

Determination of the Statutory Notice to Close Culverhay

Executive Forward Plan Reference E2233

Appendix 1

Summary of Representations Received and Commentary

Improved Educational Standards

Culverhay had the top CVA score in B&NES in 2010.

It is a successful school and has top class value-add for its pupils year after year.

Culverhay has the highest success rate in the area for Value added education and is in an area where this type of education does much more good than any other style of teaching.

Culverhay had the biggest positive effect on its pupils of all the schools in Bath last year.

GSCE results at Culverhay are high.

Culverhay had the third highest score in the area for the percentage of pupils which scored five or more A to C grades at the end of Year 11.*

What proof is there that those students from the Whiteway/Twerton area who go to other schools actually get the 5 A- C with M&E or actually do any better than Culverhay in GCSE results? (or would do better by going to these schools)?*

Closing Culverhay would have an adverse effect on the surrounding area and it's children. The closure of Culverhay will cause many more repercussions to the area than closing St Marks or Oldfield, thus costing the local authority more in the long run.

Closing Culverhay will be just a further "nail in the coffin", by denying the young people in Bath the opportunity to improve their educational prospects.

The education and chances of many deserving children, both male and female will have to be sacrificed.

Closing the school will have the opposite effect to improving standards.

It has been suggested on many occasions that boys would in fact gain a better education elsewhere - this is unfair and untrue.

A small school is good.

Pupils at Culverhay make good progress as shown by analysis of 'contextual value added' progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4. However, in relation to overall actual attainment (the qualifications achieved at age 16), standards remain below national averages. Over the last four years, the proportion of pupils who have achieved 5 or more A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths at Culverhay has consistently fallen below other local schools. In 2009, 41% of Culverhay pupils achieved at this level (its best performance in recent years), but this should be viewed in the context of the national average of 50.7% and the Bath and North East Somerset average of 59.9%. The figures for 2010 show that 31% of Culverhay pupils achieved at this level. With year groups of approximately 50 pupils it is difficult for Culverhay to provide the range of opportunities to best meet the needs of all pupils. Other larger schools in Bath have the potential to provide a wider range of opportunities and for pupils who would have attended Culverhay to achieve higher standards in these schools.

The type of schools in Bath are similar and all strive to produce the same type of education. There is a real lack of an alternative vocational education in this area, this discriminates against abilities of technical and artistic types. How are we educating those who do not want to go to university and want to find employment?

All schools in Bath are comprehensive schools meaning that they do not select using a measure of academic achievement and cater for all pupils, regardless of their ability.

The proportion of students who have a statement of special educational needs is more than double that found in other schools nearby. Nevertheless, after five years at Culverhay these same boys achieve above the national average.

Culverhay currently has 10 pupils with statements of Special Education Needs (SEN) and is not exceptional in terms of either numbers of statemented pupils or its experience in supporting them. Pupils with SEN are expected to receive the support they need regardless of the school they attend.

Choice and Diversity and Equal Opportunities

St Mark's is remaining open simply because it is a Church School and will not generate any money from its closure.

Merge Culverhay and St Marks, make the new school non-faith specific and change the name to a non-faith name.

There is not the demand for a Church of England based secondary school.

Culverhay should be made co-educational and St Marks closed.

This seems a seriously missed opportunity to rationalise secondary school provision into 4 co-ed schools in the 4 main quadrants of the city, with 2 single-sex schools near the centre.

The plan for Bath will ensure choice and diversity and meet parental demand by continuing to provide the option of single sex schooling for boys and for girls and co-educational church school places and by increasing the provision of co-educational non-church school places in the city.

Parents living close to Culverhay already have to choose other schools for their daughters. Although they would no longer be able to send their sons to Culverhay, they will in future have increased access to co-educational provision for their children should they wish it as Oldfield Academy is to become co-educational and will start admitting boys to Year 7 in 2012. Also to another boys school - Beechen Cliff – should they prefer single sex provision.

