

## **Cabinet - 10 September 2019**

### **Reasons for Decision**

#### **Proposal to Extend the Age Ranges of Bedlington Whitley Memorial CE and West End First Schools**

Having considered all of the responses to the formal consultation, the proposals to extend the age ranges of Bedlington West End First School and Bedlington Whitley Memorial Church of England First School should be adopted and implemented without modification for the following reasons:

- 1) The Governing Bodies of the schools and the majority of parents and staff who responded to the informal and statutory consultations support the proposals.
- 2) The extension of the age ranges of the schools to become primary schools will bring them into line with the prevalent primary/secondary organisation in the Bedlington Partnership, bringing clarity and confidence in the educational pathway for pupils and parents across the partnership in the light of the transition of Meadowdale Academy to primary status with effect from 1 September 2020.
- 3) £1.6m will be invested into the buildings at Bedlington West End Primary School (as it will become) and the Council will contribute 10% to the investment into the buildings of Bedlington Whitley Memorial Church of England Primary School (as it will become).
- 4) The retention of the current catchment areas for Bedlington West End First and Bedlington Whitley Memorial Church of England First Schools provides continuity and clarity for parents and in any event the Council's Home to School Transport Policy allows for parents to express a preference for a place for their child at the catchment, nearest or nearest faith school if eligibility criteria are met.
- 5) Parents will retain the ability to express a preference for a place for their child in any school in Northumberland or another local authority.

The consultation on this proposal has been very extensive, reasonable and robust.

## **Expansion of Whytrig Middle, Horton Grange Primary and New Delaval Primary Schools**

Having considered the responses to the formal consultation, the proposals to make permanent the expansions to the buildings of Horton Grange Primary, New Delaval Primary and Whytrig Middle Schools should be adopted and implemented without modification for the following reasons:

- 1) The Governing Bodies and the majority of the staff and parents who responded to the informal consultation supported the proposals.
- 2) Data and information gathered by the Council indicates there has been a need to provide additional accommodation for pupils living in the catchment areas of the 3 schools.
- 3) Funding for the expansion of the schools has been via the Basic Need grant provided by the Government.

The consultation on this proposal has been very extensive, reasonable and robust.