

We would encourage all those wishing to make their comments to do so.

The Council is aware that in addition to the summary of responses given below, there is a petition opposing the changes that currently has around 500 signatures. This will also be considered by those making the decisions as to whether or not the changes are progressed.
## Consultation Responses as at 30/08/12

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### Reasons

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### Number of consultation responses 30/08/12

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<th>HDI Expand</th>
<th>Stakeholder Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parents/Grandparents</td>
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### % summary of responses for the High Down Infant School proposal

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<th>Number of responses as at 30/8/12</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<th>No View</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parents/grandparents</td>
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<td>33.3%</td>
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<td><strong>4.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
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### % summary of responses for the High Down Junior School proposal

<table>
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<th>Number of responses as at 30/8/12</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/Governors</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupils/unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Responses</strong></td>
<td><strong>88</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.5%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How can I have my say?

We would like to hear everyone’s views, even if you have already responded to the consultation.

- If you have not previously responded or have already responded but would like to change your submission, please complete the questionnaire starting on page 9 of the original consultation document and the additional form below.
- If you have already responded and only have additional comments to make please complete the form below only.
- If you have already responded and have no changes to your original submission or further comments, you need not respond.

1.0 Have you completed a questionnaire before?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

2.0 If YES, have your views changed as a result of the further information given in this addendum?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know

3.0 As asked in the previous consultation, please specify your preferences and make any relevant comments for the allocation of Year 3 pupil places at both schools for September 2014 and September 2015; should the proposed changes be agreed. Please firstly state whether you will be directly affected by this as a parent / carer or not.

3.1 Is your child due to transfer to Year 3 in September 2014 or September 2015?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t Know
☐ Not Applicable
3.2 Which option highlighted below do you feel should be used when allocation year 3 school places:

Option 1: Administer expressions of preference in accordance with the policies, procedures and criteria similar to those governing infant to junior school transfers.

Option 2: Randomly allocate places (via a ballot) where all individual applications for places are placed in a ‘hat’. Names drawn from the hat are ranked and those expressing the school as their highest preference are allocated the place until all 60 places are offered.

Option 3: Randomly allocate places at one or other school within groups of children linked by friendship groups (5 children) with these groups being placed in a hat but considered as one group

Option 4: Move whole classes. The class allocations will be determined by random allocation.

Option 5: A mixture of these or other options (please provide details)

☐ Option 1
☐ Option 2
☐ Option 3
☐ Option 4
☐ Option 5

Your views on year three allocations: (please add here)
4.0 This addendum outlines the medium term alternatives identified for the provision of additional school places in Portishead, together with the advantages/disadvantages and risks associated with each of the options (please see appendix).

We would very much like to hear your views on the options we have outlined, together with any other thoughts you may have.

Please state below which option(s) you consider should be pursued further, if any:

☐ High Down Infant and Junior Schools
☐ Portishead Primary School
☐ St Joseph’s Catholic School
☐ Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School
☐ St Peter’s C of E Primary School
☐ St Barnabas site
☐ Gordano Secondary School
☐ Non Council Land

Your comments and views on alternative options: (please add here)

5.0 We would very much like to hear any further views or other thoughts you may have. Please use the below space for any final comments you wish to make.

Further comments or views: (please add here)
**Site Options Appendix**

**High Down Infant and Junior Schools**

**Site description**

**Site size** – 2.2 hectares

**Current school size** – 630 pupils across the two schools (270 pupils at the Infant and 360 pupils at the Junior schools) (3 form entry) plus 78 nursery places

**Travel considerations** – Existing traffic and congestion would be further exacerbated; a lack of off-road areas around the schools for parents to park away from residential dwellings

**Other site considerations** – Key Stage 2 sports space requires extra consideration

**Site options/Considerations**

- To create two 420 place primary schools on the High Down campus by September 2013
- To create new classrooms and facilities (Halls / Group Rooms etc) within the current buildings footprint and hard play areas across the two High Down sites
- To investigate and create appropriate Key Stage 2 sports space now that the option to purchase additional land is not possible within the timescales and budget available
- Proposed by North Somerset Council as the schools are maintained schools
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Potential educational opportunity for both schools to become all-through primaries
- Revenue benefits of being primary schools
- Opportunity to provide some new buildings and facilities for both school communities. It must be noted that the change will mainly be limited to the delivery needs for the extra children. There are some condition issues and the existing layout needs updating. The proposal would help to improve both sites
- A solution could be delivered by the 2013 / 2014 school year
- The risk of refusal to planning permission in accordance with planning regulations was initially deemed to be lower than that for other schemes. This may change once the full views of the public are known
- No flood risk issues
- Council proposal on land owned by the Council and is not constrained by Green Belt or other planning policy status
- Largest primary school site in Portishead (but also the largest number of pupils)

