

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF** on **Monday 16 September 2019** at **10.00 am**

PRESENT

Councillor G Renner-Thompson
(Chair in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Cessford T
Lang J
Stewart G

Stow K
Wallace R

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Hodgson A

Lennox D

TEACHER UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Payne S

Sanderson J

OFFICERS

Aviston S
Jackson D
Little L

Head of School Organisation & Resources
Service Director - Education and Skills
Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT

Daley W

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for
Children's Services

Press/Public: 1

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Campbell, L Dunn and M Swinburn.

REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET

35. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Outcome of the Outline Business Case for the Haltwhistle Primary School Provision for Wise Academy Trust

The Cabinet report (attached as **Appendix A** to the signed minutes) and introduced by S Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources, provided details of the outcomes of the Outline Business Case for Haltwhistle Primary School provision. An outline capital allocation of £1.6m for investment to support the reorganisation of the education system in Haltwhistle had already been made within the Council’s medium term capital programme. The Outline Business Case sought to confirm the capital required for the construction of the proposed scheme, being £2.65m, with the Council’s contribution being up to £2.5m, an increase of £860k.

The Committee was advised that since the budget setting exercise it had become apparent that, whilst the fabric of the middle school building had been neglected by Bright Tribe, the use of that site would allow a much improved primary provision to be developed by Wise Academies and would also allow the Children’s Centre to be relocated on the same site. The existing first school site would be returned to the Council and future options for the development of the site would be considered.

Members of the Committee welcomed the investment into the town and considered that the development of the previous middle school site provided more economic sense which would allow the provision of a fit for purpose primary school. In response to a question regarding the potential increased traffic generated by a primary provision, Officers advised that parents and children would be encouraged to walk to school and that the existing footpath between the first school and middle school sites would remain.

RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____