



## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### Cabinet Report

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**Report of:** Jayne Ludlam

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**Report to:** Cabinet

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**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014

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**Subject:** School Places in Sheffield: Publication feedback

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**Author of Report:** Joel Hardwick (ext 35476)

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**Key Decision:** YES

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**Reason Key Decision:** Affects two or more wards  
Expenditure/savings over £500,000

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**Summary:** The report provides feedback following the publication of statutory proposals to change the number/organisation of school places in two areas of the city. It seeks permission to take the next steps in taking forward these proposals.

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**Reasons for Recommendations:**

Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live. In Tinsley the proposal would secure the single management, governance, and leadership structure across the primary age-range.

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**Recommendations:**

- (i) Approve the proposal to increase the capacity at Hallam Primary School as described in the statutory proposals, in recognition of the concerns raised by local residents, this approval is conditional on the granting of planning permission before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014

- (ii) Approve the proposals to create a single primary school for Tinsley by closing Tinsley Nursery Infant School and extending the age range of Tinsley Junior School, with a change to the timing stated in the published proposals to bring it forward to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 as requested by the two governing bodies
  - (iii) Agree that the new through primary school building in Tinsley should be moved to a site away from the motorway
  - (iv) Cabinet will receive a further report to consider the different site options and make a decision on the Site by July 2014
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**Background Papers:**

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**Category of Report:        OPEN**

## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
YES Cleared by: Paul Schofield
<b>Legal Implications</b>
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Rights Implications</b>
NO
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic Impact</b>
NO
<b>Community Safety Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Resources Implications</b>
NO
<b>Property Implications</b>
YES
<b>Area(s) Affected</b>
<b>Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead</b>
Cllr Jackie Drayton
<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee</b>
Children & Young People
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press Release</b>
NO

## **REPORT TO THE CABINET**

### **SCHOOL PLACES IN SHEFFIELD**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report provides feedback following the publication of statutory proposals to change the number/organisation of school places in two areas of the city. It seeks permission to take the next steps in taking forward these proposals.

#### **2. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE**

- 2.1 Providing sufficient school places is essential to the Council's focus on enabling children to have the best start, achieve their full potential and contribute to the success of the city. This programme is aimed at providing enough primary school places for all Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond in the area of the city in which they live.
- 2.2 At the heart of the vision for increasing primary school places in Sheffield is the council's role in guaranteeing excellent education outcomes and equitable access for all.

#### **3. OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- 3.1 The outcome would be to provide enough primary school places in the right areas to meet demand in 2014 and beyond. This includes an assessment of whether the solution is sustainable in the long-term.

#### **4. CONTEXT**

- 4.1 Since 1977 birth rates in Sheffield have fluctuated, with a more recent peak of 6,805 in 1990/91, followed by a steady decline to 5549 in 2001/02. This downward trend was reversed in 2002/03 as Sheffield saw an increase in births, rising steadily to 6,602 in 2009/10. In some areas the increase in births is much higher than the City average. Recent data suggests the number of births in Sheffield is, for the time being, sustained at this higher level. In addition to the population growth there has been a more recent rise in the number of pupils applying for places mid-year, after the normal point of entry. The local schools are usually full so this has led to an increase in children allocated to out of area schools and families with siblings split across different schools.
- 4.2 Over the last five years the Council has taken steps to address the growth in demand with the addition of over 2,500 places to the primary system to date, with approved plans for a further 1,000. All targeted at

areas of the highest demand.

- 4.3 The Council approved the most recent of those proposals in November 2012 with a decision to create two new primary schools in the north east of Sheffield. Following a successful capital bid the Council is also in the process of commissioning a new 2-16 school in the Darnall/Attercliffe area. Overall, Sheffield is now operating in a tighter system as the reduced number of surplus places means reduced flexibility. This means that local population rises are more likely to require action to provide additional places.
- 4.4 The current round of proposals were published on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014, covering five areas of the city. This included the two proposals described in this report alongside proposals to expand places at Acres Hill, Greystones, and Wybourn Primary Schools. On these three expansion proposals no comments or objections were received in response to the published statutory notices and the decision to implement these proposals was made by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

## 5. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

- 5.1 The full statutory notices and complete proposals are attached at **appendix 1** and these detail the pre-Christmas consultation and all responses received in each of the areas. The publication signals the start of a period where the Council invites written representations on the proposals to inform a final decision. The period lasts four weeks for the expansion proposal at Hallam and six weeks for the proposed changes relating to Tinsley. In addition to responses to the published notices, a drop-in was held in Tinsley on 5<sup>th</sup> March advertised by a newsletter that went out through the schools and was posted in local venues. All representations received are attached at **appendix 2**, including views collected at the drop-in.
- Hallam
- 5.2 The published proposal was to increase the number of places at Hallam Primary School from 60 to 90 per year from September 2015. Three representations were received.
- 5.3 The key issue described is the potential to exacerbate what are seen as current problems with traffic and parking around the site at the start and end of the school day. These issues were heard during the consultation from a number of local residents. The issue of the pending village green application relating to the school playing field was also mentioned. The representations note the general issue of congestion as well as the potential safety hazards. One of the representations supports the idea of formalising access from the layby on Redmires Road and this option would be picked up in the further work to develop plans for the site.

### Tinsley

- 5.4 The published proposal was to create a single primary school for Tinsley by closing the Nursery Infant school and extending the age range of the Junior School to cover pupils from 3-11. In addition to that legal change the consultation prior to Christmas covered the potential to create a new school building for the newly amalgamated primary school on a new site. The new site put forward during consultation was part of the Tinsley Recreation Ground.
- 5.5 The majority of representations cover the issues familiar from consultation around the site. They note opposition to the loss of park space and the potential impact on immediate neighbours such as noise, impaired views, and increased traffic. They do not comment specifically on the proposed legal changes to the schools.
- 5.6 Those representations from members of the public that do comment specifically on the proposed legal changes fall broadly into three categories:
- (i) Opposition to the proposal on the basis that it will lead to building on the park
  - (ii) Support for the proposal on the basis that a single governance and leadership structure is already partially in place and the proposal would secure this arrangement.
  - (iii) There is not sufficient information to comment on the proposal and/or the consultation process has not been adequate
- 5.7 A further representation was received from the two school governing bodies. This was supportive of the proposal and cited a number of potential benefits. It also requests that the Council consider bringing forward the legal change to the schools in order that they can establish the single governing body to match the existing leadership structure as soon as possible.

## **6. DETERMINATION & NEXT STEPS**

- 6.1 In determining each proposal, Cabinet, as the decision maker, must be satisfied that the process complies with all statutory requirements and have regard to the relevant statutory guidance. This includes consideration of the effect on standards and school improvement, the need for places, the impact on school characteristics (such as boarding provision or single sex schools), funding and land issues, the views of interested parties, and the need to take account of representations. The full guidance is attached at **appendix 3**.

### Hallam

- 6.2 The key issue raised in the representations was around traffic and parking in the neighbouring residential streets. This was heard during the consultation before Christmas. Officers therefore held a meeting

with local residents on 6<sup>th</sup> February to discuss possible designs and how these might alleviate the concerns. The meeting was a positive start in an open dialogue on these issues that would continue until designs reach a stage where they are submitted for planning permission.

- 6.3 The specific issues raised concern the impact of development, rather than the principle of increasing the number of places in terms of the local education system. These are issues the Council must take seriously in the next phases of development before receiving proper consideration at the planning application stage. This would include continuing dialogue following from the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February and further formal consultation as part of the planning permission process.
- 6.4 On that basis the recommendation is to approve the proposals and ensure the work to engage local residents around the development continues in the lead up to the planning application process. The approval is therefore recommended to be conditional upon the granting of planning permission.

#### Tinsley

- 6.5 Very few objections have been heard about the merger proposal as separate from the site issue. The consultation has been extensive running from October 2013 and the vast majority of responses to the consultation were about where the school would be built. Further detailed work on site options is still taking place.
- 6.6 Therefore, it is recommended that Cabinet agree that a new through primary school should be built in Tinsley and moved away from the motorway and that Cabinet receive a further report to consider all the site options and decide on the site for a new school by July 2014.
- 6.7 In view of the representation from the two governing bodies requesting that the timing be brought forward, it is recommended that this be incorporated as a modification to the original specification, bringing forward the merger proposal to September 2014.
- 6.8 Until the issue of the site is resolved and a new school building completed the school would continue to operate from the two existing sites.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Legal**

- 7.1 Local Authorities have a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient primary schools are available for their area. The proposals to reorganise school provision to meet this requirement, such as expansion and closure, are governed by the procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)

(England) Regulations 2007, as amended and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended. These regulations have been revoked and replaced with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 but transitional arrangements provide that the 2007 regulations continue to apply where, as in this case, the notices were published before that date.

7.2 The fact that work around the identification of a new site is still ongoing, does not prevent the proposal to create a single primary school for Tinsley by closing the Nursery Infant School and extending the age range of the Junior School to cover pupils from 3 -11 from being approved by Cabinet, as the decision maker. This is also consistent with the statutory guidance, which states that proposals dependent on the acquisition of an additional site may not receive full approval but should be approved conditionally upon the acquisition of the site, although the recommended approval is not conditional in this case as the school can and will operate on split sites from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. Cabinet, as the decision maker, also has a duty to have regard to the statutory guidance attached at appendix 3.

7.3 There is also an outstanding Town or Village Green application in respect of the playing field area at Hallam Primary School, which if successful would preclude any development of that area for purposes other than that which is consistent with use as a Town or Village Green. As noted above, the recommendation is to approve with the condition that planning permission is granted for the related capital scheme.

**Financial Implications**

7.4 Capital: The Council receives an annual capital allocation from central government to provide school places known as ‘Basic Need’. Sheffield was allocated £6.6m to cover 2013/14 and £6.6m for 2014/15. Recently a further £17.2m for 15/16 and £18.1m for 16/17 has been confirmed which are to meet future predicted deficits, particularly in our future secondary provision. The Council also applied for and was awarded a further £1.7m from the targeted basic need programme for Tinsley.

7.5 The schemes described in this report, alongside the 3 other proposals that form part of this round would be funded as shown in the following table. Costs associated with Tinsley are included but this would be subject to the further report anticipated relating to the options on sites:

	Estimated Cost (000s)	CYPF Capital (000s)	TBN <sup>1</sup> (000s)	S106 <sup>2</sup> (000s)
Greystones	£2,500	£2,500		
Hallam	£2,500	£2,500		
Wybourn	£600	£450		£150
Acres Hill	£485	£485		
Tinsley	£6,500	£4,800	£1,700	



<sup>1</sup> Targeted Basic Need programme: as a result of a successful bid from the Council to this central government funding stream to support the increase of places in Tinsley

<sup>2</sup> S106: a contribution towards local infrastructure from developers of new housing as a condition of planning permission

- 7.6 The latest school population projections, and consultation feedback, show a need to build 1 new primary school, with a possibility to add a second at Firth Park subject to review, and capacity extensions at 4 other schools. The estimated cost of this work is just under £14m.
- 7.7 The Council is already committed to a substantial programme of capital spending in schools. Assuming that the current central government Basic Need funding, as already announced, is not reduced, the Council can balance the current programme over the period between 13/14 and 16/17. Further work is required to understand and quantify the secondary school requirements.
- 7.8 Although the programme would be balanced, the spend would need to take place ahead of receiving the grant. On current payment schedules and project spending plans, the maximum exposure the Council would face is £6.9m in 2014/15. This is described in the table below, which includes the figures outlined above as well as all other capital spending in schools:

	2013/14 £k	2014/15	2015/16
b/fwd		(8,709)	6,910
Expenditure		39,407	5,152
Funding		(23,788)	(12,000)
Cumulative Exposure/ (surplus)	(8,709)	6,910	62

- 7.9 In making the above projections there are a number of risks and assumptions:
- The additional capacity can be built at the estimated cost;
  - The Basic Need Formula Funding remains unchanged;
  - The remaining monies, together with any future Basic Need allocations, will be sufficient to deliver future projected increases in capacity to meet rising demand for places, particularly for secondary education.
- 7.10 In the event that the above assumptions were proved unsound and the risk did materialise, the Council would have to seek alternative funding by prioritising other capital expenditure or diverting other income streams.

#### **Equality of Opportunity**

- 7.11 The overall aim of this programme is to ensure that access to quality primary school provision is available to all children of primary school

age across Sheffield.

### **Environmental & Sustainability**

- 7.12 Providing additional local school places will increase the number of families who are able to go to their local school. This will reduce the number of longer journeys and should therefore increase the number of pupils who are able to travel to school in a sustainable way.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The consultation process and statutory notice period has allowed for alternative proposals to come forward. In the case of Tinsley the key alternatives were around the site and these are being considered fully before a further report back to Cabinet.

## **9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live. In Tinsley the proposal would secure the single management, governance, and leadership structure across the primary age-range.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That Cabinet:
- (i) Approve the proposal to increase the capacity at Hallam Primary School as described in the statutory proposals, in recognition of the concerns raised by local residents, this approval is conditional on the granting of planning permission before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014
  - (ii) Approve the proposals to create a single primary school for Tinsley by closing Tinsley Nursery Infant School and extending the age range of Tinsley Junior School, with a change to the timing stated in the published proposals to bring it forward to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 as requested by the two governing bodies
  - (iii) Agree that the new through primary school building in Tinsley should be moved to a site away from the motorway
  - (iv) Cabinet will receive a further report to consider the different site options and make a decision on the Site by July 2014

Joel Hardwick,  
Acting Senior Manager, School Organisation  
April 2014

## APPENDIX 1: STATUTORY NOTICES AND COMPLETE PROPOSALS

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## CHANGES TO SHEFFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Sheffield City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to one community school from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 and three community schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

The schools will increase capacity to enable more children to access a place. Please see the table below for the school names, addresses, proposed change, and date of implementation.

In the case of Acres Hill Community Primary School the proposal is a temporary change with no permanent increase to the admission number. The proposal would be to have a one-off intake of 15 additional pupils into each year group from Year 2 to Year 5 in May 2014 and an additional class of 30 pupils in Reception in September 2014. The school would revert to offering 30 places per year in Reception from September 2015.

For the remaining three schools the capacity would increase annually over a seven year period.

School	Current Net Capacity	Proposed Net Capacity	Current Number of Pupils on Roll (NOR) Sept 11	Current Indicated Admission Number (IAN)	Proposed Indicated Admission Number (IAN)	Number of Pupils to be Admitted in first year
Acres Hill Community Primary School (Community), Mather Road, Sheffield S9 4GQ	270	360*	266	30	30*	60*
Greystones Primary School (Community), Tullibardine Road, Sheffield S11 7GL	540	630	540	60	90	90
Hallam Primary School (Community), Hallam Grange Crescent, Sheffield S10 4BD	420	630	476	60	90	90
Wybourn Community Primary and Nursery School (Community)	315	420	325	45	60	60

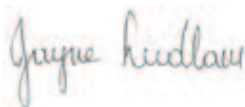
*\*Temporary proposal, see note above*

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from:

Post: Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, c/o David Metcalfe, School Organisation Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH

Email: [schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families (Ref: Primary Expansions), c/o School Organisation Team, Children's Commissioning Service, Sheffield City Council, Level 2, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PL.



Signed:

Publication Date: 24/01/2014

### Explanatory Notes

These four expansions form part of this round of the programme to address the increased demand for primary school places. Although all four expansions are part of the same programme, each expansion is not linked to any other and can proceed independently.

## PROPOSALS FOR A NEW TINSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Part 1 - Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street Sheffield S1 2HH intends to discontinue Tinsley Nursery Infant School (Community), Siemens Close, Sheffield S9 1UN on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to this proposal have been complied with.

This proposal is linked to the proposal below to extend the age range of Tinsley Junior School and all pupils would automatically transfer from the Nursery Infant School to the expanded Junior School. Appropriate provision would be made to meet the needs of all pupils transferring.

Ultimately the proposal is to bring the two schools together on a single site (see explanatory notes). This would minimise the travel distance and should therefore encourage a reduction in car use.

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Part 2 – Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Sheffield City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Tinsley Junior School (Community), Bawtry Road, Sheffield S9 1WB from 01 September 2015.

The proposal is to expand and change the age range of Tinsley Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11. This would create a single primary school to serve the Tinsley community.

The current capacity of the school is 300 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current admission number for the school is 75 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

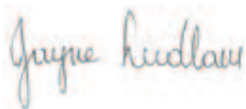
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This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from:

Post: Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, c/o David Metcalfe, School Organisation Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH

Email: [schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk)

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, c/o David Metcalfe, School Organisation Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH.



Signed:

Publication Date: 24/01/2014

### Explanatory Notes

The alterations described in this notice do not require an additional site and could be implemented on the existing sites of the two schools. However, it is anticipated that a newly-created single school for Tinsley would have new buildings. The current proposal for this would be to create a new school on the Tinsley Recreation Ground site (Norborough Road, Sheffield S9 1SG), utilising the existing Tinsley Green buildings.

# PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

1. The name, address and category of the school .

Hallam Primary School (Community), Hallam Grange Crescent, Sheffield S10 4BD

The proposer is Sheffield City Council.

(Contact: School Organisation Team, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH)

## Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

It is proposed that the school will offer 90 places in Reception from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and that this will continue in subsequent years.

## Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:

Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families  
c/o David Metcalfe  
School Organisation Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Howden House  
Union Street  
Sheffield  
S1 2SH

The closing date for responses is Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to increase the capacity of the school to permanently accommodate 90 children in each year group from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 onwards. The proposal would not affect the size of the existing year groups.

**School capacity**

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current permanent capacity of the school is 420 (60 places per year) with temporary arrangements in place for a further 30 places in the current Year 1. The school also has capacity to offer additional places in Key Stage 2 and has agreed an interim arrangement to offer an additional 15 places in Year 3 linked to Broomhill Infants School. The proposed capacity is 630 (90 places per year).

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Year (Sept)	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
2015	90	60	60	90	75	75	75	525
2016	90	90	60	75	90	75	75	555
2017	90	90	90	75	75	90	75	585
2018	90	90	90	90	75	75	90	600
2019	90	90	90	90	90	75	75	600
2020	90	90	90	90	90	90	75	615
2021	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	630

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

(see table above)

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

(see table above)

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and s19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The school currently has 476 pupils on roll.

### **Additional Site**

6.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No additional site is required

### **Objectives**

7. The objectives of the proposals.

The objective of the proposal is to create additional primary school places to meet the demand created by an increase in the population local to Hallam Primary School.

### **Consultation**

8. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
  - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
  - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with. The consultation approach was designed so that it could be easily accessible and well understood by as wide a range of parents and carers as possible. The consultation period ran from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

#### Parents and carers

A newsletter was distributed through the school at the start of the consultation to outline the proposal, advertise the consultation events, and invite people's views. Events were held at the school gates. There were also drop-in sessions for parents/carers.

#### Local Residents

Following responses from local residents, a letter was posted to all addresses on the roads neighbouring the site and the consultation deadline was extended to allow those people to respond.

#### Pupils

Staff at the schools discussed the proposals with pupils and the School Council. It is anticipated pupils will become more involved with the design phase.

#### Staff

A meeting was held for all staff on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

#### Neighbouring Schools

The relevant neighbouring primary schools were also consulted, with newsletters for parents and carers through the school and an offer to meet each Governing Body.



Other stakeholders such as the local Councillors, MPs and Catholic Diocese and Church of England Diocese received a letter and offer to follow up through a meeting.

**A copy of the newsletter is attached at appendix 1 and the responses to consultation are attached at appendix 2.**

### Project costs

9. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The estimated capital cost of the proposal is £1,400,000. This will be met in full from the capital funding allocated to Sheffield City Council to support schools.

10. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

(see above)

### Need or demand for additional places

11. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The table below shows the last three intakes compared to the local population and the forecast demand for the next three years based on the average take-up. The areas included are the Hallam (60 places) and Lydgate (120 places) catchment areas. The total places currently offered is 180 with this proposal to increase that to 210:

Intake Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Local Population*	207	246	234	245	218	245
Average Take-up %				86.8%	86.8%	86.8%
Actual/Forecast Demand for School Places	182	202	203	213	189	213

\* Factoring in historical trend of growth from people moving into the area with pre-school-age children

## Expansion of successful and popular schools

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable
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# Primary Places in Crosspool

**Your invitation to come and tell us what you think!**

In recent years, Sheffield has seen a rise in the number of young children living in the City. We want to make sure that we can offer all families a local school place. This means that some areas will see an increase in the number of school places made available in their local area. The aim of this newsletter is to inform local parents and carers about our plan to provide additional local school places. We also want to explain what opportunities there are to find out more and for you to ask any questions you may have.

## Background

The area we are looking at is covered by Broomhill Infants, Hallam Primary, Lydgate Infants, Lydgate Juniors, Nether Green Infants, Nether Green Juniors and St Marie's RC Primary. There are 325 Reception places available across these schools.

Based on the number of young children living in your area we expect there to be a need for around 30 extra Reception places in the future. The main area of growth is in the Crosspool area, concentrated around Hallam Primary and Lydgate Infants/Juniors.

As a result we need to bring forward proposals to increase the number of places available to meet the needs of local families. The sites of the two Lydgate schools are constrained and those schools are already larger than average. One-off extra classes have been created at Hallam Primary in recent years to cope with bulge years. The increased local population is now a more established trend and extra places are needed from September 2015.

## What would be involved?

The City Council is therefore proposing to permanently expand Hallam Primary School from 60 places per year up to 90 places. The proposal would be to make the extra places available in all Reception intakes at Hallam Primary from September 2015 onwards.

We need to find out what local people think before any decision is taken and you can find out how to get involved over the page.

If this proposal goes ahead it would mean work to create new classrooms and other spaces at the school. The extra pupils would mean the school would receive extra funding to make sure that there are more teachers and support staff, so class sizes would not increase.



**What could this mean for you?**

Ultimately, making the extra places available would mean families in this area would be more likely to get a local school place. The Council has considerable experience in working on school sites and every effort would be made to minimise the impact on current pupils if the work did go ahead.

**What happens now?**

The first step is to listen to the views of parents, carers and the local community before any decisions are taken. This consultation will run until December 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.

After the consultation period, all of the views will be put together in a report to Sheffield City Council's Cabinet. Councillors can then look at what has been said before deciding how to proceed. If the proposal went ahead, the Council would publish a legal notice giving exact details of the changes proposed and the community would be offered a further chance to comment in writing.

**How can you get involved?**

There will be a number of opportunities for local people to find out more and give their views. Details of these sessions and contact details are provided below.

More detailed information on the need for additional places in your area can be found in the report to Cabinet. You can get a copy of this and more information on the decision making process at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces) or by contacting us via the details below.

**Meetings**

If you want to come and hear more about the proposals and tell us what you think about them, Council Officers will be at the school gates on the following days to talk to parents and carers:

- Hallam Primary School, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 8:30am

There will also be drop in sessions where you can pop in to tell us what you think or ask any questions. These sessions will be held at the following times:

- Hallam Primary School, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 to 4:30pm
- Hallam Primary School, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 6:00 to 7:30pm

**Contact Us**

In addition to the meetings above, you can also contact us at the following:

Web: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces)

Email: [schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk)

Letter: School Organisation Team, Floor 3, Howden House, Sheffield, S1 2SH

## Consultation Responses

### Hallam Primary school gates consultation responses

- Good idea, need to meet the need locally.
- Not unexpected. Fine as long as the staff and accommodation is provided to cater for larger numbers. Concern about the space provided for the last bulge year group now in Y1 – the space available now is not really adequate but its not preferable to have larger classes (child is in a class of 36). It makes sense to create capacity at a school with a large site such as Hallam.
- Dinner provision needs to be looked at carefully – currently struggle to get all the children through in the time available. Need to consider space available in the hall for the whole school. Some of the classrooms currently are strange shapes – the accommodation for the current Y1 (bulge year) is L-shaped and small. This is a huge site so there is scope for expansion works – not opposed to this as children local to the area need to be able to access a school within walking distance. However need to ensure separation and security during the building works if these have to take place in term time.
- Concerns re future admission to Tapton if non-catchment children are admitted to Hallam. Responded to clarify that growth is in Hallam and Lydgate, whose residents are already catchment for Tapton. Any non-catchment children admitted would be in the feeder school category, which is a lower priority than catchment. Parent was satisfied with this information.
- Limited hard standing/hard play areas. Currently younger junior pupils play on an old car park, which is not level. Concern this could be exacerbated during building works, especially if mobiles have to be sited. A larger school will need a larger play area.
- General concern about the management of the building works during construction.
- Parking outside the school is already an issue and this would need to be addressed. Staff parking would need to be increased if more staff will be recruited to the school.
- If population is growing locally then it's inevitable that the school should be expanded.
- The learning environment needs to be maintained during the building works. Impact on children needs to be minimised.
- Daughter is part of the intake of 90 (now Y1) and feel this group has been let down – accommodation was OK in reception but what has been provided for Y1 is substandard – one class is in a proper classroom but the other two are in spaces made from part of a classroom and part of a corridor, these are small and oddly shaped so don't lend themselves to teaching and learning. The children need quiet areas to be able to learn independently as well as the basic floor space required. This feels poorly planned so any future expansion needs to be properly considered and planned for. Also needs more consultation with parents around the building works.
- Concern that the Headteacher is new and not a permanent appointment, but will be making decisions on whether to expand the school. Clarified that the Local

Authority has the statutory duty to ensure the provision of places, and working in partnership with schools, involving the governing body as well as the Headteacher.

- Concerns around the current physical space available, particularly for Y1 (4 parents).
- Concern that there are currently external doors on toilet areas (this is around the current accommodation for Y1).
- Infrastructure around the school needs to be planned for as well as the buildings themselves – e.g. parking, traffic management.
- More space is needed for breakfast and after school club provision – currently badly served. A set number of places should be planned for
- Dining provision is not big enough for the increased numbers (3 parents).
- Should utilise sustainable building methods
- Disruption around the building work is a concern but no problems with the proposals.
- No problems overall with the plans.
- In favour of the overall proposal as have a sibling who will join the school in 2015.

#### **Hallam Drop-ins**

- I'm in the Lydgate catchment and my eldest goes to Hallam as a result of the bigger population recently, I'm keen for my younger child to get into Hallam so am supportive of the proposal. I would also support an extension of the Hallam catchment area if that were to help families in our position.
- Safety and parking are my main concern – the area around Hillcote Close has seen a big increase in traffic and more places will cause more issues. I would support some form of parking restrictions on Hillcote to ease the problem and a crossing patrol on Sandygate Road may also be necessary.
- My child has hearing and speech difficulties which mean that background noise will create a problem. How will this be managed in day-to-day activities when more children are attending the school? Also, how will this be managed during building work?
- I don't object to this expansion but any work needs to be carried out properly.
- What will be the impact on space at lunchtime and on play space?
- Will the catchment areas change? I would prefer them not to.
- I am supportive of this proposal as I live in the Lydgate catchment area but have older children who already attend Hallam Primary.
- I would support a change to the catchment area.
- What is planned for the building work and how will this be carried out?
- I have concerns about the increased traffic in the area and problems for local residents.
- I have concerns about increased traffic in the area and feel that the school could help alleviate this by re-opening the bottom gate which backs on to the Hillcourt Estate.
- I am happy for the school to expand you just need to improve access.

- Naming the newsletter 'Crosspool' is misleading as most people locally regard this area as Fulwood. Crosspool implies Lydgate catchment. The newsletter refers to lots of local schools but the proposals are only concerning one school – Hallam – and all the meetings have been held here. This implies a decision has already been reached. There is a danger that this will disengage the local community if they feel they have been misled – and Hallam has been guilty of disengaging from the school side in the past (residents' concerns have been ignored).
- Traffic concerns on routes to school – this affects local residents (respondent lives on Hallam Grange Cres) so there needs to be a full consultation with local residents not just parents. School have recently re-jigged the parking arrangements so staff are now parking on the street. There is no one organisation which is representative of all residents so need to consider how to consult effectively.
- Hallam Grange Road resident – not heard anything about the proposal until received a local community organisation's newsletter which made reference to it in passing. My child is in the 2014 Reception intake but not heard anything from nursery (child is at Lodge Moor Nursery, who have had newsletters to distribute). The temporary expansion (current Y1) was handled badly by the school and the effects are still being felt – poor Ofsted afterwards, although this has since been recovered. Parents lack confidence that the school will manage this well, especially with current lack of a permanent Headteacher. Parent has visited 3 schools and found lack of engagement from the Headteacher here compared with others – suggests the school has not really learned from previous issues around disengagement. The LA needs to provide more support and management capacity to the school if the proposal is going to go ahead – but acknowledge that pupils have to go somewhere so understand why the proposal is being brought forward. A few key issues:
  - Staffing for the new classes – some upper year groups currently have classes of 35+
  - Building works – safety is assumed to be covered in the plans but concern re the disruption for existing pupils and potential for parts of the site to be unusable during construction
  - Local residents will have further issues re parking and traffic. Needs a solution which does not involve permits for residents of Hallam Grange Road.
  - Three parents raised the following:
    - Currently live in Lydgate catchment area and have children attending Lydgate. Concerned that any change to the catchment boundaries would potentially place address into Hallam's catchment, making it more likely that younger children (2015 intake) would not get into Lydgate and family ends up with children in 2 schools - Explained that there are no proposals to change the catchment boundaries and that therefore the younger children would have Catchment & Sibling status for Lydgate, so even with the higher population in Lydgate in this year group it is likely they would get in. All parents were satisfied with this response.

- No objection to increasing places at Hallam. I am concerned that the final design solution is high quality. The architects should have a good understanding of how buildings connect to each other. I would like to be kept involved in the design process (architect).
- There are local concerns over traffic problems at both school start and finish times. Staff parking also causes as problem. Parking and traffic is already a problem in the area and local residents access to parking at the community hall for evening events is often hindered by people parking at the school.
- A couple of local residents had concerns around how effective the targeting of consultation material at people who are not parents but live locally has been.
- If any of the plans for new buildings on the site involve the re-routing of the public footpath then local residents should be involved at the earliest possible opportunity. Also, any plans which either impact on green space or could affect the Village Green application need to be discussed (early) with local residents. Local resident's views should be taken into account.
- One resident requested that plans for any new buildings were put on show before planning permission was sought.
- To relieve the parking and traffic problems the school should re-open the access gate which provides direct access to the school field.
- The strength of feeling locally about the need to protect the green space on the site is massive and the problem local people have is that they are only loosely organised. The LA should look at how it engages with local people.

### **Hallam Staff Meeting**

- Staff were concerned that the school already operates large class sizes (36 in some year groups) and wondered what impact the expansion would have on this.
- When looking at how to accommodate any of the new buildings we would need would it be possible to look at ensuring direct access to the playing fields. We would not want the location of the public footpath to limit this.
- Would it be possible for new buildings to include a sports hall and wider PE provision? We should be ensuring we look at all provision the school needs in the designs.
- Would it be possible to look at re-routing the footpath so that the site is not split?
- 3FE schools are and would feel large. Have you looked at the option of creating two split phased schools.
- The traffic situation at picking up and dropping off times is difficult for all parents. Are there any ways of addressing this?



### **Broomhill Infants – Governors’ Comments**

- The additional 15 places which were made available at Hallam Primary for the Y2 to Y3 transition reduced the pressure on parents at Broomhill Infants and Governors are concerned that this difficult situation will return if Hallam becomes 3FE straight through.
- Broomhill has previously experienced a mass exodus of pupils in Y2 (mid-year) as parents move their children with the aim of securing a Y3 space at a school of their choice. Governors are concerned that this situation will return and may be made worse due to the miss-match in places and unstructured position at the Y2 to Y3 transfer.

### **Lydgate Junior – Governors’ Comments**

Our full Governing Body meeting last week did discuss the proposal, as requested.

They were pretty ambivalent, believing that the impact on our school is likely to be minimal. Hopefully over-subscription / number of appeals will be addressed.

Obviously this impacts on our income, but we are talking about 8 over currently on an admission number of 480, just 1.7%.

We fear that the impact may be to simply allow greater numbers of parents to express a preference for Lydgate, Hallam, or Nether Green schools who are not in catchment for any of the schools as, with greater capacity, they have a greater chance of success. Time will tell and something clearly has to be done to address unsatisfied demand.

### **Nether Green Infants – Governors’ Response**

The document says that the main area of growth is Crosspool and then immediately suggests creating extra places at Hallam. We would like to point out that no alternative options appear to be provided - it doesn't consider provision for pupil increases in other areas, how families in our catchment can be "more likely to get a local school place" [as it says of the plan on p2] or patterns of applications for the schools (including BH, St Marie's, NGI as well as Lydgate and Hallam).

We also suggest that plans should consider the wider context, not just the demographic shift - for example, our awkward class size here at NGIS; our ability to 'meet the needs of local people'; and capacity for growth at Junior age range.

We're disappointed in the apparent lack of consultation on admission numbers and feeder status of schools in our area that didn't seem to take place before the document went out to the public. At NGIS we currently admit 75 each year which is neither 2 classes (60) nor 3 classes (90). This means we regularly have to go cap in hand to the LA to get 'awkward class size' funding and also results in our having to have a Y1/Y2 split class. None of this is ideal. With a replacement classroom being built by the LA, some Governors have argued, why not just put in the infrastructure for us to take 3 classes on entry?

## Letters & Emails

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Re: Hallam Primary School Consultation Extra Places

We feel it is a very good idea to provide extra Reception places at Hallam School so that children in this area can go to the local school and forge early friendships with children in this district. It is also more convenient for parents.

The only problem will be the increase in traffic in the surrounding area to cause more traffic jams – due to parents NOY complying with the voluntary one way system on Hallam Grange Crescent and also blocking resident's drives.

This may be overcome by regular letters sent out from school about these problems, which at times have to be seen to be believed!!

Double yellow lines on the bottom corner of the Crescent would improve safety, many parents now park there!!

Notices indicating the one way system during school arriving and departing times, would also improve safety as selfish parents frequently ignore this request and also other drivers are alerted to the problem.

Yours sincerely,

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Dear Sirs,

### **RE: Hallam Primary School Consultation on Extra Places**

We write to submit our opposition to plans to increase the size of Hallam Primary School by 50% from 60 school places a year to 90.

Firstly, we were only notified of the school expansion plans *after* all the opportunities to attend public meetings at Hallam Primary School to learn about the plans and express our concerns had taken place. The Council informed us of the expansion plans by a letter dated 20 November 2013 enclosing a copy of the "Crosspool Newsletter" of October 2013, which was posted to us. In its letter the Council states that it had been 'conducting a consultation' on the proposed expansion plans and was 'keen to hear all views on the proposal at this stage before the Council's Cabinet makes any further decision'. The last opportunity to attend a meeting to hear more about the proposals was on Wednesday 20 November, the day the letter was posted and hence before the letter arrived. Our house directly adjoins the school's entrance, yet this was the first time the Council made contact with us. This does not show "keenness" or willingness to hear all views nor respect for those most likely to be

affected by any expansion plans. Indeed the Council states that it decided to post the letter and inform local residents of its plans to expand the school in response to being contacted by people neighbouring the school site: not of its own volition. We are greatly concerned by the Council's processes and actions, or lack thereof, on this front.

Given the above, we have not had sufficient time or information to address the plans adequately. We therefore have no option but to oppose the plans on the basis of the information at our disposal for the following reasons:

1. It has not been shown that this demand for extra places has arisen from within the local area. We have accessed the Council's website and downloaded a copy of the 'School Places in Sheffield' report. This does not contain any evidence for the apparent growth in primary school aged children within the Hallam primary school area. Indeed we have heard that children are being admitted to the school from areas much further afield than Crosspool and Lodge Moor. If demand for extra places has arisen in other parts of Sheffield then schools should be created / expanded in those areas instead. Otherwise unnecessary extra traffic will be created on Sheffield's roads at already very busy times and children are having to travel long distances to attend what should be local schools. Please can we have further information on and clarification of a) the statistics behind the apparent extra demand from within the area, and b) the current situation regarding where children who attend the school are currently located.
2. The streets around Hallam Primary School will not be able to handle the extra traffic created by 50% more parents dropping off children. These are residential streets that were not designed to carry large volumes of traffic and they are already unacceptably overfilled at peak times and prevent local residents from going about their normal business.
3. Our home is immediately adjacent to the only access road to the entrance of Hallam Primary School. We will be the most affected by any increase in school traffic. We have already experienced incidents of parents parking in front of our drive and blocking us in, as well as higher than normal levels of litter on our streets and garden. Such incidents can only be expected to increase if the numbers of parents and children increase.
4. We already experience early morning deliveries to the school by lorries at around 6 am in the morning. This is noisy and disruptive to sleep as they access the road directly adjoining two sides of our property. The number of such deliveries will only increase with any expansion plans, causing more inconvenience and interfering with our quiet enjoyment of our property.
5. Our home overlooks the existing school and great lengths to limit the visual impact of the existing school have already been taken, including the planting of tall trees and bushes. We are concerned about the visual impact on and privacy of our property if any additional storeys or buildings are erected on the existing site.
6. We understand that it is unclear how much of the land around Hallam Primary School belongs to the school and hence whether there is any right to build on it for these purposes. In particular the area is popular with dog-walkers and other recreational users and it is not clear that their rights to use this public land will not be infringed. Is

the Council proposing that the building work keeps within the current fenced area and that the school will not seek to extend its boundaries beyond those current marked by the fence?

- 7 We are expecting our first child this winter and therefore expect at least one of us to be at home for many daytime hours over the likely construction period. The construction noise and dust will cause unacceptable disruption to family life, naptimes and the ability for us and our child to use our garden.
8. Likewise many heavy large construction vehicles will need to access the school site via the access road directly adjoining our property at all hours of the day, including early mornings, causing further sleep disruption and inconvenience.
9. Finally, as prospective parents ourselves, we think young, primary school age children should attend a school where pupils are known individually, without being intimidated by large numbers of older pupils, and have a sense of community. We do not agree that enlarging the existing school will enable this to be done, but believe it better for new, smaller schools to be created to enable children to have a better, more personal education.

We therefore call upon the expansion plans for Hallam Primary School to be abandoned unless and until the concerns we've outlined above are adequately addressed.

Please reply to confirm receipt of our letter and the actions that you will be taking to address our concerns.

Yours faithfully

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Dear Sir/Madam

I recently became aware of the proposed expansion of Hallam Primary school when by chance I saw the notice issued by the council. By this time the date of the first drop in session had passed and I may be unable to attend the session on 20th November.

The notice states that you wish to listen to the views of the local community. How did you expect to hear those views if you chose not to inform the local community? It seems that you chose to inform parents of the plans but made no effort to notify anyone in the local community by letter. Consultation with the local community at this early stage of planning is essential and you presumably are aware that the expansion will impact on many people in the community who do not have children at the school. The issues of car parking and cars dropping children off and collecting them present difficulties for the community now, so these these will be significantly exaceberated by the proposed increase in the size of the school. There may be other issues.