Negatives and risks
- The risk to the safety of the children needs to be more carefully managed with increased traffic around the area. Highways have indicated in Pre-Application planning advice that this will be an issue, along with providing sufficient on site parking for staff
- A significant number of children won’t be schooled in their immediate community
- Some children may be unable to walk or cycle to school.
- Existing traffic problems around the schools sites would be exacerbated with significant additional numbers of pupils from outside the immediate area
- Cost and time pressures for families in transporting children to school from outside the schools’ immediate ‘catchment’ area
- Traffic congestion in and around other parts of Portishead when families cross the town
- The carbon footprint would be increased as a result of the extra fuel being used on journeys to school
- Not supported by the majority of the local community
- Would need the continued support of the Governing Bodies of the schools
- There will need to be mitigation against the provision of soft play areas which would require an additional budget allocation
- Sport England may object to the requirement for more children to use the existing soft play areas even with enhancements to provide all-weather facilities

Timeline – Could be delivered by 2013-2014 school year

Overall rating – Pre-July 2012 Amber – Could be achievable, but lack of support is a risk

Revised rating – Amber/Red – considerable lack of support to the scheme and highways planning issues
Portishead Primary

Site description

Site size – 1.15 hectares

Current school size – 420 pupils (currently 450) (2 form entry)

Travel considerations – Some parking in use and available, options for other nearby parking where parents can walk from (i.e. Parish Wharf site). Road access to school is very narrow with very limited parking on the highway

Other site considerations – Site is very small

Site options/Considerations

- To expand the school to accommodate up to 630 children (3 classes per year group) from its current 420 place two form entry
- Proposed by North Somerset Council as the school is maintained by the local Authority
- Solution to build a third storey extension and create an all weather facility on this already tight site of 1.15 Hectares
- A solution to build additional buildings on the school playing fields is not deemed viable due to the lack of space on site. This would leave no play areas. A site would need to be found for play to transport the children to
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Location is within/close to the new developments areas
- Land is owned by the Council
- Most children could walk to school

Negatives and risks
- A third story extension scheme is almost certainly unviable as the current foundations have not been designed and installed to cope with the additional loading
- Difficult to expand the school whilst the children are on site. There would be no other sites to educate the children on during any building works
- A recent planning submission for additional temporary accommodation highlighted issues with access to the site and other site restrictions
- The school is in a flood risk area
- Sport England would probably object to the requirement for more children to use the existing soft play areas and changes to meet these requirements would be challenging. If they were to object this could necessitate reference of any proposed permission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for a decision on whether to require a public inquiry or allow the Council to make the final decision
- Would not be delivered in time for the 2013-2014 school year. There is no more spare space within the school’s footprint for extra interim measures

Timeline – the project could not be delivered until 2014-2015 school year at the earliest

Overall Rating – Red - Third storey not realistically deliverable
St Joseph’s Catholic School

Site description

Site size – 1.4 hectares

Current school size – 210 pupils (one form entry)

Travel considerations – Drop off system in place already at school. The school has a good sized car park

Other site considerations – Close to public amenity land

Site options/Considerations

● To expand the school to accommodate up to 420 children (2 classes per year group) from its current 210-place one form entry

● Any change would need to be proposed by school governors as the school is Voluntary Aided

● Potential solution - expand the school buildings on existing site (single-storey) and purchase or lease extra land for play space as the site is only 1.4 Hectares

● Potential solution - expand the school building by building a second storey extension
High Down Infant and Junior School

Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Location is more accessible to a larger proportion of the Portishead family community than the High Down campus option, but still some distance from the areas of main residential growth
- It would create more Catholic places
- Some children could walk to school – though St Joseph’s is further than other options and full checks on walking routes for individual children would be required

Negatives and risks
- Risk of being unable to purchase or lease extra land – nearby land leased on a long-term basis to Portishead Football Club
- Flood risk area
- The Catholic ethos and the feel of the school could be compromised with a higher proportion of non Catholic pupils
- Risk that the additional spaces would be allocated to Catholic families from outside Portishead. The solution may not create as much additional capacity as other options, (this is because the admissions criteria must give priority to Catholic families above all others)
- Sport England may object to the proposal if additional land is not purchased or leased
- It would not be delivered in time for 2013-2014 school year (although interim solutions could be possible)
- It would be difficult to progress a second storey solution whilst the children are on site. There are no other sites to educate the children whilst works were ongoing
- The cost of building up and the logistics of delivering such a scheme may be prohibitive
- The current foundations may not be adequate to take the additional loadings for a second storey without costly additional works
- Depending on school boundaries and the nature of any scheme, Green Belt land may be affected

Timeline – Cannot be delivered until 2014-2015 school year at the earliest, subject to land options