When considering re-organisation proposals, Local Authorities are required to have regard to the need to consider the balance of denominational (church) and non-denominational places that currently exists in an area. In order to maintain choice and diversity, the existing balance of places should be retained.

Ensuring Travel Distances are Minimised

Boys won't go to the other schools as they will have to travel further.

There will be a negative impact on the transport network.

It will increase the traffic on the road as currently a significant number of pupils walk to school.

No one has given the figures of how much more it will cost to transport pupils around the City.

Other non-denominational schools are at least 50 minutes walk away. There are no direct bus routes.

The remaining secondary school options open to children in the Southdown/Twerton area of the city are not suitable for the majority of the population, either because they are faith-based or because they are located in excess of 2 miles from the area, with no regular public transport available.

Parental participation in their children's education is likely to be badly affected by shipping young people to schools well out of their community.

It is acknowledged that there would be an adverse travel impact for some families who live close to Culverhay. However, if Culverhay

closes, boys from the local area coming into Year 7 in 2012 would be able to apply to Beechen Cliff School (boys), Oldfield Academy (co-educational), Ralph Allen School (co-educational), St Gregory's Catholic College (co-educational) or St Mark's Church of England School (co-educational). It is anticipated that as more pupils choose their local school (especially a co-educational school at Oldfield Academy) rather than travel greater distances to other schools as at present, pressure on places at Beechen Cliff School (for boys) and Ralph Allen School (boys and girls) would reduce, making them more accessible to pupils from this area. The alternative schools closest to Culverhay that will admit boys – St Gregory's Catholic College, Ralph Allen School, Beechen Cliff School and Oldfield Academy - are all popular and successful schools with good results and good or outstanding Ofsted ratings.

An analysis of walking routes to school for pupils living in the community close to Culverhay suggests that all households should have boys, girls and co-educational schools within three miles and most addresses are within 2.3 miles of the nearest suitable alternative to Culverhay accessed along safe walking routes. The 'Halfpenny Bridge' that spans the Avon between Fielding's Road and Locksbrook has been assessed as a safe walking route for pupils to walk to Oldfield Academy from the area close to Culverhay. It is anticipated that the majority of pupils will walk or cycle, with the possibility that a smaller number travelling slightly longer distances would use public transport (buses) or cycle.

It is anticipated that as more pupils across Bath choose their local school, especially pupils in the north-east of the city choosing a co-educational place at Oldfield Academy, rather than travelling greater distances to other schools as at present, there should be a reduction overall in travel across the city.

Pupils from disadvantaged groups such as those with SEN, children in receipt of free school meals or from low income households in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit allowance would be able to access support for home to school transport in line with Local Authority published policies.

Increased costs to parents due to uniform costs and travel costs.

The Local Authority will provide a fund for the purchase of new school uniforms for the pupils in those year groups that will be displaced by the closure of Culverhay.

Level of Support Expressed by Parents and Wider Stakeholders

Culverhay is the only school which has positively supported the desire of the Bath populous for more non-denominational co-educational school places.

Girls want to attend this school (Culverhay), their parents want them to, it is their most local school.

Culverhay should be a co-educational school – it is the preferred option of many and would fill up if it was.

There have been approximately 30 to 35 first preferences for boys in recent years at Culverhay. If Culverhay were to become a co-educational school and parents of girls made similar choices to those made for boys then Culverhay might be expected to attract 60 to 70 pupils per year. Small school allowance begins at 108 pupils per year. Even with the level of support projected from the parents' survey, it is unlikely that Culverhay would fill more than 108 places per year group. Therefore while Culverhay might be larger it would still be a small school. If no other changes were made to other schools and Culverhay became a co-educational school with an increased intake, the result would be a redistribution of pupils and some other schools would not be full and may also require small school support. There would be no overall impact on the number of surplus places and number of schools and the inefficient use of resources in Bath as a whole would not be addressed.

All the feeder schools in the area want Culverhay to remain open as a mixed school.

A statement read out at the 25 November Cabinet meeting representing the Headteachers of all 27 Bath primary schools states their support for a small all-through co-educational school located in Bath. This has been evaluated in full in Section 9 of the report - Other Options Considered.