You had a duty to inform the local community, particularly those who live in the immediate vicinity of the school, and yet you chose not to bother. WHY?

I do understand the need for expansion. I am not opposed to it per se. The words in the notice regarding consultation with the local community are totally wasted if you elect not to make reasonable arrangements to notify them. A copy of the notice issued to parents could have been sent to those houses in the immediate vicinity of the school, maybe 50 or so communications.

Regards

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### Hallam Primary School Expansion

Dear Sheffield Council,

We as a family would like to share our views on the proposed expansion of Hallam Primary School. We feel that expanding Hallam permanently is the right step to make, in light of current problems with space in schools in the S10 area of our city.

We originally applied for a space for our son to attend Lydgate Infant School, our catchment school, as we lived in Crosspool. He was the 2012 intake and we were initially disappointed to be allocated to Hallam Primary, although we fully understood and appreciated the reasons why. Our son has since flourished at Hallam and we are now extremely happy with his education and his experience there. In fact we could not speak more highly of the school and the staff.

This then presented us with other problems as our daughter is due to start school in 2014. As an 'out of catchment sibling', she would rank very low down the order of priorities for a place at Hallam and there would be no guarantee of a place for her there. As a result we made the difficult, and expensive, decision to move into the Hallam catchment area to put our daughter further up the order of priorities when it comes to allocating places. Whilst this is by no means a guarantee of a place, we feel we have had little choice but to do all we can to ensure our children have an equal educational experience.

To us it makes sense to expand Hallam permanently, as there is very limited scope for expansion in any of the surrounding schools. However we feel very strongly that this should be planned and done properly. Mobile or temporary classroom should not be put up in the playground, instead a properly thought out and planned expansion of the school should be put forward. The example we would give to support this is our son's current Y1 classroom, which is barely fit for purpose. Whilst there was plenty of extra capacity to accommodate an extra class of 30 in the reception area, this has not been the case as their cohort has moved up into Y1. It was initially explained to parents that the Y1 rooms would be adapted and an extension built to create a third classroom, yet sadly no extension has been done. A large classroom has been split into two, creating one adequate classroom and another space for my son's class that is a narrow L shape, contains many different doors to many different places and is at best a poorly insulated corridor with a bit of a previous classroom at one end. This is a challenge for his teacher as he obviously can't see all of his pupils at any one time, the room is too small for 30 pupils and there are many different routes in and out of the classroom.

We just hope that the council have the foresight to plan the expansion of Hallam properly, to enable them to 'get it right' and not leave the school with inadequate and impractical teaching and learning spaces for future children.

Yours sincerely,

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You asked for the views of my wife and I about the proposal to increase the capacity of Hallam Primary School. We are residents in Hillcote Close.

Whilst we have no objection in principle to the proposal we, like others in the locality, are very concerned that it will exacerbate further the bad parking and congestion problem in our road. At the beginning and end of the school day, the road is overwhelmed by cars, many of which are large, which descend on the road searching for parking space or the dropping off of children. Hillcote Close becomes virtually blocked for residents. The road narrows dangerously near its entrance from Tom Lane and there is a real safety risk as cars struggle to squeeze past each other or have to run over the curbs.

We do hope therefore that the Council takes careful note of this traffic problem in the road and takes due care to do something practical to alleviate it.

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Dear Sir

I refer to the proposed provision of primary school places at the above School, which is not a problem in itself as my Grandchildren will benefit.

However my concerns regarding the provision are as follows

- 1) The impact on parking that this will inevitably create. There is only on street parking for the 'school run' times. As this is already a bad situation at the moment it will obviously worsen.

Please consider alternative parking within the school grounds to alleviate this problem.

- 2) The proposals for the building extension and how this will impact on the surrounding dwellings is a concern, will this encroach on the green areas? or result in building upwards from existing footprint?.

Thank you

Regards

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Re your recent letter. As a resident of Hallam Grange Crescent I do have a view on the impact of the proposed school expansion. The access roads to the current school are narrow and the situation is made worse by the cavalier and selfish attitude of parents delivering and collecting pupils by car. As a result twice a day Hallam Grange Crescent is almost a 'no-go' area as regards access. Cars are parked on bends, grass verges (which have been destroyed in many places) and obstruct access to driveways. Over the years the school has done little to remedy the situation and have seemed to care little for the impact on local residents. I assume the school staff have a parking area - so are well provided for. Users of the community centre during school days do not have access so adding to the pressure on parking in the roads nearby. An expansion of the school without a radical rethink of the access and parking can only make the current problems worse.

There may be an educational case for expanding the school but the wider impact should be considered. Regrettably I doubt if that will be the case.

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Dear Sir/Madam

We currently have two children who attend Hallam Primary and have a further one starting in September 2014. Whilst we are generally supportive of Hallam increasing to 90 places per year, as long as the promised additional funding is made available, and alongside this the school facilities are expanded to cope with the additional number of children, there remains one significant issue - site access.

Hallam is currently accessible from 3 points. Two of these (Hallam Grange Crescent and Hillcote Drive) are residential areas and already suffer from significant congestion both before and after school hours. The third access point on Sandygate Road only has very limited parking. Prior to July 2011 there was an additional access point at the southern edge of the infant site at the end of Stumperlowe View but it was decided to close this entrance as it required parents to walk across the field (personally we never saw why this was a problem). This meant increased use of the other entrances as parents were forced to use these and more importantly were often forced into cars given the longer journey. This has caused even greater congestion.

Should the school increase in size then this congestion would become unmanageable. One possible solution would be to reopen the access at the bottom of infant field. Given the previous closure reason this may require the addition of a footpath (not necessarily paved) from the gate to the infant playground. There is already a barked path.

I also understand that parking restrictions may be introduced. From the Hillcote Drive access point, this would push cars to park on Tom Lane which is a well used road and could cause many accidents with children crossing between parked cars.

We would be extremely grateful if this could be taken into account when making the decision as regards expansion as the access is a serious issue for parents on a daily basis.

Yours Faithfully

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As residents of Hallam Grange Crescent, my family would in principle have no objections to the increase in pupil numbers of Hallam Primary School other than to the increase in traffic problems that already exist at opening and closing times.

A suggestion that I feel is worth your consideration is to make better use of the lay-by at the top of the school field on Redmires Road.

By remodelling and redesigning this area by removing part of the central grassed area, allied to introducing parking restrictions to make it a drop off / collection point only during school opening times, I feel that it could definitely ease the problems that currently exist on Hallam Grange Crescent / Croft.

However, the hard surfaced pathway leading down to the school is presently the only pathway within the school premises that is unlit, and I feel strongly that from a safety point of view, adequate lighting would definitely need to be installed.

Trusting that this suggestion is worth your consideration,

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I have recently received your newsletter giving information about the proposals to expand Hallam Primary School.

I am a resident on Hillcote Close, and whilst I fully appreciate the need to provide more reception places for young children in our area, I would like to know what plans are to be incorporated into this expansion project with regard to road safety. As things currently stand there are a large number of vehicles parked on Hillcote Close (which often drive at higher speeds than are appropriate) at the start and end of the school day - this poses potential safety issues, especially on the first bend of Hillcote Close, near the pathway that leads up to the school. Is it your intention to introduce parking and/or speed restrictions on that first bend, and will a railing be put up at the entry to the path to slow children down as they run down the path on their way home? If not how do you intend to deal with the problem?

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Dear Sir

I am responding to this consultation. We received notification of this through the letter box on 21st of November and would first point out that this is after all the meetings to which it invites us (6th, 11th, 20th November ) had passed and we probably would have attended one. This flaw in consultation process does seem worrying and make us consider how much of this last minute letter to locals affected is "ticking " the box.

In principle we have no problem with the expansion of places although as we were unable to attend the meetings we do not know exactly what is being proposed in particular to building and traffic flows. Having lived her for 25 years the recent changes over the last few years have done nothing significant to improve matter and made matters worse with regard to traffic flow.

- The use of barrier access and the timing means that teachers and support staff often arrive after the barrier is close so just park in the side streets.



- Parents continue to park on the inside of the bend opposite Hallam Grange Croft, this obstructs the road and traffic flow and is extremely dangerous for the children. Cars travelling up the Crescent are unsighted and it seems only matter of time before there is an accident possibly involving the children running down the road. Restriction of parking solely for the two car length of the bend has been discussed for years but nothing happens.
- Fundamentally the main access should be changed from Hallam Grange Crescent (which will always be unsuitable due to its narrow access) to the existing lay-by at Redmires Road and new access road with better parking for the staff and pickup area for children.

Many of these thoughts have been expressed by multiple people of the years but nothing has come of them so I am not hopeful this time even though this is a major opportunity to actually improve matters.

---

Thanks for the response. Just to put some meat on the bones, Hillcote Close is a small, narrow road. However, it is used every morning and afternoon by around 40 cars being used simply to drop off and pick up children much to the inconvenience of residents. With expansion of the school that number will no doubt increase. It just seems that children attending that school need to learn to walk!

---

I have only today received notification of consultation on the proposed expansion of Hallam Junior School. I have no objection to the expansion per se. As a local resident however I do have objections to the potential increase in traffic. I live on a road adjacent to the school - Hillcote Close - which is blighted twice every day by parents delivering their offspring to school by car. Every day there are examples of bad and dangerous parking and driving with no consideration for residents - parking on the pavement, cars parked opposite each other on a narrow road, parking on corners, parking across drives. A few years ago I had an incident where a mother having dropped off her offspring skidded into my drive, knocked over a tree and then simply drove off. It would seem that pupils at Hallam Junior have lost the ability to walk to school. Regularly service and delivery vehicles are held up by the inconsiderate parking by parents. I suspect that the number of pupils who arrive by car is extremely high. I would therefore like to see the implications of extra traffic taken into account in any consultation process. Ideally I would like to see all parking between 8.30 and 9 am and 3.00 and 3.30 within 400 yards of the school not only banned but also policed. Maybe then some parents might teach their offspring to walk.

---

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---

I have no comment to make about enlarging the school itself, as we have no children at the school, but as a resident living on Hallam Grange Crescent, my concern is the increased traffic trying to use Hallam Grange Cres, Hallam Grange Road and Hallam Grange Rise.

Once 30 extra places have filled each of the 7 years in the school, we can foresee at least another 100 families trying to bring their children to school and collect them in the afternoon. Some days we are at gridlock already and there are some dangerous practices in existence.

For instance:

- 1) a car is parked behind the locked gates at school drop off and collection time. It is to be hoped that an emergency vehicle does not have to access the site.
- 2) In the first half term, a driver left a car parked all morning on the freshly painted zigzag lines on several occasions.
- 3) People park on the dangerous corner. If they park on the corner, drivers on both sides of the road approach that corner 'blind'. We do not seem to be able to get this fact across to Sheffield City Council.

Inconsiderate parking puts children at risk and other road users in danger or seriously disadvantaged.

We think that some vehicles are parked by staff on the road but there are always parking spaces available in the allotted parking area in front of the Community Centre.

We would suggest that the layby on Redmires Road could usefully be turned into a properly marked out car park. There could be parking for 30 cars. This would alleviate the coming problem by one third.

The other comment is that more people might use the bus if only the service was more reliable. This isn't the fault of bus drivers but is due to traffic congestion along the route. Cross-town bus services can get heavily delayed.

Please acknowledge my comments.

---

Dear Sir

As a resident of Hallam Grange Crescent I have received your letter about the proposal to increase capacity at the local school.

Parking around the site is already an issue and I would like to know what arrangements would be made if the number of school places is increased. We keep hearing that double yellow lines are to be in place to stop people parking in unreasonable places but nothing has happened.

I can well understand and I sympathise with the need to provide extra school places for families in our area but would like to be reassured about the parking arrangements.

---

I fully support the expansion of the Hallam Primary school intake by one extra class, with one important caveat:

As a parent of a child currently in Y1 at Hallam I feel that the classroom and cloakroom space my child's class is accommodated in is inadequate. It is a small classroom and an awkward space which has been created due to the fact that Y1 is a larger year than usual. Therefore the important point I'd like to make is that any permanent increase in numbers requires a full building project to achieve the necessary space in every school year. And I would like assurance that this does not mean the loss of any of the other current facilities.

Many thanks.

---

I am writing to register my approval for Hallam Primary places to be increased. I currently have a daughter in Year 1 at Hallam Primary as we were unable to get into Lydgate Primary School and I am extremely happy with the education she is receiving. My youngest daughter will start school in 2015 and even though we are just outside the catchment area for Hallam, I would love her to go there so I would welcome the increase in places.

---

If Hallam Primary School is to be extended I am assuming the catchment area would change slightly. If this were to happen and our catchment school changed from Lydgate to Hallam would it be taken into consideration if an older sibling was already at Lydgate Junior school, as it would be difficult logistically if they were to attend different schools that were in opposite directions. I have a child who is currently in Year Two of Lydgate Infant School and another who will start school in September 2015.

---

Dear Sirs

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2013.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Hallam Primary School especially as regards the parking and traffic issues.

Of paramount importance is the safety of the children travelling to and from the school. This is already jeopardised by the current problems and I feel it can only get worse if the size of the school is increased.

Since the parking arrangements on the school site were rearranged following the erection of the fence on Hallam Field, there is insufficient parking on the site itself for all of the staff. Therefore staff park on Hallam Grange Crescent arriving from 8 am onwards and remaining all day. This limits the parking available for parents bringing their children to and collecting their children from school. This in turn has a knock on effect on neighbouring streets ( including the lower section of Hallam Grange Crescent, Hallam Grange Croft and Hallam Grange Road). The estate at Hillcote is also affected.

Many parents park or hover on the yellow zig zag lines making it dangerous for children and parents to cross the road safely. The "No Parking, No Waiting, No Excuses" banner currently being displayed is simply ignored. Polite requests not to park on the zig zag lines are often met with rudeness or ignored.

Alternatively, parents hover further up Hallam Grange Crescent whilst their children jump out of the car. The parents then creep slowly down the road watching their children walk into the school entrance rather than the road as they should be. Again this is hardly conducive to the safety of people crossing the road or other drivers.

Hallam Grange Crescent is a relatively narrow road with a blind corner at the bottom of the road. The unofficial one way system which the school asks drivers to observe is often ignored. There is often gridlock on the road, as with cars parked all the way down one side, there is little or no room for cars to pass each other. The cars then pull on to the grass verges causing damage to them. Whilst local residents do not own the grass verges outside their houses many of them do maintain them ( grass cutting etc) and they do have to live with the muddy rutted mess left by inconsiderate drivers.

I am aware that the community police officers do visit occasionally. However, I feel that they do not get a true picture of the extent of the problems as when parents see them or other officials they tend to park more responsibly.

Apart from the safety issues for people traveling to and from the school there is the inconvenience caused to local residents. Given that there are staff cars parked on Hallam Grange Crescent all day there is often no where for visitors, workmen or delivery vehicles calling at houses on the road to park, again causing inconvenience to local residents. If the school is expanded presumably there will be more staff who will need to park somewhere.

I have lived at 49 Hallam Grange Crescent for nearly 13 years and during that time I feel that the traffic problems have got worse. My drive is regularly blocked, making me late for work. (I am unable to leave for work earlier as my younger son attends Hallam Primary School). I know that other neighbours face similar problems and have been late for/ missed hospital appointments and so forth. One of my neighbours is a nurse and often cannot get onto her drive when returning home after a night shift due to it being blocked by parked cars!

If the school is to expand by up to 50% over a 7 year period the situation can only get worse, especially if children are coming from further afield ( eg Crosspool) and will presumably be travelling by car.

I would strongly urge you to consider alternatives to the expansion of Hallam Primary School. I fully understand the need for additional school places but consideration must also be given to the rights of the local residents on the surrounding streets who are currently affected by the problems outlined above and who face even greater difficulties if the size of the school is increased. If expansion does take place a proper and enforceable system of managing the traffic and parking must be put into place and sufficient parking must be provided on the site for the staff. The school must also be required to put effective transport policies in place eg. a walking bus / a bus service from the Lodge Moor estate.

Local residents must be consulted fully and in good time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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I am writing with regards the proposed intention to increase Hallam Primary School by 30 children per year group, and subsequently increasing the physical size of the school.

I am already disappointed that in your efforts to consult, you have already alienated the local community by not even publicising that you intend consulting us. I understand from the well hidden document on the SCC website, that 2 consultation dates have already been missed because we knew nothing about it. I live directly opposite the school entrance and have complained on numerous occasions about the unacceptable traffic. Your proposal of increasing the school capacity by nearly 50% IE 210 pupils + staff will be wholly unacceptable to the vast majority who live local to the school. I find it also extremely disingenuous that the document states an increase of 30 children however the true number is seven times that number.

The first two consultations have been at the school gates. This is not a very scientific or acceptable way to consult with us the local community.

I sincerely hope that you do consult local residents before any more damage is done.

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#### School Places – our response to your proposals.

##### Parking in School Grounds, and on Hallam Grange Crescent

Parking in Hallam Grange Crescent is a major concern for local residents, with school related parking blocking places outside our homes, and making it very difficult for family, friends, delivery services and domestic repairmen to find anywhere to park.

There is a car park for teaching staff in front of the community centre. Spaces are poorly marked out, and many more could be accommodated, as indeed they are at community functions. In spite of this, it is our observation that, even now, it is normally only half full, and a number of the teaching staff regularly park in the street outside our houses. It is not because they arrive after the drive barrier is closed, indeed, most normally arrive around 8.00am to 'grab' a street parking place close to the school entrance. We believe this to be very selfish behaviour, which adds to the problem. Expansion of the teaching and support staff is surely going to worsen this unless something is done.

The drop in centre also adds to the problem, with visitors parking in the Crescent also, since no provision was made to deal with this foreseeable outcome.

##### School run disruption

A further problem is the truly abysmal behaviour of some of the parents who deliver their children to school. At starting and finishing times, and also sometimes lunchtimes, mayhem reigns. An unofficial one way system used to operate on the Crescent at these times. Now it is just a free for all, with those going up the road just driving over, and ploughing up, grass verges to get past. Some park and leave their cars either partly or fully blocking access to our drives. Selfishness appears to be the order of the day. Our fear is that, if your proposal is

accepted, and the project goes ahead, this problem will become many times worse. It is manifestly unfair that we should have to put up with this serious nuisance.

### Constant building works

In recent years, we have had building works virtually every summer on the school site, which has seriously reduced the enjoyment of peace and tranquillity in our garden. Rewiring of the school premises, building a drop-in centre, erecting fences around the site, replacing the double glazing and other maintenance work, and now the building of a large extension to the school. When is it going to end? When are we going to get some peace? Those involved in deciding and benefiting from these works are not directly affected, of course. What about a little consideration for those who are?

### Catchment Area

It is a concern to learn that since other local school sites are limited in scope for expansion, Hallam is likely to be chosen for expansion after expansion, exacerbating the problems already outlined. Surely, a new school site should be sought to cater for all this expansion, and the expected increase in the birth rate and immigration. If then Hallam only took pupils from the immediate area, there would be no need for additional building.

### Alternative access from Redmires Road

After all this, if this project is still to go ahead, we believe that there is a possible partial solution to some of our problems.

On Redmires Road, at the entry end of the lay-by, there is an access road (unmade), which leads into the school field, at the furthest point from the school. This could be upgraded and used for site traffic for the building project, thus avoiding disruption on the Crescent. If then a new and adequate car park was created at the far end of the field, a lot of the problem with on site parking could be eliminated, provided that the staff could be constrained to cooperate. Further, if this could be designated the school main entrance, and access via the existing drive restricted, then the problems of the school run could be eliminated as well. To facilitate this, if the lay-by area could be reworked to form temporary parking, there would be no reason for parents to use the Crescent at all. If this area is not deemed sufficient for this, part of the tree covered area could be added. The existing footpath at the rear of Hallam Grange Crescent properties would then be used for access to the school, avoiding the danger of mixing car parking traffic and pedestrians.

We commend our submission to your consideration. If you wish to discuss any of this further, please let us know.

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have received a letter consulting us that there has been a proposal to increase the number of places at Hallam Primary School. As residents on Hillcote Close we would like to voice our opinions as to regards this proposal. Our house backs onto the Hallam School field, and is three houses down from the gennel connecting our road to the School. We already have problems with parking, increase in traffic during the school runs, noise and litter, so as you can appreciate that it is a concern that you are proposing to increase these problems. Can you let us know what you will do to help with these issues before you agree to increase the places from 60 places to 90!

Yours faithfully,

---

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident of Hillcote Close and to date have not received any correspondence from you regarding the consultation. I have been handed a copy of your letter dated 20 November 2013 by a neighbour.

I note that the concerns of our neighbours relates to parking issues and I am writing to express my concerns on this point. I wish to make the following points for your consideration:-

1. Hillcote Close provides two points of access via footpaths to the school. Parents already using the school try to park as close to these footpaths as possible. The curved layout of the road at one of these points means the vehicles are parked in an illegal way on the footpaths, which creates a hazard for pedestrians.
2. The other footpath is close to the end of the road, there being only one entry and exit route, and cars are often parked too close to the junction forcing drivers wishing to leave the road onto the wrong side of the road. Again this is dangerous.
3. The footpath referred to at point 2 above meets the road on a bend. Cars being parked for the car run are often left on this bend forcing other drivers onto the wrong side of the road with limited visibility.
4. The volume of traffic experienced currently causes congestion problems at the beginning and end of the school day and this is likely to worsen if/when the school has a greater pupil capacity unless restrictions are put in place.
5. I have personal experience of not being able to get my car off the driveway to my house because the driveway had been completely blocked by a parked vehicle belonging to a mother dropping off a child. It should be noted that this is a double width driveway. This caused me to be late for work. The only explanation offered was that there was nowhere else to park and she was running late!
6. Parking is often inconsiderate i.e. parking on the pathway because of the limiting width of the road can cause problems for pedestrians, particularly parents pushing younger children in pushchairs/buggies as it leaves insufficient width for them to get by.

I seek reassurance that you will check your records to ensure that all residents affected by the above proposal have actually been notified and given the opportunity to voice their concerns.

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To Whom it may concern,

We are in receipt of your leaflet "Primary Places in Crosspool" dated October 2013 received November 17th Nov.

Although we do not have children of school age and as such we have no interest in placements.

However as we are very local (S10 4BA) to Hallam School and members of the HCYA we are very concerned about the impact of extra places in terms of parking issues and the impact it might impact on our activities at the Community Hall. Obviously 30 extra students per year in the first year becomes 60 in the next year and so on and then in to the first school till their final year. Currently between the hours of 08.25 to 08.50am and 15.25 and 15.50pm we are sometimes almost lock into our house because of the volume of parking and traffic on and around Hallam Grange Crescent and Road. It is not unknown for parents to actually park across our drive. This situation will obviously not improve with an increase in student numbers. We have live here for 43 years and the parking issue has steadily increased over this period. What happened to walking to school?

How is the increase in numbers and extra class rooms to be achieved? Will a new building be required and where will it be sited? Will temporary buildings be needed while the works are taking place and where will they be sited? Are there any formal plans as to how this will all happen in 20 months? This is where our other concerns come in. Will access to our community hall and the open space be restricted or even lost forever. We are sure if we were given more time to think about this issue we can think of other areas of concern when the picture be comes clearer. We have already missed 2 meetings because of late delivery of the leaflet and it seems to us that consulting with whole community in such small window of opportunity is not possible. Your comments would be much appreciated.

Regards

---

Dear Sir

I have read through your two-page information sheet on the above subject and, as an interested member of the Local Community, would like to know more about what is being proposed for the development of Hallam Primary School. As I did not personally receive a copy of the letter referred to until yesterday evening ( the 11th. November ) I was not in a position to take advantage of the first two meetings held, but would like to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th November at 6.00 to 7.30pm. I am surprised that the Local Community have not been informed fully about this matter as the letter categorically states that you wish to listen to their views "before any decisions are taken".

Would you please be good enough to let me know exactly where this meeting will be held. I cannot believe it will be "at the School gates", as the first one apparently was.

---

Dear school team

I recently received a letter in my child's school bag regarding primary school places in Crosspool.

My questions are currently

1) When a child moves from Lydgate infants to juniors do siblings get sibling status for Lydgate infants?

Assuming the answer is yes, would siblings continue to get sibling status If any changes were subsequently made to catchments?

To put this into context I have a 4 year old who is in reception at Lydgate infants. In 2016 he will apply for Lydgate Juniors when at the same time I will apply for a place for my 1 year old for Lydgate infants. We are currently in catchment for Lydgate, but I am concerned about



any potential changes to catchment and school places for children in our area that might adversely affect people in my situation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident at Hallam Grange Croft.

As you should be aware there are considerable difficulties regarding heavy traffic with inconsiderate and dangerous parking on Hallam Grange Croft and Hallam Grange Crescent particularly at drop off and collection points during the day and all day parking by staff and visitors at the school.

Parking has always been a problem as it is with most schools and I don't think residents have any problem with this as we chose to live here and obviously like the area very much. However for a variety of reasons this has become a very serious problem over the last two or three years.

On behalf of residents and following a meeting (30<sup>th</sup> January 2012) of concerned householders' living close to the junction of Hallam Grange Croft and Hallam Grange Crescent a number of residents approached Stan Collier, Senior Technician, Traffic Regulations Group about providing double yellow lines to prevent vehicles parking on the bend and improve sight lines for pedestrians, pushchairs, other motorists and road users particularly at school opening and closing times. No yellow lines have so far been seen!

I was and still am extremely concerned that there is serious danger to pedestrians, particularly young children with large vehicles parked on and over the junction, on pavements, across driveways and on the blind bend.

I have personally experienced a 'near miss' with one unattended young girl running from behind a parked 4x4 and witnessed others over the last few years since the parking has become more selfish with fraught parents getting their children to school at the last moment by car and joining in to a parking frenzy when anything will do. Yellow lines still not seen!

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2013 I was informed that a traffic Regulation Order would be made to provide double yellow lines on the bend and junction in question. So far although this was supported by the residents we still do not have this safety measure in place and children are still put in harm's way on a daily basis!

I was extremely disappointed to note in the first letter I saw that the problems with parking had been completely ignored. I think you would be failing in your duty to ignore the risks to children outside the school while addressing the danger to children within the school during the construction period.

I am a supporter of education and have no problem with providing places for extra children at the school but feel very strongly that:

1. There should be better parking facilities within the school site, as part of any increase in numbers, for teachers and visitors to the school during the school day.

2. The provision for dropping children off on Redmires Road should be enlarged and enhanced so that parents could drop off their children **safely** with minimal disruption to residents on Hallam Grange Crescent and Hallam Grange Croft and surrounding roads.

I look forward to hearing your proposals to deal with this issue.

Kind regards

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I am writing to express my support for the proposal. My husband and I live close by and will be looking to send our child to Hallam when old enough, we would hate to think we would not be able to send to our local school.

Yours

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Dear School Reorganisation team

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of Hallam Primary.

As someone who has spent 30 in education, I am passionately in favour of all attempts to improve the educational experience of children. I am sure that an extension to Hallam Primary would be positive in this regard.

However, as a local resident, I am concerned about the effect on the school run. Hallam Grange Crescent is a relatively narrow road and congestion is already common-place at peak times. Parents already park beyond the top of the Crescent and the situation on Hallam Grange Road is chaotic. This is exacerbated by parents who choose to ignore the unofficial one way system on Hallam Grange Crescent. My house is at the top of the Crescent and I regularly see parents doing three point turns and then setting off in the direction of oncoming traffic. In addition to being dangerous and against the spirit of the unofficial system, our grass verges are increasingly under threat.

Moreover, as 9.00am approaches, there is a minority of 'late' parents who speed round the corner from Hallam Grange Road onto Hallam Grange Crescent, further adding to the potential dangers.

It seems to me that there is scope for expansion of Hallam Primary, but I would not support this without some real attempts to improve the traffic situation. For example, some parents use the layby on Redmires Road. At peak times that gets overly full but there is land adjacent that could be sympathetically used to provide extra car parking and ideally reduce the number of parents driving into Hallam Grange Road and Crescent.

I hope you find these comments helpful.

yours sincerely

Thank you for your letter of 20th November 2013 inviting comments regarding the proposed expansion of the school.

My principal concern regarding any further expansion of the school is in regards to the already difficult traffic situation pertaining twice per day as parents arrive and depart with their children. Without some kind of parking provision on the part of the school for the people they purport to directly serve, the impact of their activities is borne by those of us living in close proximity.

I have witnessed some rather questionable parking antics on many occasions and, in a couple of instances, had people treat my private driveway as if it were part of the public highway. Needless to say, this ill-mannered behaviour on the part of visitors to a quiet residential area is decidedly unwelcome.

In recent years the school has undertaken several measures that have had a significant impact on the local environment. Principally this has involved the erection of unsightly fencing which has been erected in the name of 'safety'. It is absolutely crystal clear that despite local opposition to this degradation of our locality, the school went ahead in any event. I would expect that regardless of any concerns or opposition from the residents in the immediate locality, you will simply ride roughshod over our views and continue to make whatever increases in the capacity of the school you see fit...

---

I would like to comment on this proposal.

My daughter is in Year 1 at Hallam Primary and I have a younger son.

As a parent and local resident, I am very supportive of the proposal to permanently increase the Reception intake to 90 places. I feel this will be beneficial to local children and families.

Kind regards

# Primary School for Tinsley

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## Complete proposal

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# PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS:

## Information to be included in a complete proposal

### **Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

Tinsley Junior School (Community), Bawtry Road, Sheffield S9 1WB

The proposer is Sheffield City Council.

(Contact: School Organisation Team, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH)

### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

It is proposed that, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, the school will extend its age range to admit pupils between the ages of 3 and 11. The school currently admits pupils between the ages of 7 and 11.

The proposal is linked to the proposal to discontinue Tinsley Nursery Infant School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
  - (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
  - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:

Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

c/o David Metcalfe

School Organisation Team

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Howden House

Union Street

Sheffield

S1 2SH

The closing date for responses is 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to create a single primary school for Tinsley from 1st September 2015.

**School capacity**

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8 , 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of Tinsley Junior School is 300 (75 places per year in Years 3 to 6). The proposed capacity incorporating the Nursery Infant School would be 525.

In addition to the creation of a single school for Tinsley specified in these proposals, it is anticipated that a new building will be created on the Tinsley Recreation Ground with capacity for 630 pupils.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Year (Sept)	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
2014	-	-	-	75	75	75	75	300
2015	90*	75	75	75	75	75	75	540
2016	90*	90*	75	75	75	75	75	555
2017	90*	90*	90*	75	75	75	75	570
2018	90*	90*	90*	90*	75	75	75	585
2019	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	75	75	600
2020	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	75	615
2021	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	630

\* The numbers in the above table include the capacity created by a new building.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

(see table above)

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

(see table above)

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Tinsley Junior School currently has 257 pupils on roll.

### **Additional Site**

6.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

The alterations described under these proposals do not require an additional site and could be implemented on the existing sites of the two schools. However, it is anticipated that the newly-created single school for Tinsley would have new buildings. The current proposal for this would be to create a new school on the Tinsley Recreation Ground site (Norborough Road, Sheffield S9 1SG), utilising the existing Tinsley Green buildings.

### **Transfer to new site**

7. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

(see point 6 above) The proposed change of site does not form part of the proposal but details are included under this section for information.

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The Recreation Ground site is approximately 150 metres from Tinsley Nursery Infant School and 350 metres from Tinsley Junior School.

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

The Recreation Ground site is at the heart of the community, is sufficiently removed from the motorway to reduce the effects of noise and air pollution, and has existing facilities at the Tinsley Green Centre that could be incorporated into the school accommodation.

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

The site is very close to the existing schools and at the heart of the Tinsley community.

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Given the proximity to the existing sites it is expected that current modes of transport would not be affected.

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Bringing the two schools together at the heart of the community would reduce journeys for many families, particularly those who have children of infant and junior age. This was noted by a number of parents/carers during consultation. It therefore has the potential to reduce reliance on cars and encourage walking to school.

## Objectives

8. The objectives of the proposals.

The objectives of the proposal are to provide a single primary school for Tinsley ultimately providing additional places in new buildings away from the motorway.

## Consultation

9. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
  - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
  - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with. The consultation approach was designed so that it could be easily accessible and well understood by as wide a range of parents and carers as possible. The consultation period ran from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

### Local People

A newsletter was distributed through the schools and local venues at the start of the consultation to outline the proposal, advertise the consultation events, and invite people's views. Events were held at the school gates. There were also drop-in sessions at the schools and local venues. The item was also discussed at the Tinsley Forum public meeting during the consultation. In response to matters raised around the site a letter was sent to residents neighbouring Tinsley Recreation Ground to explain the proposal and invite contributions. The original consultation deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> December was extended to 20<sup>th</sup> December to support this.

### Pupils



Staff at the schools discussed the proposals with pupils and the School Council. It is anticipated pupils would become more involved with the design phase.

#### Governing Body

A meeting with the Junior Governors was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and with the Nursery Infant School Governors on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

#### Staff

A meeting was held for Junior School staff on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 and the Nursery Infant School staff on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.

#### Neighbouring Schools

The relevant neighbouring primary schools also received information and other stakeholders such as the local Councillors, MPs and Catholic Diocese and Church of England Diocese received a letter and offer to follow up through a meeting.

A copy of the newsletter is attached at appendix 1 and the responses to consultation are attached at appendix 2.

### **Project costs**

**10.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The concurrent proposal around a new building is estimated to cost £6,500,000 and this would be met from the capital funding allocated to Sheffield City Council to support schools including £1,700,000 from a bid into the Government's Targeted Basic Need programme.

**11.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

(see above)

### **Age range**

**12.** Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

The current age range of Tinsley Junior School is 7 to 11 and the proposed age range is 3 to 11.

### **Early years provision**

**13.** Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

The Nursery Infant school has places for 39 FTE 3 and 4 year olds and the proposal is to retain the early years provision.

## Need or demand for additional places

14. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

(See point 6 above) The anticipated increase in places does not form part of the proposal but details are included under this section for information.

The current schools offer 75 places per year and the increase would take this to 90 places per year. The table below shows the last three intakes compared to the catchment population and the forecast demand for the next three years based on the average take-up:

Intake Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Tinsley Catchment Population	107	111	116	105	109	120
Average Take-up %				67.5%	67.5%	67.5%
Forecast Demand for School Places	70	73	76	71	74	81

The local population in Tinsley has been subject to changing patterns and families do move into the area with school-age children. Further, the Tinsley community is not close to alternative Sheffield primary schools. We therefore need to provide enough places in the local schools to ensure these families are able to access a local school place.

## Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

- (a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable

# MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

## Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

### Contact details

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Tinsley Nursery Infant School (Community), Siemens Close, Sheffield S9 1UN

The proposer is Sheffield City Council.  
(Contact: School Organisation Team, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH)

### Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is proposed that Tinsley Nursery Infant school would close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. The proposal is linked to the proposal to extend the age range of Tinsley Junior School from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

### Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:
  - a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
  - b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - c) the views of the persons consulted;and
  - d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

The consultation is fully detailed in the attached proposal relating the extension of the age range at Tinsley Junior School. The response to consultation is attached at Appendix 2

### **Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to provide a single primary school for Tinsley ultimately providing additional places in new buildings away from the motorway.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The schools are already working successfully under the single leadership of an Executive Headteacher with the two governing bodies working closely. The proposal to bring the two schools together as a single primary school for Tinsley would embed that way of working that is already driving improved outcomes for Tinsley children.

Tinsley Junior School was judged Good at its most recent Ofsted inspection in March 2013 and has rapidly improved outcomes over recent years. The Key Stage 2 outcomes are above the national average and the progress of pupils is significantly above the national average.

### **Need for places**

7. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

See section 14 of the attached proposals relating the extension of the age range at Tinsley Junior School.

### **Current School Information**

8. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Tinsley Nursery Infant School provides for children of both sexes between the ages of 3 to 7. There are 225 places for Reception to Year 2 pupils (75 per year) and the Nursery has places for 39FTE 3 and 4 year olds.

## Displaced Pupils

9. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

The proposal to close Tinsley Nursery Infant School is linked to the proposal to increase the age range of Tinsley Junior School. All pupils at Tinsley Nursery Infant school would transfer directly to Tinsley Junior School on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

## Impact on the Community

11. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The main community issues, particularly those raised during consultation, related to the change of site and new building rather than the legal alterations proposed to the schools. The key issues were the need for additional places to ensure local families can access a local school place, the noise/air pollution issues on the current sites, the potential loss of park space if the proposal around the Recreation Ground were to go ahead, and the potential traffic/noise issues on the roads around the Recreation Ground.

12. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

The proposal would not affect extended services.

## Travel

13. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

Should the proposal to move sites go forward, bringing the two schools together at the

heart of the community would reduce journeys for many families, particularly those who have children of infant and junior age. This was noted by a number of parents/carers during consultation. It therefore has the potential to reduce reliance on cars and encourage walking to school.

14. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

(see above)

#### **Related Proposals**

15. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposal is linked to the proposal to extend the age range of Tinsley Junior School to cover ages 3 to 11 from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

# Tinsley School News

## Featuring a proposal for a replacement and enlarged Primary School for Tinsley

As the population continues to increase across Sheffield, the number of children going to school is also increasing. This rise in population means that we need to plan for more school places in your area so that we can offer families a local school place. The aim of this newsletter is to inform local parents and carers about our plan to provide additional local school places. We also explain what opportunities there are to find out more and raise any questions you may have.

### Background

Tinsley currently has two local schools, Tinsley Nursery Infants and Tinsley Juniors. In order to meet the needs of the increasing population we have already increased the size of the schools so they can accommodate 75 pupils in each year group. However, our current information tells us that from September 2015 we need to provide an additional 15 places in each year group. That will take the total number of places to 90 places per year group. We want to talk to parents, carers, and other local stakeholders about how we might do this.

### What is the proposal?

We want to consult with you on how we provide these extra school places. The preferred option, to discuss during this consultation, is to bring the two local schools together to form a single 'through' primary school for children from Nursery to Year 6. This would mean building a new school, to open September 2015, that is big enough to offer 90 places in each year group.

Tinsley would have the benefit of a newly built school with more places and with all primary aged children attending the same school. We are taking this opportunity to build the new school away from the motorway which would have great benefits to the health of the children, as the children will be exposed less to air and noise pollution. It would also build on the work of two good local schools by expanding and enhancing the facilities and the quality of learning.





### Which site are we proposing to use?

We have considered the options for where the new school could be and we believe that positioning it on part of Tinsley Recreation Ground attached to the Tinsley Green Centre would be the best place. When identifying possible locations for the new school it was important that it moved children away from the motorway and could act as a community hub. Having said this, one thing that we consider very important is that the play facilities are unaffected wherever possible, so that the local community can continue to use as much of the park site as possible.

In order to identify a preferred site, a detailed study was undertaken to look at the advantages and disadvantages of all possible sites in Tinsley. The following five sites were explored.

1. Outokumpu Sports & Social Club: This has been sold to Rotherham Football Club who are using it for training and to build their academy facilities. It is no longer available.
2. DC Cook Sports Ground: This site is in multiple ownership and is no longer available. Concerns have also been raised locally about the possibility of this site flooding.
3. Meadowhall Soccer Centre Site: A privately owned sports ground including pavilion. The council would need to buy the land and replace the pitch and pavilion. The council may have difficulty acquiring this land and it is likely that the costs associated with purchasing this land would be in excess of the funds available. In discussions with the local community concerns have also been raised about environmental pollution on the site.
4. The Current Tinsley Junior School Site: The land is owned by the Council with sufficient area for a new school. However it is adjacent to the motorway and the Council would wish to move the location if at all possible for the wellbeing of the children.
5. Tinsley Recreation Ground and the Tinsley Green Centre: The land is owned by the Council and is of sufficient size for the new school. There is an opportunity to design a new school as an integrated building with the Tinsley Green Centre. This would provide an opportunity for partnership working between the school and community providers operating out of the existing Centre. It is recognised that the school would need careful design to utilise sufficient playground space for the children as well as retaining some of the park. We are committed to securing community access at any new school buildings.

If the development of the new school buildings were not to go ahead on the Tinsley Recreation Ground and the Tinsley Green Centre site, the only alternative local site that is big enough and available to use would be the current Junior School site.

**What would happen to the current Infant and Junior School sites?**

The plan for a new school is not based on selling the current sites. We would need to consider the future of the existing school sites properly and look at all of the options. This could include creating green open spaces for the community and incorporate a green barrier to the motorway to re-provide the community green space used in the school buildings. We are keen to hear your views on the future of these sites during the consultation.

If the proposal around a new school goes ahead there will be future discussions in the area around sites before decisions are taken.

**What about the Tinsley Green Centre and the Children's Centre services offered?**

We are aware that a number of important services used by local families are currently delivered from the Centre. If possible we would like to develop plans around the new school in a way which protects and develops these services. In order to do this if you are currently using the Centre we would like hear which services you feel are most important. You can let us know this by either talking to us at one of the advertised sessions or contacting us at the details on the back page.

**The schools are currently separate Nursery Infant and Junior schools. How would the schools be brought together?**

There is a legal process required to bring the schools together. If we were to go ahead with the proposal the preferred legal route would be to make changes to the Junior School to create the replacement primary school. This would mean a legal process to increase the number of year groups and the size of the Junior school and closing the Nursery Infant School.

The Council's Cabinet are the decision makers on whether or not to go ahead and all comments from this consultation will be fed back to Cabinet before it makes its decision.

Bringing the schools together should mean that the specialist skills and expertise provided by staff at both schools would be shared. This could mean that a wider range of services are available to children across all ages. As the new school would be bigger than the existing schools, overall more staff would be required. Discussions with school staff will take place throughout the consultation period to listen and share information and make sure individual members of staff understand how this might affect them.

**What happens now?**

The first step is to listen to the views of parents, carers and the local community before any decisions are taken. This consultation will run until December 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.

After the consultation period, all of the views will be put together in a report to Sheffield City Council's Cabinet. Councillors can then look at what has been said before deciding how to proceed. If the proposal went ahead, the Council would publish a legal notice giving exact details of the changes proposed and the community would be offered a final chance to comment in writing. If the proposal is agreed after that stage the new school would open in September 2015.

#### How you can get involved

We are holding a number of opportunities for local people to find out more and give their views. Details of these sessions and contact details are provided below. They will run until the end of the consultation period on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

More detailed information on the need for additional places in your area can be found in the report to Cabinet. You can get a copy of this and more information on the decision making process at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces) or by contacting us via the details below.

#### Meeting dates and times

If you want to come and hear more about the proposals and give your views on them, Council Officers will be at the school gates on the following days to talk to parents:

- Tinsley Nursery Infants, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 2:30pm
- Tinsley Junior, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 2:30pm

There will also be drop in sessions where you can pop in to tell us what you think or ask any questions. These sessions will be held at the following times:

- Tinsley Nursery Infants, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 to 4:00pm
- Tinsley Junior, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 to 4:00pm
- Tinsley Green Centre, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 3:30 to 5:00pm
- Tinsley Library Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 1:30 to 3:00pm

#### Contact Us

In addition to the meetings above, you can also contact us at the following:

Web: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces)

Email: [schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk)

Letter: School Organisation Team, Floor 3, Howden House, Sheffield, S1 2SH

## Appendix 2: Consultation Responses

***Please Note: A small number of comments have been altered as a result of advice from Legal Services due to the potentially offensive nature of the comment.***

### Summary of Events

- Tinsley Forum Meeting – item on the agenda (22<sup>nd</sup> October 7.00pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant School Gates (22<sup>nd</sup> October from 2:30pm)
- Tinsley Junior School Gates (23<sup>rd</sup> October from 2:30pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Drop-in (5<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 to 4:00pm)
- Tinsley Junior Drop-in (6<sup>th</sup> November 2:30 to 4:00pm)
- Tinsley Green Centre Drop-in (13<sup>th</sup> November 3:30 to 5:00pm)
- Tinsley Library Drop-in (20<sup>th</sup> November 1:30 to 3:00pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Staff (22<sup>nd</sup> October)
- Tinsley Junior Staff (23<sup>rd</sup> October)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant & Juniors School Pupil Councils (8<sup>th</sup> November)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Governors (12<sup>th</sup> November)
- Tinsley Junior Governors (14<sup>th</sup> November)

### Tinsley school gates

**(approx. 60 parents/carers spoken to - 476 on roll across the NI and J schools)**

- Don't think using the park area is a good idea – potentially distracting for the children and also safety concerns about 'characters' who hang around. The current Junior school site would be better.
- It's a good idea, we have children at both the NI and J schools and it would be easier to pick up from the same place.
- Good idea but some concerns about using the park as a site.
- Be good to have a comprehensive school locally as well (informed about plans for Don Valley).
- Good idea to bring the schools together.
- Will be advantageous for parents to have one site.
- Need secondary places in the area as well (informed about plans for Don Valley).
- Good idea to bring NI and J together, we need bigger schools.
- Need more space to accommodate local children.
- Great plan. I have a child at the Junior school as well and it will be much easier to collect from one site.
- The current buildings don't have much to offer, a new bigger school will be much better.
- The nursery centre (Tinsley Green) is a good site, away from the traffic and the buildings are nice.
- Relocation is bad idea [no reason given].
- Relocation is a good thing, less travel to pick up Infant and Junior siblings.
- Bad idea, both Junior and Infant sites are further to travel than the Green [Raby Street residents]
- Bad idea, further commute for splits siblings across Brinsworth.
- Bad idea, don't want to lose park. Park is used by women for walking and as a meeting place.
- Don't want to lose play area.
- A new school should be built on the existing Junior site.
- This would be a good idea as it would be easier if the schools were brought together.
- We still need the park.

- Any new school should be built on the current Junior School site.
- This is a good idea and definitely needed.
- I would be happy for this to go ahead.
- I would be happy for this to go ahead.
- Good idea, we want the school at Tinsley green because it's closer than the Junior and Infant sites. We also still want our park.
- Concern about the site, don't feel that the park is an appropriate environment due to the public nature of it – leading to distraction for the children and also the possibility of being overlooked by undesirable characters who hang around. The current Junior school site would be a better option if none of the other sites in the area are feasible.
- Good idea – have children at both the NI and J schools and it is difficult to pick up from both. (x3 parents)
- Good idea to bring the schools together and to enlarge – need the places in the area. Some concerns about how the buildings would work on the parkland site.
- Be a good idea to have a comprehensive school locally as well – it is difficult to get into Brinsworth unless you have siblings already at the school.
- Good idea to bring the schools together as one.
- Will be an advantage for parents to not have to pick up from two sites. Need secondary places more locally as well.
- Good idea to bring the two schools together – we need bigger schools in the area, this site has nothing really. Easier to collect from one site. Definitely need more places.
- Tinsley Green site is a good idea, away from the traffic. It's a nice location with good buildings (the Children's Centre).
- Plus about 5 more parents spoken to who didn't have any particular concerns. Overall feeling was welcoming the idea of new school buildings and integration of the NI and J phases, but some concerns about the site.

### **Tinsley Drop-ins**

**(The sessions were attended by approx. 10 parents– 476 on roll across the NI and J schools)**

- I think the proposed site is safer and because of this agree with the re-location.
- The council should do something about traffic management on Bawtry Road.
- I'm 50:50, I like the idea of moving the school and think it is really important to keep the school in the centre of Tinsley but I would be concerned about losing space in the park.
- Pollution is a wider problem, what is the Local Authority doing about this? What are the levels of pollution coming from B.O.C., Cooper & Sons, Firth Brown and Healenthy metals? 16 years ago Tinsley was one of the worst polluted areas, what did you do about this? Some time ago the Council planned to widen the slip road on Bawtry Road. Will you admit to planning to do this? Have you given permission for another Recycling plant to be opened in Tinsley? I do not want a new school to be constructed on the park. My child has had asthma for 9 years and if pollution is cited as the reason for moving the school you would have to compensate me for this. The Education Department denied 10-15 years ago that there was any risk to health from pollution at the existing sites. The park site is not suitable for the 500-600 cars per day that I think will be using the site. Noise pollution for the surrounding houses would be a problem at playtimes/lunchtimes. If the park were moved to the Junior site people should not be expected to have the park in a polluted area.
- If you are going to create a new school you should look to incorporate some community library facilities.
- How will local residents, children and people using both the park and youth centre be safeguarded during the building process?
- If the decision is taken to proceed with this work I think it would be helpful to involve local people in a project group. The group could be made up of a mix of developers, local residents and councillors.

- What is the 'Plan B' if this does not get approval?
- You could improve the way you engage with local people and in order to help local people better visualise what is being proposed you could arrange a visit to sites where a similar approach to building on a public park has been used. You could also do a targeted leaflet drop to residences surrounding the park further setting out the proposal (inc. an up-to-date copy of the indicative site plan).
- Colleagues from Youth Services who operate from the Youth Centre adjacent to the site would be interested in starting to talk to the school about ways in which they could work together with either pupil transition or use of the youth centre buildings to provide wider community services at different times of the day.
- Will the new buildings be designed over two stories? I think you need to engage with local residents over the look of the buildings.
- How can the young people who access the youth facilities located beside the site be involved in the design process?
- What will happen to the buildings on the old Tinsley NI site? These are good buildings and could be offered for some kind of community use. I think people would understand if the buildings on the existing Junior site were demolished.
- Will any of the play equipment on the Tinsley Green site be upgraded as part of this? There are a few problems with the current stock.
- The park is really well used and valued by the community.
- How will safeguarding arrangements for the school be organised and how will these impact on park users?
- What is the build timeframe?
- The traffic would be a problem as the current Children's Centre parking is already full.
- Bringing the schools together is a good idea because it avoids having to change schools midway through primary.
- It would be better if the new school was away from the current playgrounds and Children's Centre where activities take place to avoid restricting access. Access would need to be managed.
- Overall I think the proposal is a positive thing but I think you need to maximise the park space available to the community.
- With regard to the future use of existing sites, the Nursery Infant site could be used to provide some much needed car parking in the area and the Junior site could be used to re-provide an area of parkland.
- It should be acknowledged that it is difficult for the community to lose the park space.
- There is some movement in the community towards using the current Junior school site.
- We need to secure park access for the wider community.
- When designing any school buildings on the park we should consider footpaths and access to the youth provision located adjacent to the site.

#### **Record of phone calls (Total 14)**

13/12/13 – I support a new school in Tinsley and do not want the money to go elsewhere, but as a neighbour of the park, I do not want it to be built there. It will increase the noise for neighbours from the playground, the traffic will be a problem, and we really need our park. I would prefer the Council to sell off or look at the future of the buildings it currently owns in Tinsley and use that money to buy a site such as the one on Sheffield Road.

13/12/13 – I am a neighbour of the park and am really concerned about the loss of greenspace for Tinsley if the school is built on the park. It would be too near the houses on Norborough Road and the noise from the children and the traffic would be a problem. People may not want to live or rent houses on these roads in the future with a school there. I understand why you wouldn't want to use the Junior School site because of the pollution and would prefer you to look at selling off the Council land in Tinsley so you can afford to buy a different site.

17/12/13 - I have lived on St Lawrence Road for 18 years. I enjoy the view of the park from my house. I am worried that the new school will block my view. In general I do not like the proposal. I use the park for walking and cycling. The basketball courts are regularly used. I take my nephew round the park. I am concerned that the new school will result in increased traffic and limited parking around the green. The park is currently kept very clean and tidy; I am worried that more children in the area attending the new school will result in more litter. St Lawrence Road is already very busy due the bus route which passes through it. There are lots of elderly residents on St Lawrence Road who rely on parking close to their homes; a new school will make parking in the area more difficult. I think people will park around St Lawrence Road because there is no parking on Bawtry Road.

17/12/13 – It's not fair on the community as a whole. It's unacceptable to take land away from the park, it has already reduced with the Tinsley Green building. The new school should go on the Junior School site where there is plenty of space. It would be robbing green space from the local community. There is already a problem with traffic and noise. Would the Council be happy if the local community decided they wanted to build something like a mosque or community centre on the rest of the park? The schools have been next to the M1 for 40 years and it hasn't been an issue. There is pollution across Tinsley from the M1. If it goes ahead is the Council going to sell the school sites and use the money for the benefit of Tinsley? The Junior site is not at the heart of the community so would not be a well-used green space.

17/12/13 – I strongly object. Where will children play if not in the park? They could end up on the streets. I went to school on those sites and it was fine. The roads are already busy and dangerous and people use these streets around the park as a shortcut to avoid traffic. There is plenty of land on the Junior site. The IKEA proposal will bring more traffic problems. Parking is already a problem on St Lawrence Road and I know people don't walk to school any more. I already have difficulty parking outside my house. I would consider moving house if this goes ahead and I've lived here 36 years. The park is good now after the investment and is well used.

17/12/13 – Education comes first. I think it's a good idea. We need to keep the park and community facilities but the education of our children must come first.

17/12/13 – There's plenty of land at the Junior school. It's often crowded at the park in summer and very well used. I've lived in Tinsley all my life and the green space is important. The children would be safer in one single site not shared with the park and members of the public. I also expect it would end up taking more of the park than displayed on the drawing that was sent round.

17/12/13 – I don't think it's a good idea. The building is already taking up too much space on the park. Use the Junior site, there's plenty of space there. The traffic and noise will be an issue as it's already used as a shortcut. Recent roadworks caused two cars to be hit as the roads are so tight. It's a beautiful park and we don't want to lose it. It could cause accidents as children will be around when people are using it as a rat run. I went to the two local schools and the noise and air pollution wasn't a problem. I didn't notice the noise and the air pollution won't be better as it's still near the motorway and Bawtry Road. They should work with the existing buildings and extend there. Other sites are quiet and out of the way but I understand you can't afford to buy a site. The park is for recreation and children won't want to go there if they spend their days there at school.

17/12/13 – I'd like to oppose the proposal. It's taking away the park space and you could use the current school sites. St Lawrence Road is already used as a rat run. The traffic and noise will increase. What financial compensation would we get for putting up with this and if our house prices reduced? Where would we go for green space if the park was lost? Just extend the schools where they are or build on the junior site. The Junior site would not be good for a park as it's away from the centre of the community – it would be a ghost park. Some people are not literate so won't respond, I know a number of people who oppose this.

17/12/13 – I don't agree with the proposal. There are already environmental and traffic issues. Parking is also a problem.

17/12/13 (wife of the caller above) – I disagree as well. The parking would be a problem and I would like the park to stay as I live locally and use it.

19/12/13 – It's a community park. I don't understand why you would do this when there's plenty of space on the Junior School site. I don't want the building next to my house and it will cause big traffic problems. We've always used the park, if you come here in summer you'll see how busy it is, it's used by the whole community so I can't see any reason to take it away when there is space on the school site. I went from nursery all the way to secondary on sites next to the motorway, we never had any problems. It was a space away from other houses, so you didn't have any problem from being overlooked or having members of the public stood next to the playground.

20/12/13 – I'm objecting as a resident of the area, my house neighbours the Green. The consultation information has implied that the Council cannot identify any other sites because it has no money but we know that is not true and there is funding available from underspends. The Council should look to buy another site in the area.

20/12/13 – I am a resident of St Lawrence Road and haven't received the letter – I heard about it from a friend. I don't believe there is a need for another school in Tinsley. The park is needed by the community, it is the only green space available for the community. I have lived in Tinsley for 40 years and used to work in the Junior school. When I was a child I lived in Attercliffe and caught the bus to Tinsley for school. Now we should build a new school somewhere else in the Don Valley, away from Tinsley, and pupils could get the bus there as we did. The area around Tinsley is too polluted and the fumes will affect every child if the school remains in Tinsley. There is a petition being circulated locally which objects to the proposal. Families only live in Tinsley because they can't buy property elsewhere but if they could leave they would. In 5-10 years the area will be too polluted to be used for a school so we should make the change now.

#### **Tinsley Forum Meeting (Approx 50-60 people)**

- The land at Tinsley Green was left in a covenant via the Fitzwilliam Estate which identifies the land as being for community use. Are you sure you can use the land for this?



- There was a discussion about the issue of pollution. Some people thought that the proposed new site would suffer from more pollution than the existing school sites. Linked to this was the view that the Tinsley Green site was not far enough away from the motorway.
- There was very strong support for the view that the community, including children needed the park and the facilities were really well used. Some people had the view that this would be the Local Authority taking facilities off the community.
- A discussion took place about where we would propose to re-site the lost green space and what would happen to the existing school sites. Local people felt very strongly that they did not want the buildings to become derelict.
- A question was asked as to where the additional children would go when they transferred to secondary school.
- Some people held the view that the Council had been 'short-sighted' when it closed and sold Park House Secondary School. Others asked if Park House could be brought back into Council ownership and a new school provided there.
- Some members of the community held the view that 'this is about the community, not the children.'
- Discussions were held as to how a new school could be constructed on the current Junior School site and still safeguard the pupils from pollution. There was a suggestion that we should construct a large concrete wall to stop noise pollution. This solution was raised a couple of times throughout the meeting.
- Wider social issues were raised. Including, why are we seeing an increase in the population in Tinsley? And where were we expecting new people in the area to live as we had not constructed any new housing?
- The issue of an increase in EU migration was raised and the question asked, how long will new immigrants stay in the area?
- How are we going to ensure the quality of education in the school?
- Officers were asked if they had explored the Sheffield Road site.
- Some members of the community expressed support for the proposals, stating that 'a school is needed and people will get used to it.'
- A discussion took place around where any new buildings would be located on the site.
- People asked what would happen to the services delivered by TPCC and the wider services delivered by the Children's Centre?
- Would we consider expanding other local schools instead to Tinsley and would people attend?
- There was a view that we were overstating the flooding risk on the DC Cook Sports Ground in the consultation material.
- Is the Nursery Infant school building listed
- What penalty do we face, as a local authority if we do not provide enough places?

### **Tinsley Staff Meeting**

- How will staffing structures be worked out and combined with the Juniors?
- Will this affect people's service records?
- Why choose to close the Infant and not the Junior?
- What would happen to the school sites?
- What Children's Centre services will be retained?
- Will people be made redundant if their post is not available in a new structure?
- Would you have to apply for a post in a new structure or will it just be given to you?
- The Headteacher knows the staff at the Junior school better, will this favour them when the new structure is created?