Overall Rating – Amber / Red - Risk of not being able to obtain the land for play, especially if a single storey extension is delivered / second storey not realistically deliverable.
Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School

Site description

Site size – 2.0 hectares

Current school size – 420 pupils (2 form entry) plus 60 nursery places

Travel considerations – The access to the school is in a highly populated residential area. The existing level of traffic passing down the narrow approach roads is substantial at drop off and collection times. The car park at the school is already too small

Other site considerations – Use land opposite the school behind the currently closed railway line

Site options/Considerations

● To expand the school to accommodate up to 630 children (3 classes per year group) from its current 420 place two form entry

● Any change would need to be proposed by school governors as the school is Voluntary Aided

● Potential solution - expand the school buildings on existing site (2nd football pitch site). The site is 2.0 Hectares

● Potential solution - expand the school building by building a second storey extension
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Location is within the Village Quarter
- Children could walk to school
- Current admission arrangements are weighted to providing places to local children within the Village Quarter
- Site is almost as large as the High Downs campus and St Peter’s C of E Primary School – see outline of footprint above

Negatives and risks
- Site size, according to DfE guidance, is appropriate for a 420 place school. Sport England may object to the proposal on the grounds of not having additional play space if the existing pitch is developed
- Flood risk area
- Would not be delivered in time for 2013-2014 school year - implications of this would mean that some children would need to be transported outside of Portishead for their education
- School governors feel that the school needs a period of stability as it only opened in 2008, it took extra children in September 2010 and it physically doubled in size in 2011
- An expansion cannot be progressed without the agreement of the Governing Body, the Methodist Church and the Diocese of Bath and Wells
- It would be difficult to expand the school to a second storey whilst the children are on site. There are no other sites to educate the children on whilst works were ongoing. The second storey works would take at least a full academic year to undertake and pose significant health and safety risks to pupils, staff and other members of the school community
- The cost and logistics of a second storey option may be prohibitive. It is unlikely that the foundations /piling would be sufficient
- The current car park is already an issue as it is too small
- The transport issues would be problematic as the residents are already concerned about the impacts arising from the level of traffic passing down the narrow approach roads
- The Governing Body are acutely aware and anxious about the impact the lack of pupil places has on the parents in the local community. The school has however to consider the detrimental impact a third expansion would have on existing children in a very short space of time
- The Governors have confirmed that the land across the railway line is not associated with the school

Timeline - Cannot be delivered until 2014-2015 school year at the earliest

Overall rating – Red – Lack of space and governors requirement for a period of stability.
High Down Infant and Junior School

St Peter’s C of E Primary School

Site description

**Site size** – 2.1 hectares

**Current school size** – 420 pupils (currently 450) (2 form entry)

**Travel considerations** – The access to the school is via a cul-de-sac. The existing level of traffic passing down the narrow approach roads is substantial at drop off and collection times

**Other site considerations** – The 2.1 hectares includes an area of land of 0.4 hectares not currently in use by the school

Site options/Considerations

- To expand the school to accommodate up to 630 children (3 classes per year group) from its current 420 place two form entry
- Would need to be proposed by school governors as the school is a Voluntary Controlled School
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Location is closer to the Village Quarter than some other options
- Most children could walk to school
- The current admission arrangements are supportive of local schools for local children
- The Governing Body are prepared to work with the Council to explore opportunities for expansion provided the right infrastructures are provided
- There are existing options for on street parking within a 10/15 minute walk of the school that could be used to address additional parking requirements
- Option of the use of temporary accommodation for a class space for the year 2013-2014 to accommodate additional children before a more permanent solution in 2014-2015, although other site demands for the academic year would also need to be addressed
- Already accommodated a three form entry structure in the current year

Negatives and risks
- Sport England may object to the proposal on the grounds of the overall size of the site. This is a lower risk than other options due to the availability of currently unused land on the site
- Flood risk area
- Traffic - risk of increase of cars especially as the entrance to the school is via a cul-de-sac
- At the time of taking an additional 30 children in 2011, it was communicated that, at that time, the Council was not intending to increase the size of the school. Significant local opposition to the temporary increase was made by local residents
- Planning risk - the site is land locked. There would be local opposition to the proposal. The Council would have to address improvement or enhancement of pedestrian and/or road access to the school
- Flooding Issues – The Environment Agency have already indicated that conditions would be placed upon the development
- Access is limited and it may not be possible to safely and satisfactorily accommodate increased volumes of traffic
- The layout of the building will dictate some extensive internal remodelling in parts in order to provide the necessary administration, staff areas and additional group areas associated with a 630 place school.
- Continued governor support is required for the scheme
- The scheme will need to be delivered within budget constraints