Culver hay seems to have the support of other Secondary schools in the area.

If Culverhay was to remain open as a co-educational school, this would not allow the Local Authority to meet its objective of removing surplus places. In order to do this, it would be necessary to make all the other schools in Bath smaller. Responses from the governing bodies of all of the other secondary schools in Bath were unanimous in indicating that any proposal to remove places from their schools would not deliver on the overall aims of the strategy and would not be supported. This has been evaluated in full in Section 9 of the report – Other Options Considered.

A large majority (74%) of those responding to the consultation were opposed to the proposal to close Culverhay, however a significant proportion (47%) also supported the plan for Bath which requires a reduction in the number of schools. The opposition to the proposal from within the communities of south-west Bath needs to be weighed against the level of support received for the plan from communities who feel it will meet their needs.

Effective and Efficient Use of Resources

The money from the sale of the site would go to other schools which are looking to remove themselves from Local Authority control, so the money would be lost by the Authority and the majority of its residents.

The capital receipt which would be generated from the sale of the Culverhay site would only be invested in schools within local authority control. The funding of adaptations at Oldfield Academy to enable the admission of boys from 2012 will be funded from existing capital resources and not the Culverhay capital receipt.

Culverhay School is not the most expensive per pupil in Bath. St Marks is the most expensive.

Per pupil costs at St Mark's Church of England School are higher than at other schools. However Culverhay costs approximately £1,073 per pupil more than the average school in Bath and North East Somerset.

Oldfield should be closed as it will cost more to make this school co-educational than it would cost to make Culverhay co-educational.

The cost of converting Oldfield Academy to enable the admission of boys is greater than the costs of converting Culverhay to admit girls. This was taken into consideration when the Cabinet decided to support Oldfield's proposal to become a co-educational academy which would enable boys from the local area to attend a school considered outstanding by Ofsted.

Closing Culverhay would free up revenue and capital resources to be used for educational priorities in other schools. In addition, under the LMS formula resources would follow the pupils to their new schools. This transfer of resources should also enhance the provision at the receiving schools. Any receipt from the sale of the site would under current council policy be ring-fenced for investment in the school estate. As a result of maintaining six schools rather than seven there would also be a reduction in maintenance costs which are projected to be considerable over the next ten years.

The Future of the Site

The closure will lead to the loss of a good quality school site.

It is the best site for a secondary school, with sufficient space to run all of the sporting requirements.

Loss of community and sports facilities if Culverhay closes.

Sports facilities will be lost and many other community services, clubs etc.

Culverhay is the only school in Bath with its own sports centre including an indoor swimming pool and fantastic sport facilities, the only school open to the local community for adult education, children's parties, fun nights and weekends in the pool for children and adults - not just for the local community but for anyone who wished to use it.

Please note that the community wishes to register an interest in the buildings and land at Culverhay School.

If Culverhay were to close careful consideration would be given to options for the future use of the site. This would need to take into consideration the existing agreements in place for Bath Spa University to use part of the site, Footsteps Nursery and Aquaterra Leisure and the views of the local community. We are keen to continue to foster the close links made with the Bath Spa University and would explore with them their future plans and aspirations for both their existing accommodation and possible expansion of facilities on the site. The nursery would also need to be consulted although initial indications are that retaining this part of the site for this purpose would be a relatively straightforward option. Discussions will also need to be held with Aquaterra Leisure about their position regarding the future management of the community sports facilities currently used jointly with the school.

Planning policies are likely to have a significant influence on options for development of the site with the whole site protected by Bath's world heritage status and green belt designation. It is likely that any development would be limited largely to the existing built area of the site with the playing field being retained for community use.

The Local Authority would liaise with the Community Learning Service to investigate opportunities for relocating groups that currently use Culverhay to other venues in Bath, located as near to the area as possible in order to maintain access to extended services in this way. As all schools in Bath currently meet the five elements of the extended services core offer by either providing services on site or signposting to services provided elsewhere, continued access to services in Bath of an equivalent nature would still be possible if Culverhay closes.

One of the uses of the money from the sale of the site is stated as a 6th form centre for St Gregory's. Why can the Culverhay site not be used for that? It is very close to their existing site and would be cheaper than a new build.

It would be for the governors of St Gregory's Catholic College to assess if Culverhay is a suitable location for the 6th form centre and express an interest in the site. The Council would have to consider how to obtain best value from the site were this to be pursued.

Why couldn't St Marks move to the Culverhay site and be closer to its partner? As this is the only school with space and has less pupils than Culverhay to disrupt in a move?

The consultation on the review of Bath secondary schools undertaken in 2010 showed there was strong support for the continuation of a church school on the St Mark's Church of England School site, reinforcing earlier parental surveys which confirmed a demand for church school places. Consultees felt that the school served its local community and it was essential that there was a school located in the north-east of the city. Analysis of travel distances shows that pupils living in this area would be required to travel longer distances in order to attend school in another part of the city.

Ralph Allen should be across two sites – use the Culverhay site.

Given the proven demand for co-educational places in Bath why not enlarge Ralph Allen radically to become a school on two sites with one part perhaps the lower school on the Rush Hill site of Culverhay and the upper school and sixth form on the current Combe Down site.

There is no evidence that the governors of Ralph Allen School would consider a split site school which can present management difficulties. Analysis shows that the provision of additional co-educational places at Oldfield Academy together with co-educational places at other schools are sufficient to meet parental demand.

Southdown Infant and Junior schools should move onto the Culverhay site and their two sites should be sold.

The possibility of transferring a primary school to the Culverhay site was included as part of the proposal put forward by Culverhay school for an all through 2-19 co-educational academy on the Culverhay site. This is evaluated in full in section 9 of the report 'Other Options Considered'. The Head Teacher of Southdown Infant School has indicated that she was supportive of the option.

However, there has been no consideration of the transfer of both Southdown Infant School and Southdown Junior School to the Culverhay site should Culverhay close. This would require consultation with the governing bodies of both schools to identify the level of support for this option. The Council would also need to assess whether this option provided an opportunity to consider the amalgamation of the two schools into an all - through primary school in line with the Council's preferred model for primary schools. A feasibility study would be required to assess what changes to buildings would be needed to accommodate a primary school and the associated costs. The sale of the two Southdown sites would generate a capital receipt but there would be a borrowing requirement on the Council in advance of this as

the sites could not be sold until the schools had relocated to new accommodation on the Culverhay site.

When the land was bequeathed many years ago by a Doctor Marsh, it was on the understanding that it should be used solely for the purpose of educational facilities. Has this been taken into consideration?

The land is freehold and registered with title absolute. Nothing within that title indicates that the use of the land is restricted to educational use.

Transition Arrangements

Pupil's education will be disrupted.

Other schools are full – there is no room for the pupils from Culverhay.

The main provider schools that have been allocated for Culverhay boys are already full.

Neither Beechen Cliff nor Ralph Allen has the capacity in terms of space to accept all the boys from Culverhay without resorting to more temporary classrooms.

The transition of existing pupils has been ill thought out with three different views from the Council on how this will be achieved. Parents will be forced to send their children to whichever school the Council see fit to allow them to, there is obviously going to be no choice for parents or students.

If the school does close, allow the children starting in 2011 to complete their GCSEs at Culverhay.

Children's Services would do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition for all the young people and staff at the closing school. The changes for young people and staff would be planned in detail with the Governing Body and school leadership, with particular attention to those pupils with additional needs. Working with the school the Local Authority plans to ensure that all pupils currently at the school and those due to start in 2011 will know which school they will attend in the future and if and when they will move, prior to the end of the summer term in July 2011 and that they and their parents will have an opportunity to make a choice about a new school.

Pupils displaced at the start of Year 10 in September 2013 and 2014 would be offered places at Beechen Cliff School and additional accommodation would be provided at the school in order to create temporary places for these pupils and to ensure there is sufficient capacity. This would not necessarily be in temporary classrooms. In addition to this, some temporary places would also be made available at

St. Gregory's Catholic College and at Ralph Allen School to provide additional choice for parents. Places might also be available at St Mark's Church of England School.

Entrants to post 16 provision would be supported in applying for a place at one of the four co-educational school sixth forms located in Bath or at City of Bath College. There are projected to be sufficient places available, however if there was to be an unmet demand for post 16 provision as a result of the closure of Culverhay, the Local Authority could intervene to procure that provision or ensure access to it elsewhere.

This would mean that no new Year 7 or Year 12 pupils enter Culverhay in September 2012 and beyond. The School would stay open for the pupils moving to Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 in September 2012. The final closure date would be the end of August 2014. This would ensure that in general older pupils can complete their education at Culverhay and younger pupils could make a smooth transition to a new school and pupils would not need to move once they have started their GCSE or A level courses. It would be desirable to leave a single year group on site to complete their GCSEs.

The highly efficient teaching staff will have to seek employment elsewhere.

Teachers will be leaving and temporary teachers will be brought in so pupils will not be getting the education they are entitled to.

Staff requirements up to the closure date would be planned in detail with the school senior management to do everything possible to maintain the quality of teaching and so that staff know what options are available to them. This would include planning for the redeployment of some staff and the retention of others.

14-19 Provision

The number of pupils in secondary education will increase in 2013 as the age for leaving education rises to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. How can this be accommodated with our existing schools?

The focus of this consultation and decision to close Culverhay is to address the large number of surplus places and to raise educational standards for the 11-16 age group. The government commitment to raise the participation age to 18 by 2015 will have no impact on these places.

A very high percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 in Bath, and in Bath and North East Somerset as a whole, are already engaged in education, training or employment with training. Raising the participation age will have little impact on the number of students aged 16 to 18 attending Bath schools as the majority of provision required to

reach those students not yet engaged will be through apprenticeships, college courses and work-based training. There is sufficient capacity with six schools remaining, to meet any additional demand for places.

Culverhay's post 16 is very small (52 students as at the May 2010 School Census, 51 in Year 12 and only one in Year 13) and in Bath there are four other schools where post 16 numbers are greater, a wider range of courses are available and standards of attainment are higher than at Culverhay school. There is also a Further Education (FE) college in the city.

The City of Bath College is to axe its A-level courses to concentrate on more vocational qualifications.

The four school sixth forms in Bath provide a good range of A level courses for students. If the closure of Culverhay was to result in an unmet demand for courses the Local Authority would intervene in the interest of learners to secure the provision of these courses.

Impact of Government's decision to remove EMA. Families will lose this income and have to pay fares.

It is understood that the Government intends to replace the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) with a system which will provide support to students from families on low incomes.

Need for Places

The proposed building of new homes is over this side of the City and is not being addressed for school places.

The Core Strategy projects the potential for 6,000 new homes in Bath. Approximately half of these are already accounted for in known developments such as Bath Western Riverside which is expected to generate very low numbers of secondary age children on average due to the high number of flats contained in the development. Six schools in Bath would be sufficient to manage the pupils generated by this level of future housing development.

Keep Culverhay open until 2016 when the increase in secondary places (forecast to be significant) and the outcome of Oldfield's and St. Gregory's admissions criteria will be known.

There is a growing population in the area.

Births have risen in some recent years which is projected to result in an increase in pupil numbers entering Year 7 in 2018 and 2019. The number of Year 7 pupils is projected to be approximately 936 in 2018 and 931 in 2019. Based on the Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) for 2012

currently proposed for the remaining six schools in Bath we would have 976 Year 7 places. Births in the last two years have dropped down again so the number of Year 7 pupils in 2020 and 2021 is projected to be lower. Therefore at present we have a two year bulge, not an established upward trend.

Oldfield is still keeping places for siblings and therefore will still be filling with Bristol children.

There is no guarantee that Oldfield will take Bath children in preference to South Gloucestershire children.

B&NES should not be educating out of Authority pupils, especially to the detriment of one of its own most vulnerable communities.

Why have the conservative council chosen to keep a school open that educates mostly children from Bristol?

Very few people in the Bath area would object to Oldfield closing as very few Bath children actually go to this school.

Oldfield may not admit boys.

I still wouldn't be surprised that if in ten years time Oldfield isn't still single sex with the 80% of girls still attending from outside Bath and not co-ed which is desperately wanted by the parents living in Weston area.

Oldfield Academy is to become co-educational in 2012 and its proposed admissions policy gives priority to pupils resident in the Greater Bath Consortium (GBC) area over pupils resident outside of the GBC area after siblings of pupils at the school, so the vast majority of places will be available to Bath pupils.

Both Oldfield & St Marks educate a high proportion of children from outside of the City.

St Mark's Church of England School does not educate a high proportion of children from outside of Bath.

Oldfield and St.Gregory's schools both import the majority of their pupils from outside the authority. We spend more on them than we receive, and they place a burden on our transport infrastructure.

St Gregory's Catholic College catchment area extends beyond Bath as it is a Catholic school serving a wider area. This factor has been taken into consideration in pupil place planning.

Many of the boys will be found places at Beechen Cliff or other schools, but what happens when even these reach their majority of pupils? Please don't tell me that the Council will then think of building a new school!!

As the majority of pupils in the South West will not have a local secondary school they will be at the bottom of the list of allocations.

Future children will have no choice of school, living the further away from any of the schools in the city will mean that whatever choice they make they will not get in.

There is no real surplus in Bath.

There are approximately 800 pupils currently attending Bath schools from outside the area mostly coming in to Oldfield Academy from South Gloucestershire and Bristol, in addition to approximately 750 surplus places across the city.

Future pupil projections to 2020 which take into account the impact of the increase in birth rates experienced in the city over recent years and pupils projected to be generated from new housing developments over that period, indicate that six schools providing a total of approximately 950 places per year group in Years 7 to 11 would be sufficient to meet the current and projected future needs of the population of the Greater Bath Consortium area and the wider catchment area for the Catholic school located in Bath.

It is anticipated that as more pupils across Bath choose their local school, especially pupils in the north-east of the city choosing a co-educational place at Oldfield Academy, rather than travelling greater distances to other schools as at present, pressure on places at Beechen Cliff School in particular would reduce, making it more accessible to boys from this area.

Culverhay has a large number of surplus places – 49% based on the October 2010 School Census data. Department for Education (DfE) School Organisation guidance states that where a school has at least 30 and 25% or more unfilled places and where standards are low compared to the rest of the Local Authority, closure proposals in order to remove surplus places should normally be approved.

Consultation and Decision Making Process

Failure to consult on the options for re-organisation.

Culverhay was in preliminary talks with the John Cabot Academy federation to join with and improve standards.

The Cabinet has not explained the reasons for its decision to close Culverhay and has not explained why the alternative proposals submitted by Culverhay school were not acceptable.

These have been evaluated in full in Section 9 of the report - Other Options Considered.

The first consultation said that Culverhay would stay open.

The first consultation said that there would be a new co-educational school in the south of the city.

Originally said two school not needed north of the river.

The school and its community were led to believe that the outcome of the original consultation would be that Culverhay would be a co-educational school.

The decision made from the original consultation bore no resemblance to the actual consultation.

The proposal to close Culverhay only came forward when the two schools identified as being the appropriate ones to close began political manoeuvres to make it difficult for the Council to close them.

The Cabinet has done a complete u turn.

It may well be that the inclusion in the original proposal consulted on of one school in the north and one school in the south of the city led to an expectation that there would be a new co-educational school on the Culverhay site and did affect the response from parents in the Culverhay area. This has already been considered by Overview & Scrutiny and re-considered by Cabinet as part of the call-in of the previous decision E2097. The decision to subsequently consult separately on a new proposal to close Culverhay reflects that this option was not explicitly part of the original consultation and this is clearly stated on Page 5 of the consultation document proposing the closure of Culverhay. This procedure meets Department for Education (DfE) statutory requirements.

A lack of consistency, transparency and clarity throughout the consultations has led to flawed reasoning and decision making.

The consultation process gives the impression of being flawed.

The consultation was a sham, a farce, is biased.

The public has not been listened to.

Many parents paid into the projects that helped create Culverhay - their voice has been ignored.

The decision to close the school was made from the outset.

A large number of consultation responses were not included and responses were not considered.

Action group leaflets – 143 stated as received but 182 were hand delivered.

The only consultation responses given any weight were those answers to the questions in the consultation document itself. People were misled.

The consultation documents were only sent home with school children so how were the general public to know that no account would be paid to their remarks if they did not answer the exact consultation questions.

It was actually acknowledged quite some time ago that misinformation had occurred. At that time the whole process should have ceased and restarted from scratch.

The decision to close the school should be made by Cabinet or Full Council not by a single Cabinet member.

Objections made on the basis that the consultation process had been flawed and that not all consultation responses had been recorded had also been raised and addressed in the call-in.

Officers are satisfied that the process and methodology for receiving and recording consultation responses was robust and that the information provided to Cabinet provides an accurate picture of the result of the consultation. Cabinet were left in no doubt about the strength and direction of local support.

All responses correctly submitted via the online E-Consult process and paper questionnaire were used when the system generated the summary which was Appendix 1 of the 25 November Cabinet report.

Every effort was made to ensure that people found it as easy as possible to respond including removing the need to register when making an online response, as some had found this off-putting or time-consuming during the first consultation. For the proposal to close Culverhay consultation, respondents could simply answer the questions, add comments and press the submit button. Obviously there is always the possibility of human error and if the submit button wasn't pressed then the response would not be recorded.

All emails received in the formal consultation mailbox on time were acknowledged and every attempt was made to acknowledge and respond to other emails received by individual officers and Cabinet members. A petition, parental survey and leaflets were also submitted to the Local Authority within the consultation period. All of the consultation responses as detailed above were provided to the Cabinet prior to their meeting.

The Local Authority is satisfied that the consultation and subsequent statutory notice publication meets DfE statutory requirements and the sufficiency and quality of the consultation will be taken into consideration as part of the overall determination of the proposal.

Miscellaneous

Human rights of the children of this area to be educated locally. The White Paper states that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds should get more money and that local schools in such areas are very important. Closing Culverhay is going against the Educational White Paper and Government Proposals.

The closure of Culverhay will cause a negative impact on this area of deprivation and will impact hardest on the poorest section of Bath.

The consultation has not given proper weight to the income which would be available through the Government's Pupil Premium.

The pupil premium will target resources to schools for the most deprived pupils, based primarily on eligibility for free school meals. It is likely that a significant number of pupils from the area close to Culverhay will attract this funding and the resource would go to whichever school they attend. Other larger schools in Bath have the potential to provide a wider range of opportunities and for pupils who would have attended Culverhay to achieve higher standards in these schools.

The federation between St Mark's and St Gregory's is a soft and not a hard federation.

Whilst it is felt that a hard federation would provide greater security and that standards at St Mark's Church of England School would be raised more rapidly, the enthusiasm of both schools to collaborate in this way can only be a positive development.

The closure of the school will lead to an imbalance of single sex places in Bath. There will be 18 more single sex girls places than boys. This is totally against the Equal Opportunities Act.

There is a requirement to meet demand equally, not to provide an equal number of places. The additional 18 girls places in Bath are as a result of an admission number set by a Foundation school, not as a direct result of Local Authority action.

Boys have left Beechen Cliff and come to Culverhay because they have been bullied there. Will they be forced back?

Experience of bullying at Oldfield due to the Bristol majority.

The Local Authority does not have any evidence of this and cannot comment on this issue. Places for displaced pupils will be available at Beechen Cliff School, St. Gregory's Catholic College and at Ralph Allen School and also at St Marks Church of England School in order to provide some choice for pupils.