### **Tinsley Nursery Infants Governors' Response**

- What will happen to the Childrens Centre Services? Will the school need to offer wider services?
- With the review of Library Services the Tinsley Library is under threat of closure. Would it be possible to put the Library in shared use space in the school?
- Which other sites were explored and why were these ruled out?
- Parking for staff is a massive problem on the NI site. Will plans for more parking for staff and parents be included in the plans for the new school?
- Noise and air pollution is having a massive impact on the children at the school and makes outside PE and play difficult. A solution which involves moving the school away from the motorway is needed.
- What would happen to the Governing Bodies if the schools were to merge?
- Parking for parents at pick up and drop off times has always been an issue. Will space for this be factored in to plans for the new school.

### **Tinsley Juniors Governors' Response**

#### Meeting Notes:

- We have been pressing for a new school on a site away from the motorway for years so this is a good thing and we would support it.
- The site moves is needed because the children's learning is badly affected by air and noise pollution. You can hear the motorway from inside the buildings and it is particularly difficult a play time and when doing outdoor PE.
- We acknowledge that the wider community have some concerns about the proposal to use some of the space in Tinsley Green Park to build the new school on. We feel that the school moving into that area should be seen as a positive and put the children at the heart of the community. The school is happy to work with the community in ensuring the public still have access to some areas of Tinsley Green.
- Would it be possible to look at incorporating some community Library services in the school?

#### Formal Written Response:

I write in response to your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> November in which you request a formal response from the TJS Governing Body in relation to the proposals above.

I can confirm that we discussed this matter at some length in our Full Governing Body Meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

As Governors we strongly believe that the current sites of both schools are not fit for purpose due to the fact that both schools are in very close proximity to the M1 motorway. This causes noise pollution to the extent that teachers are unable to open classroom windows at any time and children are sometimes unable to hear spoken instructions on the playground or school field. Noise from the motorway is such that it can be heard inside the building even with the windows closed. The serious effect on children's health from traffic pollution, including diesel particulates, is well documented in many reports, including those from the World Health Organisation. The proposed site is well away from the M1 motorway and the issues of noise pollution and the risk to children's health would be significantly minimised.

The child population is increasing in the Tinsley catchment area and the existing buildings cannot accommodate this growth in pupil numbers. Both schools are now under the direction of one Executive Headteacher and will be amalgamated into one through primary school. The prospect of a new, purpose built, through school for the challenging and growing Tinsley catchment area, away from the main arterial route of the U.K. is one that the governors of Tinsley Junior School support totally and we are confident that the needs of the local community can also be accommodated.

In summary:

- All Governors agreed that a new 'through' school for the Tinsley area would support a smoother educational journey for our children.
- All Governors are in support of a new location for the single school given the ongoing concerns we have around noise and air pollution, as a result of being located so closely to the M1 Motorway at present.
- All Governors are mindful of the concerns raised by community members in relation to the potential loss of green space if the school was to be built on the existing Tinsley Green site. We would urge the Council to consider plans that, where possible, support the retention of facilities for our community.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to present at our meeting and encourage our views as stakeholders.

### **Tinsley Pupils**

School Council:

The School Council's met together and discussed the questions below. Around 30 pupils were involved in the session.

1. How do you feel about the possibility of the schools joining together to form one big school?

And

2. What do you think would be good and what would be bad about having more children at the school?

Most of the pupils were happy with this, some said that it would give them more opportunity to play with their brothers and sisters, some said it would be easier for parents at the start and end of the day. They were excited about the possibility of having joint events/activities. Many of the pupils thought that a joint school would mean they could have a bigger playground. There was some discussion about weather there should be joint or separate playgrounds for NI and J children. All agreed that the Nursery children should have a separate playground and most thought that the playgrounds for NI and J pupils should be demarcated in some way. One Y2 class had done a survey and 23 pupils thought the schools should be brought together, 5 thought they should remain separate.

3. How much do you use the local park?

And

4. What do you think about the possibility of the school moving on to the local park?

Nearly all children said that they used the park to some extent. Most seemed comfortable with the idea of a new school being located there and some thought it should be on Tinsley Green as the park and playground could be used and shared. The pupils focused instead on what kind of facilities they would want to see in a new school, these included,

A separate dining and PE hall, toilets near to classrooms, carpets, comfortable chairs, a library, a meeting room for the School Council, a DT and Craft room, a climbing frame, toys, trees, grass, playground equipment, a trampoline, a play pod, lots of light in the classrooms, built on three levels so that year groups could be split, a gym, bikes should be allowed at break time, an indoor space for break time, lots of exercise space, specialist teaching spaces, different rooms for sport, space for clubs and a swimming pool.

5. If the school moves onto the park we will need to decide what to do with your current school buildings. We would like to hear from you what you would like to see in these areas?

Most of the School Council agreed that we should make another park and re-use the buildings.

Pupil Survey Analysis:

(200 surveys – 103 infant and 97 junior).

- The majority of children are positive about the prospect of a new, bigger school for infants and juniors
- The most popular reason is so they can be with brothers, sisters and cousins
- Of the small number (11%) who would not want to go to a school – most are worried about bullying or it being too crowded
- Over 80% of children said they at least ‘sometimes’ find it difficult to hear their friends or teacher in the playground because of noise from cars
- Most children at Tinsley NI and Junior schools currently use the park
- Views on having a shared playground or separate playground for infants and juniors at a new school were fairly evenly split (57% would prefer shared : 43% would prefer separate)

#### **Letters and Emails (Total 6)**

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I am opposed to the proposal for the new Tinsley primary school to be located at Tinsley Green. I am a local resident and believe that a considerable amount of traffic and pollution will be created. There is already a heavy traffic load on St Lawrence Road (and surrounding roads) and I firmly believe that we can't cope with even a small increase in traffic; let alone a substantial increase in traffic which will be created. The proposed school will over develop the proposed site. There is already insufficient room to park on the local roads and I am in agreement with my neighbours who are also opposed to the proposed school. I would be greatly encouraged if you were to take on board my point of view.

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As to my brief meeting with you and members of your organisation. I attended on behalf of my family friends and other members of the community to oppose to your idea of building school on the public land, belonging to the local community.

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It frustrates one, to think you have plans to build a school in the park at whatever cost. You use the motorway as an excuse for the people and children being exposed to pollution. This petty excuse of yours was not apparent over 40 years ago or 10 years ago. A park loved by young and old is a symbol of the community and enjoyed as a green space for society.

You give pollution as an excuse, yet you give planning to recycling plants, energy giants Eon, you hide pollution outputs of BOC on bawtry road and noise from plants on sheffield road.

You want to build a school in the park and attract more pollution from cars in the access of over 200, 300 cars in and around the local park on a daily basis, and not to mention the already there, Tinsley green.

Reports from medical institutions and local GP centres show how car omissions cause breathing problems.

And you want to attract 1000s of vehicles in the heart of the community and cause disease and ill health to more people.

As a representative of my family and friends and many other people whom have asked myself to act as a spokes person, we object, the council to use the green land of the local community to build a school.

As a matter of principal and courtesy, please use local community buildings for meetings. As you can appreciate these meetings are sensitive and people are passionate on their views.

As a spokes person for most residents whom object. We demand a senior Director involvement to show our concerns. You have not acted in good faith, nor have you used proper process of consultation.

Residents on Bawtry road, harroden Road, st Lawrence road, and Norborough road..object very strongly.

We would like to set an agenda, where we will invite your senior Directors to answer questions on policies surround the tinsley people and issues around Tinsley.

We strongley object, you using Tinsley forum as a steering wheel, they do not represent the majority of the community.

Please adhere to ou polite request.

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**17.1.2013**

**Proposed New Primary School For Tinsley**

To whom it may concern

Please note that I am resident of Tinsley and strongly oppose and reject any new development of any kind whatsoever in respect of this new school being built in Tinsley Park/Tinsley Green.

The park is the centre of the Tinsley Community and is the only green space available to the local people to enjoy whether they are adults or children. The residents have enjoyed this area for many years and it has become the heart of Tinsley. The Tinsley community takes pride in having such a nice and pleasant place to enjoy, play and relax. The building of Tinsley Green robbed the community of much of the green space, but at least there was enough area left for the community to enjoy.

The community cannot sacrifice any more green space so that the council can indulge in yet another hare-brained development scheme. The view of the community is paramount and should be the one that prevails and not some report/study that seems to have been conducted to prove that a new school is required. If resources were available to the community we could probably instigate a study to prove a new school was not required.

Using excuses like air pollution and noise pollution will not wash with the residents of Tinsley who for the last 40/50 years have had to endure increased noise and air pollution with the council not concerned

at all. An example is the new Ikea that is going to be built at the old Twil Site; the council will probably let them build it there with no concern for the increased traffic which in turn will increase the air/noise pollution for the residents of Tinsley. If the council is so concerned for the wellbeing of the residents of Tinsley especially the children why does it not refuse Ikea's Planning application?

It is all about making money, now that the Coalition Government has reduced the amount it gives to Local Councils. The council will to sell the land to companies like Tesco Stores and Sainsburys.

**We want a proper consultation where all the residents of Tinsley can voice their concerns. The council need to hold this consultation in Tinsley and not on the other side of Sheffield, so that everyone old and young can attend.**

Below are some points I would like to make

- The actual area is not as large as it is made out on the map. Surely there has to be areas designed for children's play area, fire assembly points, car parks for teacher, goods in/loading bays, a perimeter wall to keep unauthorised people out. The school will actually take up a lot more space than currently suggested on the map. Thus giving the local residents no green areas whatsoever.
- Also it is pointed out that there will be green areas, who are these for? Surely it cannot be for the general public, so close to young children?
- If the school is built up it will become a hub for people especially young adults to congregate. As the school will be so near to residential housing it will become an area where they can loiter without attracting suspicion. There is a high drug problem in Tinsley and making a school so near is asking for trouble.
- There will be no place for the local residents to sit and relax in the Tinsley Recreation Ground.
- There is already a problem with traffic pollution with buses and cars going along Bawtry Road and St. Lawrence Road. Siting a new school will create further noise and air pollution. Reducing this pollution is one of the reasons given in closing the Tinsley Infant & Junior Schools and building the new one! All the council is doing is adding to the problem of pollution.
- Tinsley is the most polluted area in Sheffield. Building a new school in the middle of a residential area is going to further add to the residents health problems.
- What is going to happen to Tinsley Infant and Junior schools? It is said that these sites will not be sold. Are they going to abandon them? I don't think so. Once the new school is build the council in sell the land off to developers. Who will probably build new houses on the land. Land which the council said was too close to the motorway and not healthy for children to be near! Does the council think the local residents are stupid? The council will not leave the land; they will have to sell it. This is the only reason that they are building a new school is so that they can sell the land and generate more money. This is something a lot of councils in England are doing at the moment.
- What the council need to do is expand the existing Tinsley Junior School and close the Infant School. Leave the Tinsley Recreation Ground as it is.
- Forget the whole idea.
- What impact is HS2 going to have on the numbers of residents in Tinsley?

**DO NOT BUILD THIS SCHOOL IN MY BACK YARD.**

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9-12-2013.

To Whom it Concerns

We dont want your school in our park! The park is for the residents of Hinsley if you take 1/2 of the park where are the kids going to play! We dont want them hanging around in the streets or playing foot ball on the roads where they are more likely to be rocketed down! Because you want to build a school in our park We dont want your school destroying our lives with the traffic on our road! Its a busy road already and with the bus route, We dont want double yellow lines and zig zag markings outside our home telling us where and when to park! My wife is disabled and cant walk its bad enough now trying to get parked outside our home And then we will have to put up with families down the school run in their Chelsea tractors! Build your bloody school next to the Junior school you have plenty of

land at the side of it. And when did  
you Council waltz give a toss about the  
Wellbeing of the residents of Tinsley! If  
you give a toss you wouldn't have given pl-  
aces like me without the permission to build  
that place has cared nothing but money to us



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**Re: Proposed New School Build Within Tinsley Park**

I am writing this letter in regards to the new school proposal to be built in Tinsley Park. The plans show the school build will be in close proximity to the properties of Norborough Road. I strongly contest the idea of a new school being built within the heart of Tinsley as I live on Norborough Road which is situated in front of the park.

I am very concerned and worried the council proposed this build within the center of Tinsley. I can already see some of problems it would create. The level of noise pollution will increase this would in turn affect the value of our properties decreasing them. People who work late and sleep during the day will suffer from sleep deprivation. Losing a social green space that brings together the community. Not to mention an increase in anti-social behavior.

Currently the park serves as a hub for socializing on different levels and Tinsley's only aesthetically pretty green space that the people actually use. Serving as a playground for families and it also encourages people to exercise, events held within the park that brings the community together. By building the New School at this



location you would be greatly reducing the space of our park not to mention creating further problems such as littering and increase of pedestrians and vehicles congesting our roads.

The obvious concerns which have been highlighted above demonstrate that council has not really thought about the community of Tinsley and value of Tinsley Park. For many years Tinsley Park has been a very important place, to which the Tinsley community has benefited greatly. This benefit would cease to exist if the new school was built there.

I personally feel that new school should be prioritized to have its own space separate from the park. As within all communities we in Tinsley also face the problem of vandals and youths disturbing the neighborhood. Again I believe that new school build in Tinsley Park would encourage the anti-social behavior making it a hot spot. If the new school is built away the park future student of the school will have more of a chance to avoid this behavior.

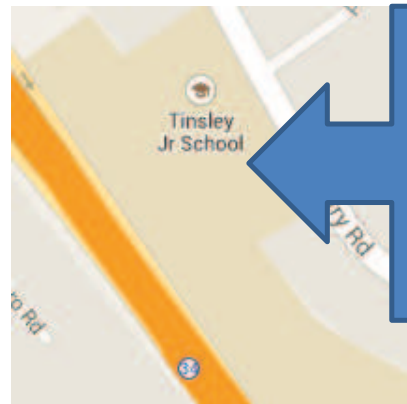
Other potential sites for the build

#### Sheffield Road land available

#### Tinsley Junior School



Ferrars Road Land:  
Hardly ever used by the Community of Tinsley



Tinsley Junior School: Vast land available to house the new build.

Meadowhall soccer centre off Ferrars Road might be more appropriate.



Sheffield Road:  
There is large piece of land available. This is currently derelict and unused.

It is noted that council doesn't have enough money to buy land for new build. I think if the city council is prepare to sell the buildings that they own in Tinsley such as the Tinsley Infant school land than they can raise the funds to buy the new land than that way they can build a new school on.

Again I understand that city council has the duties to provide new school for growing population of Tinsley. This is hugely important for our children's futures. But of equal importance the Park has had a strong influence on the families and children of Tinsley and should be kept as is. The points raised in this letter are genuine concerns that should be considered before making any decisions on the new build. Thank you for your support.

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In reference to Clive's recent letter, I want to let you know that as a parent of a toddler growing up in Tinsley I support in principle the new school plans for the Tinsley Green site, as clearly the best option within the significant constraints we are faced with. We need to do what is right for the children as they are the future of Tinsley, and I am very concerned at the possibility of some voices within the community blocking the move of the school away from the existing more polluted site.

I see it as a great opportunity to unite school and community services in the heart of the community plus creating increased public leisure facilities on the old school site.

However I also hope that a thorough and thoughtful consultation and planning process takes place on the design of the new school and grounds, to make the most of this opportunity to unite school and community facilities in the best way for everyone.

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#### **Comments Boxes (Total 4 comments)**

- I am happy to have school near home, in the local area.
- I am happy to have two schools brought together near my home.
- I don't want to lose any more of the park. Me and my whole family strongly object to building a new school.
- I wish to object about the proposal of building a new school on the recreation park. Personally I would prefer it to be built next to the junior school as I believe it will take up more of the park than you envisage. PS While I have pen to paper can I say that I am very disappointed that it appears these proposals have been on the go since October. I personally received a letter from you dated 6<sup>th</sup> December. I have not had the opportunity to attend any of the meeting dates that were scheduled in November.

F.A.O

Jaquie Danyton Councillor

Dear Jacquie

I believe you are in a process of building a School in the Tinsley park. Your department has secured funding from the Minister of Education, Community Grant. After delivering a petition with overwhelming participants objecting to this idea of Schools being moved into the park, in a open meeting you stated the process was still going ahead. I must now state the following and stress, I am seeking legal advice on the following issue. By building a School on the Tinsley park you will be taking away Green Space, enjoyed by my family, Creating more traffic in and around the park, which will increase in breathing problems. Create noise and traffic Congestion in and around Norborough Road, which will Cause Community problems.

When I purchased my home, it was because of the accessibility to the park and convenience it gave me and my family. I am now stating, if you go ahead and build a School in the park, I will claim ill health damages and Compensation, and relocation at the expense of the local authority.

# SAVE THE TINSLEY PARK!!!!!!

WE THE UNDERSIGNED OBJECT STRONGLY FOR THE SCHOOL TO BE BUILT IN THE TINSLEY RECREATION GROUND.

THE PEOPLE OF TINSLEY OBJECT ON THE BASIS, THEIR GREEN SPACE WILL BE TAKEN AWAY AND MOST OF THE AMENITIES.

MORE INNER TRAFFIC WILL CAUSE CONGESTION, POLLUTION AND NOISE POLLUTION AND NUISANCE TO THE AJACENT HOMES TO THE PARK.

THE LOCAL COUNCIL HAVE NOT TAKEN THE VIEWS OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS SERIOUSLY AND ARE USING EXCUSES. THE COUNCIL ARE AT THE MOMENT TRYING TO BUY THE TINSLEY LAND FROM THE ESTATE HOLDERS SO THE COUNCIL CAN CLAIM JURISTRICKION, AND DO WHAT THEY WANT. THE PARK WAS DONATED TO THE PEOPLE OF TINSLEY SO MANY YEARS AGO AND ONLY MAINTAINED BY SOME SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS.

WE WANT TO KEEP THE PARK IN THE ORIGINAL FORMAT AND WISH TO AIRE OUR CONCERNS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT 

327 Signatures & addresses redacted

## **APPENDIX 2 – REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED**

**Page 2 – 4            Hallam Representations**

**Page 5 – 23        Tinsley Representations**

## **HALLAM PRIMARY SCHOOL REPRESENTATIONS**

### **Representation 1:**

Snetfield S10 3PT

Executive Director,  
Children, Young People and Families,  
c/o David Metcalfe  
School Organisation Team  
3rd Floor, Howden House  
Union Street  
Sheffield S1 2SH

11 February 2014

Dear Sir

### **HALLAM PRIMARY SCHOOL: PROPOSALS TO INCREASE SIZE**

I am writing in connection with the above proposal, and Sheffield City Council's invitations for comments and/or objections during the extended consultation phase.

There are two points I would like to make:

Firstly, I am a resident of Hillcote Close, which is already very congested at school drop-off and pick-up times, with parents' and carers' cars often parked inconsiderately - sometimes even dangerously - while residents struggle to get their own cars in and out of the close, and go about their normal business. With the proposed increase in school size, this already difficult situation will become impossible unless school-related vehicles are severely restricted from accessing Hillcote Close. I am sure this is also true of residential areas on the other side of the school.

I have read suggestions from other respondents that the lay-by on Redmires Road could be expanded and adapted for the purpose of dropping off and picking up children, and I would fully support this idea.

Secondly, the green area between the school fence and Redmires Road is a popular facility for dog-walkers and other local residents wanting to use a bit of open space. The recent application for Village Green status for that area has not yet been granted, and I strongly suspect this may be linked to the plans to expand the school footprint. Loss of this area would be a severe blow to many local residents, and I would object to any encroachment on that space very strongly.

Yours sincerely

.

Representation 2:

2/2/14

Dear Mr. Metcalf,  
Further to your letter of 29/1/14,  
we are unable to attend the  
meeting scheduled for 6th Feb.,  
but would nevertheless like to  
express our serious concerns  
regarding the scheme.

The current situation is that at  
certain times during the school  
day, cars are double parked, nose  
to tail for virtually the whole  
length of the road, including  
pavement parking and sometimes  
a blocked drive.

This situation should already be  
raising serious safety concerns  
which can only be exacerbated  
by the expansion plans.

P.T.O.

It would seem appropriate to  
give consideration to increasing  
the parking area within the  
school precinct, along with  
vehicular access to the car park  
also being improved e.g. a one way  
exit road to Beamires Road. A  
similar solution at High Stairs  
School was carried out resulting  
in vastly reduced congestion to  
surrounding roads.

### **Representation 3:**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to the proposed expansion of Hallam Primary School.

I live on Hallam Grange Crescent and do not have children at this school. This appears to have meant that I was deemed unworthy of inclusion in the initial consultation stages as I received a newsletter about it, after several of the meetings had already taken place. This does not bode well for any consultation process and alienates members of the local community and has an air of a “done deal” about the whole scheme. I trust the parties involved will learn from such blatant mistakes for any future consultations.

I am aware that several residents have already expressed their reservations regarding the traffic and parking situation which currently exists and is likely to worsen further, but I share their reservations and feel it necessary to write to you to ensure that our concerns are not just registered but are enacted upon. There is already the issue of parents blocking residents’ drives stating that they will “just be 10 minutes”. This is unacceptable behaviour and yet does not appear to have been addressed as yet, or should I say is an ongoing issue. Parents and staff also park on both sides of the road which obviously prevents any flow of traffic.

I do not feel that an unofficial one way system on Hallam Grange Crescent is workable as it gives those aware of the system, false confidence that they have right of way over anyone driving in the opposite direction, yet they may be unaware of any one way system existing. This has already led to some heated exchanges between drivers. I am glad to see some double yellow lines in some of the critical areas of Hallam Grange Crescent, though it remains to be seen if these lines deter people from parking there. Indeed, some of the lines look incomplete due to cars still being parked there.

What are your plans for traffic calming?

Will there be a better drop off system on Redmires Road which would ease the stagnation of traffic?

Will there be an escort to take children from any drop-off zone which could therefore enable parents to let their children out and then drive away safe in the knowledge that they will be taken safely to the school door?

Are there any plans for walking buses? This could enable children to get fitter and parents who often drop their children at school on their way to work to not drive in the vicinity of the school.

What are your plans to improve the parking situation?

Will there be any form of penalty for those who park on the double yellow lines or across residents’ drives?

How do you anticipate any vehicles involved in the building of the larger school arriving or departing from the area?

Will the residents expressions of just concern be taken into account?

The population is growing and many of us appreciate the need to expand numbers at local schools. We are, however, very concerned that plans for the expansion will go ahead without considering all the factors involved, as has already been aptly demonstrated by deeming that residents without children at Hallam Primary School should not be involved in the consultation until the later stages.

I look forward to being kept better informed by those involved in the school reorganisation and in your responses to our just concerns.



## **TINSLEY REPRESENTATIONS**

Following the Sheffield City Council consultation responses concerning the proposed site for the new school and during the statutory consultation period, the Council established a working group to look in more detail at all the possible site options.

The working group included local parents, local residents, Tinsley Forum, Tinsley Community Action Group, Tinsley Schools, Tinsley Parents & Children Consortium, and Sheffield City Council. The group met 5 times between January and March 2014.

In addition to the published notices and the working group, a drop-in was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, at which approximately 95 people attended.

Representations that follow include:

	<b>Page</b>
• Extract from the notes of the Tinsley Working Group	<b>6</b>
• Letter from the Governing Bodies	<b>7</b>
• Comments noted by officers at the drop-in on 5 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>8</b>
• 6 written points that were signed by 93 people at the drop-in	<b>9</b>
• Individual comments forms from the drop-in	<b>11</b>
• Letters & emails received during the period	<b>19</b>

Some comments received on comments forms at the drop-in have not been included as they include foul, abusive and threatening language and drawings.

**Extract from the notes of the Tinsley Working Group looking at site options  
(19<sup>th</sup> February 2014):**

*3. Amalgamation*

*JH introduced the item to specifically consider bringing the two schools together as a single legal entity, separate from the discussion around sites and buildings. JH asked that if members wished to share their views that they be noted in order to feed into the statutory consultation period concerning the amalgamation of the two schools that would be fed back to the Council's Cabinet.*

*A school Governor described the current situation at the two schools, he reported that the governing bodies were supportive of the proposals and briefly described the benefits seen by governors. One member said that he was not supportive as it would cause problems with bullying, intimidation and harassment. Another member thought it would be a very good idea in itself. One member said it was a really good idea and asked about the number of governors that would be needed. The group agreed it was generally supportive of the legal proposal to bring the two schools together as described in the notice, but not including any view on change of sites. Two members were not supportive, one for the reasons noted above and the other as there had not been a discussion of pros and cons. One of those members added he thought it was part of a move to become an academy.*

**Letter from the Chairs of Tinsley Junior & Tinsley Nursery School on behalf of their Governing Bodies:**

3 March 2014.

Jayne Ludlam,  
Executive Director,  
Children, Young People and Families,  
Sheffield City Council,  
Town Hall,  
Sheffield,  
S1 2HH.

Dear Jayne,

**RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S PROPOSALS FOR TINSLEY NURSERY INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

This letter is sent on behalf of the Tinsley Nursery Infant & Junior Schools' Joint Advisory Committee which is a partnership between the two existing school's governing bodies and has equal representation from both. We are pleased with the proposals overall and particularly with the proposed move to a single school for the area providing education for a wider age range of children.

The existing schools are already managed by an Executive Headteacher and overseen by this Joint Advisory Committee with the benefits of collaboration already becoming clear. We see so many advantages to the whole school community of taking this strong partnership to the next stage as quickly as possible. Therefore, we request Cabinet approve the proposals with a modification and that this modification is the bringing forward of the implementation date to 1 September 2014 or sooner if practically possible.

Given the current situation in Tinsley the governors of both schools are convinced that the formal amalgamation of the two schools is a natural and entirely desirable progression and urge the local authority to support this.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Hunter  
Chair – Tinsley Junior School

Ron Baynes  
Chair – Tinsley Nursery Infant School

### Comments noted by officers at the drop-in on 5<sup>th</sup> March:

- It's not a good idea to bring the schools together. The cons outweigh the pros. My only real concern is the future of the park.
- I don't see why it's necessary to bring the two schools together.
- I don't think the schools should be joined – there will be a cost in terms of managing the process (it will be time-consuming for the school leaders). The Headteacher will then have to manage a split site school and possibly a new build in the future.
- Expansion of the school is a good idea. Bringing the two schools into one makes sense, there will be additional jobs created locally as well in the larger school. I have a concern about doing this with existing resources (*explained about the funding arrangements for schools undergoing expansion and this provided reassurance*) – we need to ensure the school can manage the needs of these pupils especially those with English as an additional language, new communities such as Eastern Europeans, and we need to maintain the educational quality of the schools. Class sizes and educational resources need to be maintained as well as managing the constraints of the existing sites.
- I object to the merger in principle until I know where it is going to go
- The people should all be sent a letter asking them yes or no and Councillors should be here to represent themselves

**6 written points agreed and signed by 93 people at the drop-in:**

(NB The signatures are not included but are recorded and held by the Council)

①

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

We object to the merger of the Infants and Junior school into one single <sup>legal</sup> entity for the following reasons :-

- 1) The Consultation has been poorly publicised.
- 2) Inadequate and insufficient information has been provided to the community such that attendees could give informed and meaningful views.
- 3) it was insulting that this event was scheduled for today, 5/3/2014 one day prior to the Statutory Consultation cut off day, and only then the Council had allocated one hour
- 4) it was disingenuous to suggest that

6 written points agreed and signed by 93 people at the drop-in (Cont.)

②

Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

this issue (bearing in mind the long term implications of a merger decision) was progressed without due consideration being given to a merged school being sited on different locations to the current 2 sites.

5) it was insulting that not a single elected member for the area, nor any school governors involved in the process of merger so far attended this consultation event.

6) inadequate provisions made for expressing views from those who's first language was not English bearing in mind the ethnic make up/demography of the local area.

Individual comments forms from drop-in (1):

Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

This our park we want  
our park and we have  
played here for years,  
It would be a disaster  
if it goes and turns  
into a school.

~~HS~~

We already have  
2 schools in Tinsley  
a 3 would ~~be~~  
be more than ~~inf~~,  
you could have took  
the ~~batry~~ batry Road  
~~mosque~~ Muslim School.

**Individual comments forms from drop-in (2):**

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

We got three children that like to play in the park also do bike riding a school will be miss place in area as the surrounding of houses  
eg children safety



**Individual comments forms from drop-in (3):**

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

It is not a good idea to join the schools.  
It is time consuming  
Costs a lot of money  
Will cause pollution + traffic in Tinsley  
Will be a different environment for the children  
The Park is only the safe place to play  
Crime rate may increase because the loss of the park  
This proposal is ridiculous  
This should not be allowed  
I strongly disagree with this!!  
SAVE THE PARK!!!  
SAVE THE SCHOOLS!!!  

---

**Individual comments forms from drop-in (4):**

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

We don't  
Want it  
in the  
Park!!!

**Individual comments forms from drop-in (5):**

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

I am very  
dissatisfied.  
I use the park.

## Individual comments forms from drop-in (6):

### Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

The proposal for building a school on the Tinsley park site I disagree with strongly. Below is a list of all disadvantages:

- traffic
- taking away the park
- green space
- park is only safe place for community members.
- The crime rate may increase
- Cause youths to roam streets.

Individual comments forms from drop-in (7):

Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

This is our park we  
have played here for years  
and ~~for~~ it would be a  
disaster if the park gets  
turned into a school.  
We already have 2 schools  
in Tinsley and 3 would  
be ~~to~~ too much. You could  
have taken the Muslim  
school ~~propos~~ when it split  
down ~~an~~ but you decided  
to take our park. I  
am disapointed

~~M Hassan~~

**Individual comments forms from drop-in (8):**

**Tinsley School Proposals – Comments Form**

Please write any comments or queries you have regarding the proposals and place the form in the comments box at the meeting.

Thank you.

I strongly object to the merger of hence  
Tinsley park as the site of the school  
N. [REDACTED]

I OBJECT TO PROPOSAL TO MERGE  
SCHOOL.  
M. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Letters & emails received during the notice period (p1):

**PETITION AGAINST THE BUILDING OF A SUPER  
SCHOOL IN THE TINSLEY COMMUNITY PARK**

Name: [REDACTED] .....

Address: [REDACTED] .....

I/we strongly object to a super school being built in the  
Tinsley Community Park!

This will cause a detrimental effect to our environment.

- Taking away green open spaces.
- Significantly increase noise pollution.
- Drastically impairing views.
- More cars and related vehicles increasing pollution  
into the heart of our homes.
- Congestion on streets before and after school times.
- Cause barriers and obstructions in our park during holidays.
- This will cause ill health, impact on our community liaison  
space.
- Take away the beauty of our park.
- In return this will devalue our property and cause  
deprivation and ill health.
- We will seek legal advice if you do not adhere to our  
legitimate objections.

[REDACTED]

## Letters & emails received during the notice period (p2):

I write to you as a resident of Tinsley who, like the majority (if not the entirety) of other residents is against this proposal.

There has been an abject failure by the council to engage with the community in any meaningful way. The proposal has been presented to us as, for all intents and purposes, as a fait accompli.

It is demonstrative of a contemptuous attitude towards residents, believing a fundamentally flawed proposal can be forced through.

SCC would dare not behave in such a way in an area with less socio economic challenges where perhaps it would be assumed residents would be more vocal, articulate and organised. If the latter is the case you have greatly underestimated us and our resolve.

The letter 'from' Clive Betts MP was insulting in how it feigned neutrality and objectivity. The reasons cited in support of the proposal were vacuous.

For example, it was asserted that there are health and environmental reasons behind the proposal. What has SCC done to combat the various sources of pollution in Tinsley to date?

Moving the school does nothing to alleviate this problem. How does shifting our green space to the site of the junior school (next to the M1) reduce the pollution residents are exposed to?

This proposal would effectively kettle day to day activities within a small area of a small area. It is motivated by nothing more than financial concerns.

I understand you have not started your 6 week consultation period with us. In the 30/1/14 edition of the Sheffield Star a council spokesman said "*we will be working with a local group of stakeholders*".

Who are these stakeholders? Do residents not warrant such (if not greater) consultation?

The last time it was attempted to foist a fundamental change, detrimental to residents, upon us (the closure of Highgate Surgery) it was fought tooth and nail.

I and my fellow residents will adopt a similar approach to this flawed proposal.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal, the manner with which you have failed to engage with residents and how you have failed in this regard to honour your claimed commitment to:

*"Supporting & protecting communities...fairness...better health and well being"* (SCC corporate plan 2011-14).

Regards



**Letters & emails received during the notice period (p3):**

I am writing to make a formal objection to the new school being built in side tinsley park, this is the only green space available to the tinsley residents of which i am one.

I believe the council proposing this are trying to do "quick one" one the residence of tinsley by not have proper consultation with the people of tinsley and when they said they will after admitting they didn't have one in the first place. This hasn't materialised. In my opinion 85 percent of the people in tinsley DO NOT want this school on this site. This was clear at last meeting they, the council and mp Betts had with us Where nearly all objected to the new school be built there. I hope the councils executive director of families and young people will consider the views of the families and young people and save the only park accessible to the tinsley residents and help save tinsley recreational space. Thank you for time

---

I strongly object on the grounds, you failed to inform the people of Tinsley on a fair and proper consultation, on Merger of schools.

Furthermore you fabricated and diluted strategic information, I am objecting on behalf of 600 plus people, who are family and friends, names can be passed on when required.

---

Dear sir or madam.

Im writing to you with regards to a lack of care and information that has been provided by your colleagues. As you may be aware of a new school is been purposed to built on a green space at tinsley which has been strongly oposed by the local residents. I feel my local council is not communicating promptly To the local residents informing them about te meeting and of its agenda.

I hope in the future the council will consider tinsley residents feelings !!!

A trully upset tinsley resident

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**Letters & emails received during the notice period (p4):**



5 March, 2014.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my absolute opposition to your proposal to site a new combined infant/junior school on Tinsley Recreation Ground.

This is the only piece of green land in the community, and is an important and significant resource for us. At a time when — as you have observed — the streets are more frequented by vehicular traffic than they have ever been, the Rec. is, more than ever before, a vital area where children can play, run off energy, safely socialise and learn

**Letters & emails received during the notice period (p5):**

a little more, first hand, of the natural world. It has, historically, also been a place where older people could go and sit in the sun, play bowls or just watch the world go by. We don't want a school on there. If you feel the need of a new school in Tursley - The junior school was only built in 1964-65 - please, build it somewhere else. We don't want it there.

And while I'm about it, I don't appreciate the sly & underhand tactics employed to try to push this through.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

## **APPENDIX 3 – Factors to be considered by Decision Makers**

4.16 The following factors **should not** be taken to be exhaustive. Their importance will vary, depending on the type and circumstances of the proposals. All proposals **should** be considered on their individual merits.

### **EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

#### **A System Shaped by Parents** (Paragraphs 4.17-4.18)

4.17 The Government's aim, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Education and Learners and the Schools White Paper Higher Standards, Better Schools For All, is to create a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity. In particular, the Government wishes to see a dynamic system in which:

- weak schools that need to be closed are closed quickly and replaced by new ones where necessary; and
- the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.

4.18 The EIA 2006 amends the Education Act 1996 to place duties on LAs to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their areas. In addition, LAs are under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. The Government's aim is to secure a more diverse and dynamic schools system which is shaped by parents. The Decision Maker **should** take into account the extent to which the proposals are consistent with the new duties on LAs.

#### **Standards** (Paragraphs 4.19-4.20)

4.19 The Government wishes to encourage changes to local school provision which will boost standards and opportunities for young people, whilst matching school place supply as closely as possible to pupils' and parents' needs and wishes.

4.20 Decision Makers **should** be satisfied that proposals for a school expansion will contribute to raising local standards of provision, and will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. They **should** pay particular attention to the effects on groups that tend to under-perform including children from certain ethnic groups, children from deprived backgrounds and children in care, with the aim of narrowing attainment gaps.

#### **Diversity** (Paragraphs 4.21-4.23)

4.21 Decision Makers **should** be satisfied that when proposals lead to children (who attend provision recognised by the LA as being reserved for pupils with special educational needs) being displaced, any alternative provision will meet the statutory SEN improvement test (see paragraphs 4.69-4.72).

4.22 The Government's aim is to transform our school system so that every child receives an excellent education – whatever their background and wherever they live. A vital part of the Government's vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and

choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision.

4.23 Decision Makers **should** consider how proposals will contribute to local diversity. They **should** consider the range of schools in the relevant area of the LA and whether the expansion of the school will meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

#### **Every Child Matters** (Paragraph 4.24)

4.24 The Decision Maker **should** consider how proposals will help every child and young person achieve their potential in accordance with “Every Child Matters” principles which are: to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution to the community and society; and achieve economic well-being. This **should** include considering how the school will provide a wide range of extended services, opportunities for personal development, access to academic and applied learning training, measures to address barriers to participation and support for children and young people with particular needs, e.g. looked after children or children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

### **SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **Boarding Provision** (Paragraphs 4.25-4.26)

4.25 In making a decision on proposals that include the expansion of boarding provision, the Decision Maker **should** consider whether or not there would be a detrimental effect on the sustainability of boarding at another state maintained boarding school within one hour’s travelling distance of the proposed school.

4.26 In making a decision on proposals for expansion of boarding places the Decision Maker **should** consider:-

- a. the extent to which boarding places are over subscribed at the school and any state maintained boarding school within an hour's travelling distance of the school at which the expansion is proposed;
- b. the extent to which the accommodation at the school can provide additional boarding places;
- c. any recommendations made in the previous CSCI/Ofsted reports which would suggest that existing boarding provision in the school failed significantly to meet the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools;
- d. the extent to which the school has made appropriate provision to admit other categories of pupils other than those for which it currently caters (e.g. taking pupils of the opposite sex or sixth formers) if they form part of the expansion;
- e. any impact of the expansion on the continuity of education of boarders currently in the school;

- f. the extent to which the expansion of boarding places will help placements of pupils with an identified boarding need; and
- g. the impact of the expansion on a state maintained boarding school within one hour's travelling distance from the school which may be undersubscribed.

### **Equal Opportunity Issues** (Paragraphs 4.27)

4.27 The Decision Maker **should** consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed, for example, that where there is a proposed change to single sex provision in an area, there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly there needs to be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.

### **NEED FOR PLACES**

#### **Creating Additional Places** (Paragraphs 4.28-4.30)

4.28 The Decision Maker **should** consider whether there is a need for the expansion and **should** consider the evidence presented for the expansion such as planned housing development or demand for provision. The Decision Maker **should** take into account not only the existence of spare capacity in neighbouring schools, but also the quality and popularity with parents of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for places in the school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular or successful schools **should not** in itself prevent the addition of new places.

4.29 Where the school has a religious character, or follows a particular philosophy, the Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that there is satisfactory evidence of sufficient demand for places for the expanded school to be sustainable.

4.30 Where proposals will add to surplus capacity but there is a strong case for approval on parental preference and standards grounds, the presumption **should** be for approval. The LA in these cases will need to consider parallel action to remove the surplus capacity thereby created.

#### **Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools** (Paragraph 4.31-4.34)

4.31 The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child. We have made clear that the wishes of parents **should** be taken into account in planning and managing school estates. Places **should** be allocated where parents want them, and as such, it **should** be easier for successful and popular primary and secondary schools to grow to meet parental demand. For the purposes of this guidance, the Secretary of State is not proposing any single definition of a successful and popular school. It is for the Decision Maker to decide whether a school is successful and popular, however, the following indicators **should** all be taken into account:

- a. the school's performance;
  - i. in terms of absolute results in key stage assessments and public examinations;
  - ii. by comparison with other schools in similar circumstances (both in the same LA and other LAs);
  - iii. in terms of value added;
  - iv. in terms of improvement over time in key stage results and public examinations.
- b. the numbers of applications for places;
  - i. the Decision Maker should also take account of any other relevant evidence put forward by schools.

4.32 The strong presumption is that proposals to expand successful and popular schools **should** be approved. In line with the Government's long standing policy that there **should** be no increase in selection by academic ability, this presumption does not apply to grammar schools or to proposals for the expansion of selective places at partially selective schools.

4.33 The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools **should not** in itself be sufficient to prevent this expansion, but if appropriate, in the light of local concerns, the Decision Maker **should** ask the LA how they plan to tackle any consequences for other schools. The Decision Maker **should** only turn down proposals for successful and popular schools to expand if there is compelling objective evidence that expansion would have a damaging effect on standards overall in an area, which cannot be avoided by LA action.

4.34 Before approving proposals the Decision Maker **should** confirm that the admission arrangements of schools proposed for expansion fully meet the provisions of the School Admissions Code. Although the Decision Maker may not modify proposed admission arrangements, the proposer **should** be informed that proposals with unsatisfactory admission arrangements are unlikely to be approved, and given the opportunity to revise them in line with the Code of Practice. Where the LA, rather than the governing body, is the admissions authority, we will expect the authority to take action to bring the admission arrangements in to line with the School Admissions Code.

#### **Travel and Accessibility for All** (Paragraphs 4.35-4.36)

4.35 In considering proposals for the reorganisation of schools, Decision Makers **should** satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account. Facilities are to be accessible by those concerned, by being located close to those who will use them, and the proposed changes **should not** adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

4.36 In deciding statutory proposals, the Decision Maker **should** bear in mind that proposals **should not** have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing

transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc. The EIA 2006 provides extended free transport rights for low income groups – see Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance ref 00373 – 2007BKT-EN at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications). Proposals **should** also be considered on the basis of how they will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

#### **16-19 Provision** (Paragraphs 4.37-4.39)

4.37 The pattern of 16-19 provision differs across the country. Many different configurations of school and college provision deliver effective 14-19 education and training. An effective 14-19 organisation has a number of key features:

- standards and quality: the provision available **should** be of a high standard – as demonstrated by high levels of achievement and good completion rates;
- progression: there **should** be good progression routes for all learners in the area, so that every young person has a choice of the full range of options within the 14-19 entitlement, with institutions collaborating as necessary to make this offer. All routes **should** make provision for the pastoral, management and learning needs of the 14-19 age group;
- participation: there are high levels of participation in the local area; and,
- learner satisfaction: young people consider that there is provision for their varied needs, aspirations and aptitudes in a range of settings across the area.

4.38 Where standards and participation rates are variable, or where there is little choice, meaning that opportunity at 16 relies on where a young person went to school, the case for reorganisation, or allowing high quality providers to expand, is strong.

4.39 Where standards and participation rates are consistently high, collaboration is strong and learners express satisfaction that they have sufficient choice, the case for a different pattern of provision is less strong. The Decision Maker therefore will need to take account of the pattern of 16-19 provision in the area and the implications of approving new provision.

#### **Addition of post-16 provision by “high performing” schools** (Paragraphs 4.40-4.51)

4.40 The Government remains committed to the principle that high performing 11-16 schools **should** be allowed to add post-16 provision where there is parental and student demand, in order to extend quality and choice. But the context in which this principle will operate is changing. From April 2010, the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 will transfer the responsibility for 16-19 planning and funding from the LSC to LAs. LAs will be responsible for maintaining an effective and coherent system of 14-19 organisation which delivers the new entitlement – to a new curriculum and new qualifications, including all 17 Diploma lines from 2013 and an Apprenticeship place for those who meet the entry criteria - to all young people in their area. Collaboration will be a key feature of 14-19 provision.

4.41 So, while there is still a strong presumption of approval for proposals from high performing schools, that decision **should** now be informed by additional factors: the need for local collaboration; the viability of existing post-16 providers in the local area; and the improvement of standards at the school that is proposing to add post-16 provision. Only in exceptional circumstances\* would these factors lead Decision Makers not to approve a



proposal. If the Decision Maker were minded not to approve a proposal, he **should** first consider whether modification of the proposal would enable the proposer to comply with these conditions (see paragraph 4.49).

*\* Exceptional circumstances in which the Decision Maker might reject the proposal to add a sixth form to a presumption school would include if there is specific evidence that a new sixth form was of a scale that it would directly affect the viability of another neighbouring, high quality institution that itself was not large in comparison to other institutions of that type. Exceptional circumstances might also include a situation where there are a number of presumption schools in the same area at the same time and/or where there is clear evidence that the scale of the aggregate number of additional 16-18 places far exceeds local need and affordability and is therefore clearly poor value for money.*

4.42 There **should** be a strong presumption in favour of the approval of proposals for a new post-16 provision where:

- a. the school is a high performing specialist school that has opted for an applied learning specialism; or
- b. the school, whether specialist or not, meets the DCSF criteria for 'high performing' and does not require capital support.

4.43 The school **should** ensure that, in forwarding its proposals to the Decision Maker, it provides evidence that it meets one of the criteria at paragraph 4.42 above.

4.44 Where a new sixth form is proposed by a specialist school that has met the 'high performing' criteria and which has opted for an applied learning specialism, capital funding may be available from the 16-19 Capital Fund.

4.45 This presumption will apply to proposals submitted to the Decision Maker within:

- a. two years from the date a school commences operation with applied learning specialist school status; or
- b. two years from the date a school is informed of its Ofsted Section 5 inspection results which would satisfy DCSF criteria for 'high performing' status as set out at <http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/specialistschools/guidance2007/?version=1>

NOTE: 'submitted to the Decision Maker' above refers to when proposals and representations are with the Decision Maker, following the end of the representation period.

4.46 The increase in the period in which a school is eligible to expand its post-16 provision recognises the time required to embed the new presumption places within a local 14-19 delivery plan and for effective collaboration to take place.

4.47 New post-16 provision in schools **should**, as appropriate, operate in partnership with other local providers to ensure that young people have access to a wide range of learning opportunities. In assessing proposals from 'high performing' schools to add post-16 provision, Decision Makers **should** look for:

- a. evidence of local collaboration in drawing up the presumption proposal; and

- b. a statement of how the new places will fit within the 14-19 organisation in an area; and
- c. evidence that the exercise of the presumption is intended to lead to higher standards and better progression routes at the 'presumption' school.

4.48 If a school has acted in a collaborative way and has actively attempted to engage other partners in the local area, but it is clear that other institutions have declined to participate, that fact **should not** be a reason for declining to approve a proposal. The onus is on other providers to work with a school which qualifies for the presumption of approval for new post-16 provision.

4.49 The Decision Maker **should** only turn down proposals to add post-16 provision from schools eligible for the sixth form presumption if there is compelling and objective evidence that the expansion would undermine the viability of an existing high quality post-16 provider or providers. The fact that an existing school or college with large numbers of post-16 students might recruit a smaller number of students aged 16-19 is not, of itself, sufficient to meet this condition, where the "presumption" school can show that there is reasonable demand from students to attend the school after age 16.

4.50 The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring schools or colleges that are not high performing **should not** be a reason to reject a post-16 presumption proposal. It is the responsibility of the LA to consider decommissioning poor quality provision as well as commissioning high quality provision. The LA should therefore plan to tackle any consequences of expansion proposals for other schools.

4.51 Before approving proposals the Decision Maker **should** confirm that the admission arrangements of schools proposed for expansion fully meet the provisions of the mandatory Schools Admissions Code. Although the Decision Maker may not modify proposed admission arrangements, the proposer **should** be informed that proposals with unsatisfactory admission arrangements are unlikely to be approved, and given the opportunity to revise them in line with the Code. Where the LA, rather than the governing body, is the admissions authority, we will expect the authority to take action to bring the admission arrangements into line with the School Admissions Code.

#### **Conflicting Sixth Form Reorganisation Proposals** (Paragraph 4.52)

4.52 Where the implementation of reorganisation proposals by the LSC<sup>1</sup> conflict with other published proposals put to the Decision Maker for decision, the Decision Maker is prevented (by the School Organisation Proposals by the LSC for England Regulations 2003) from making a decision on the "related" proposals until the Secretary of State has decided the LSC proposals (see paragraphs 4.13 to 4.14 above).

#### **16-19 Provision 'Competitions'** (Paragraphs 4.53-4.56)

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<sup>1</sup> References throughout this document to the LSC only apply up to April 2010. The ASCL Act 2009 will transfer the responsibilities of the LSC in respect of 16-19 education and training to LAs, supported by the Young People's Learning Agency. This guidance will be revised by April 2010 to take account of these changes.

4.53 Non-statutory competitions for new 16-19 provision were introduced from January 2006. They are administered by the regional arm of the LSC, in line with the LSC's current role as commissioner of 16-19 provision. The Government intends to transfer the responsibility for 16-19 provision from the LSC to LAs from 2010.<sup>2</sup>

4.54 The current arrangements for the establishment of new institutions by competition involves a two-stage approval process:

- a. the competition selection process;
- b. approval of the outcome by existing processes (e.g. Decision Maker approval of school/LA proposals and Secretary of State approval of college/LSC proposals, as required by law).

4.55 Competitors will be eligible to apply to the 16-19 Capital Fund. Where a competition is 'won' by a school, they **must** then publish statutory proposals and these **must** be considered by the Decision Maker on their merits.

4.56 Where proposals to establish sixth forms are received, and the local LSC is running a 16-19 competition, the Decision Maker **must** take account of the competition when considering the proposals.

## FUNDING AND LAND

### Capital (Paragraphs 4.57-4.59)

4.57 The Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposals will be available. Normally, this will be some form of written confirmation from the source of funding on which the promoters rely (e.g. the LA, DCSF, or LSC). In the case of an LA, this **should** be from an authorised person within the LA, and provide detailed information on the funding, provision of land and premises etc.

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

4.59 Proposals **should not** be approved conditionally upon funding being made available, subject to the following specific exceptions: For proposals being funded under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) or through the BSF programme, the Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that funding has been agreed 'in principle', but the proposals **should** be approved conditionally on the entering into of the necessary agreements and the release of funding. A conditional approval will protect proposers so that they are not under a statutory duty to

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<sup>2</sup> The ASCL Act will remove the LSC and also the power of LAs to establish sixth form schools, whether by a competition or otherwise. Section 126 of the Act amends section 16 of the Education Act 1996 and sections 7,10 and 11 of EIA 2006.

implement the proposals until the relevant contracts have been signed and/or funding is finally released.

#### **Capital Receipts** (Paragraphs 4.60-4.62)

4.60 Where the implementation of proposals may depend on capital receipts from the disposal of land used for the purposes of a school (i.e. including one proposed for closure in “related” proposals) the Decision Maker **should** confirm whether consent to the disposal of land is required, or an agreement is needed, for disposal of the land. Current requirements are:

a. Community Schools – the Secretary of State’s consent is required under paragraph 2 of Schedule 35A to the Education Act 1996 and, in the case of playing field land, under section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998). (Details are given in DCSF Guidance 1017-2004 “The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for Academies” published in November 2004) -

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=spectrum&ProductId=DfE-1017-2004&>.

b. Foundation (including Trust) and Voluntary Schools:

i. playing field land – the governing body, foundation body or trustees will require the Secretary of State’s consent, under section 77 of the SSFA 1998, to dispose, or change the use of any playing field land that has been acquired and/or enhanced at public expense.

ii. non-playing field land or school buildings – the governing body, foundation body or trustees no longer require the Secretary of State’s consent to dispose of surplus non-playing field land or school buildings which have been acquired or enhanced in value by public funding. They will be required to notify the LA and seek local agreement of their proposals. Where there is no local agreement, the matter **should** be referred to the Schools Adjudicator to determine. (Details of the new arrangements can be found in the Department’s guidance “The Transfer and Disposal of School Land in England: A General Guide for Schools, Local Authorities and the Adjudicator”

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<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=spectrum&ProductId=DfE-1017-2004&> ).

4.61 Where expansion proposals are dependent upon capital receipts of a discontinuing foundation or voluntary school the governing body is required to apply to the Secretary of State to exercise his various powers in respect of land held by them for the purposes of the school. Normally he would direct that the land be returned to the LA but he could direct that the land be transferred to the governing body of another maintained school (or the temporary governing body of a new school). Where the governing body fails to make such an application to the Secretary of State, and the school subsequently closes, all land held by them for the purposes of the discontinued school will, on dissolution of the governing body, transfer to the LA unless the Secretary of State has directed otherwise before the date of dissolution.

4.62 Where consent to the disposal of land is required, but has not been obtained, the Decision Maker **should** consider issuing a conditional approval for the statutory proposals so that the proposals gain full approval automatically when consent to the disposal is obtained (see paragraph 4.75).

**New Site or Playing Fields** (Paragraph 4.63)

4.63 Proposals dependent on the acquisition of an additional site or playing field may not receive full approval but **should** be approved conditionally upon the acquisition of a site or playing field.

**Land Tenure Arrangements** (Paragraph 4.64)

4.64 For the expansion of voluntary or foundation schools it is desirable that a trust, or the governing body if there is no foundation, holds the freehold interest in any additional site that is required for the expansion. Where the trustees of the voluntary or foundation school hold, or will hold, a leasehold interest in the additional site, the Decision Maker will need to be assured that the arrangements provide sufficient security for the school. In particular the leasehold interest **should** be for a substantial period – normally at least 50 years – and avoid clauses which would allow the leaseholder to evict the school before the termination of the lease. The Decision Maker **should** also be satisfied that a lease does not contain provisions which would obstruct the governing body or the headteacher in the exercise of their functions under the Education Acts, or place indirect pressures upon the funding bodies.

**School Playing Fields** (Paragraph 4.65)

4.65 The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 set out the standards for school premises, including minimum areas of team game playing fields to which schools **should** have access. The Decision Maker will need to be satisfied that either:

- a. the premises will meet minimum requirements of The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999; or
- b. if the premises do not meet those requirements, the proposers have secured the Secretary of State's agreement in principle to grant a relaxation.

Where the Secretary of State has given 'in principle' agreement as at paragraph 4.60(b) above, the Decision Maker **should** consider issuing conditional approval so that when the Secretary of State gives his agreement, the proposals will automatically gain full approval.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION**

### **Initial Considerations** (Paragraphs 4.66-4.67)

4.66 SEN provision, in the context of School Organisation legislation and this guidance, is provision recognised by the LA as specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs. When reviewing SEN provision, planning or commissioning alternative types of SEN provision or considering proposals for change LAs **should** aim for a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to the special educational needs of individual pupils and parental preferences, rather than necessarily establishing broad categories of provision according to special educational need or disability. There are a number of initial considerations for LAs to take account of in relation to proposals for change. They **should** ensure that local proposals:

- a. take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings;
- b. offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people, taking account of collaborative arrangements (including between special and mainstream), extended school and Children's Centre provision; regional centres (of expertise ) and regional and sub-regional provision; out of LA day and residential special provision;
- c. are consistent with the LA's Children and Young People's Plan;
- d. take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, including the National Curriculum, within a learning environment in which children can be healthy and stay safe;
- e. support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people;
- f. provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community;
- g. ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year-olds, taking account of the role of local LSC funded institutions and their admissions policies; and
- h. ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils. Their statements of special educational needs will require amendment and all parental rights must be ensured. Other interested partners, such as the Health Authority should be involved.

4.67 Taking account of the considerations, as set out above, will provide assurance to local communities, children and parents that any reorganisation of SEN provision in their area is designed to improve on existing arrangements and enable all children to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

### **The Special Educational Needs Improvement Test** (Paragraph 4.68)

4.68 When considering any reorganisation of provision that would be recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs, including that which might lead to some children being displaced through closures or alterations, LAs, and all other proposers for new schools or new provision, will need to demonstrate to parents, the local community and Decision Makers how the proposed alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs. All consultation documents and reorganisation plans that LAs publish and all relevant documentation LAs and other proposers submit to Decision Makers **should** show how the key factors set out in paragraphs 4.69 to 4.72 below have been taken into account by applying the SEN improvement test. Proposals which do not credibly meet these requirements **should not** be approved and Decision Makers **should** take proper account of parental or independent representations which question the LA's own assessment in this regard.

**Key Factors** (Paragraphs 4.69-4.72)

4.69 When LAs are planning changes to their existing SEN provision, and in order to meet the requirement to demonstrate likely improvements in provision, they **should**:

- a. identify the details of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of:
  - i. improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment, with reference to the LA's Accessibility Strategy;
  - ii. improved access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support and/or outreach services;
  - iii. improved access to suitable accommodation; and
  - iv. improved supply of suitable places.
- b. LAs **should** also:
  - i. obtain a written statement that offers the opportunity for all providers of existing and proposed provision to set out their views on the changing pattern of provision seeking agreement where possible;
  - ii. clearly state arrangements for alternative provision. A 'hope' or 'intention' to find places elsewhere is not acceptable. Wherever possible, the host or alternative schools should confirm in writing that they are willing to receive pupils, and have or will have all the facilities necessary to provide an appropriate curriculum;
  - iii. specify the transport arrangements that will support appropriate access to the premises by reference to the LA's transport policy for SEN and disabled children; and

- iv. specify how the proposals will be funded and the planned staffing arrangements that will be put in place.

4.70 It is to be noted that any pupils displaced as a result of the closure of a BESD school (difficulties with behavioural, emotional and social development) **should not** be placed long-term or permanently in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) if a special school place is what they need. PRUs are intended primarily for pupils who have been excluded, although LAs can and do use PRU provision for pupils out of school for other reasons such as illness and teenage pregnancies. There may of course be pupils who have statements identifying that they have BESD who have been placed appropriately in a PRU because they have been excluded; in such cases the statement **must** be amended to name the PRU, but PRUs **should not** be seen as an alternative long-term provision to special schools.

4.71 The requirement to demonstrate improvements and identify the specific educational benefits that flow from proposals for new or altered provision as set out in the key factors are for all those who bring forward proposals for new special schools or for special provision in mainstream schools including governors of foundation schools and foundation special schools. The proposer needs to consider all the factors listed above.

4.72 Decision Makers will need to be satisfied that the evidence with which they are provided shows that LAs and/or other proposers have taken account of the initial considerations and all the key factors in their planning and commissioning in order to meet the requirement to demonstrate that the reorganisation or new provision is likely to result in improvements to SEN provision.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### **Views of Interested Parties** (Paragraphs 4.73)

4.73 The Decision Maker **should** consider the views of all those affected by the proposals or who have an interest in them including: pupils; families of pupils; staff; other schools and colleges; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers; LAs; the LSC (where proposals affect 14-19 provision) and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership if one exists, or any local partnership or group that exists in place of an EYDCP (where proposals affect early years and/or childcare provision). This includes statutory objections and comments submitted during the representation period. The Decision Maker **should not** simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representations made on proposals. Instead the Decision Maker **should** give the greatest weight to representations from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.