Timeline – Whilst the full scheme could not be delivered until the 2014-2015 school year, an interim solution could be put in place for September 2013

Overall rating – Amber - Subject to consultation, public support and planning permissions
St Barnabas site

Site description

Site size – 0.274 hectares (playing field to the rear 0.69ha)

Current usage – Set up as Children’s Centre and used for a number of other community uses

Travel considerations – The site is at the top of a hill, close to the High Down sites. Objections have been received in relation to the increased traffic for a solution at the top end of Portishead

Other site considerations – The site is in use for the following: Children’s Centre, Pre-School, Community Family Team and the Disabled Children’s Team, a Church room, the Dyslexia Service, Health Visitor baby clinics, Parenting groups. It is the premises for the largest child minding network in the district, a Stay and Play service, a Credit Union, a Young Parents Drop-in Service, Bumps and Babies services, a Lads, Lasses and Dad’s group, a Contact Centre for parents with children in care, International Parents Support and English as an additional language, a base for Child Protection Conferences, core children’s services groups and the other child focused groups, support groups and respite to families with children with disabilities, community hire.

Site options/Considerations

- To re-open St Barnabas as a 105 place primary school with an admission number of 15 pupils
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Creation of a further 105 school places in Portishead

Negatives and risks
- The Trust Deed for the site has constraints
- The site is not close to the area of pupil demand
- The site is being used for a variety of purposes - well appreciated by local community
- The school had low pupil attendance numbers when previously open and was not as popular with parents as other options
- The site would need some remodelling to put it back to its use as a school
- The option would only create an additional 15 places per year group

Timeline – The Trust Deed would need to be re-investigated. Any timescale for re-opening/establishing a new school would need to be considered as a long-term solution

Overall Rating – Red - viability – within the timescale
Site description

Site size – undeveloped area = 1.4 hectares

Current school size – 1911 pupils (308 per years 7 – 11 intake plus sixth form)

Travel considerations – The access to the school is along a busy road used by commuters travelling to Portishead with no road parking and some limited nearby parking. The existing level of traffic passing in the vicinity is substantial at drop off and collection times

Site options/Considerations

• To establish an all-through 4-19 school or create a separate Primary school on the Gordano site
High Down Infant and Junior School

Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Creation of an additional 210 primary school places
- Location closer to the demand for places than some other options – but likely that car journeys would still be required
- Opportunities for the transition to secondary phase much smoother

Negatives and risks
- School site needs to maintain available space for secondary school places
- School site may not be large enough to accommodate the equivalent of a 210 place primary school
- Large age range on one campus may not be preferred by some parents
- If it is a new school, the proposal would need to go through an Expressions of Interest process
- Would need the support and progression from the Governing Body. The school is an academy and therefore is independent of the Council

Timeline – Cannot be delivered until 2014-2015 school year at earliest

Overall rating – Red – Space required to provide secondary places
Non Council Land

Site description

Site size – n/a

Current school size – n/a

Travel considerations – n/a

Site Options/considerations

- Exploration and assessment of non-council land
- To buy or lease land and establish a Primary School on the site
- To buy or lease existing office buildings
- Purchase previous school sites – Portishead Primary School in Slade Road or St Joseph’s RC Primary School in West Hill
Positives, negatives, risks, rating

Positives
- Creation of additional primary school places (numbers would be dependant on the site)
- Opportunity to create a school nearer to the area of demand

Negatives and Risks
- Identification of suitable land and the need for outline planning permission
- Land acquisition – probable compulsory purchase order required
- Cost of suitable land may be prohibitive
- If Greenbelt, time required to gain permission to allow building AND proof that all other options have been explored and proven not viable
- Would need to seek Expressions of Interest for establishing a new school
- Permission for a change of use on brown-field from (eg) business use is lengthy and not guaranteed and opportunities for employment growth is also a Council priority
- Potential conflict for pupils and parents if accessing school site where existing business premises will continue and generate heavy goods vehicles or large volumes of traffic
- If buying / leasing existing office buildings, the suitability of a building for the delivery of education
- Standard of building and the cost of remodelling
- If buying / leasing existing office buildings, purchase/lease costs may be at commercial rates
- If buying / leasing existing office buildings, outside play space/green area/playing fields need to be provided
- If leasing a building there is a risk that the school could become ‘homeless’ if the lease were not renewed or became too costly
- There are no funds for significant land purchases. Interim solutions to provide extra school places whilst a longer-term scheme was in development could not be progressed unless finance for the longer term solutions were secure and a promoter for the new school found

Timeline - Likely deliverable timescale 2016/2017 at the earliest

Overall rating – Red – no suitable site identified, and culmination of too many risks and unknowns
Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats.

Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For more information contact: 01275 884 727 or school.organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk