

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

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

Contact details

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

Cumbria County Council,
Contact :- Mike Tuer, School Organisation Project Team, 18 Portland Square,
Carlisle CA1 1PE
BELAH (COMMUNITY) SCHOOL (DCSF No. 2601), Eden Street, Carlisle CA3 9JZ

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.

31 August 2008

Consultation

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

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with in that Cumbria County Council undertook appropriate consultations on possible changes to the existing schools in North Carlisle during June and July 2007.

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.

- (a) See attached distribution list
- (b) See attached notes of public meetings
- (c) See attached report and attachments
- (d) See attached consultation document. This was distributed as in (a), available at the school and appropriate public places such as the local libraries and on-line through the County Council website.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The effect of the proposal will be to close Belah School on 31 August 2008.

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 Authority have brought forward the proposal as they consider that closure of Belah School will be in the best educational interest of current and future pupils.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

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

There are enough places at Kingmoor Infant and Junior Schools and Stanwix School to accommodate any pupils who live in the combined catchment areas of the three schools.

Closure of Belah School does, however, represent a reduction in the overall capacity currently available at the schools in North Carlisle. This recognises that there are currently a number of surplus places and projections are still showing a decrease.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

Current School Information

10. 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.

Belah School caters for both boys and girls aged 3-11. In September 2007 there were 58 pupils on roll plus 18 part time pupils in the nursery class.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education 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 local education authority 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 local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

Places will be available for displaced pupils at Kingmoor Infant and Junior Schools from 1 September 2008.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Kingmoor Infant School will be extended to include nursery facilities to replace those currently available at Belah School.

Impact on the Community

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

There should be limited impact on the community through the closure of Belah School.

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

Any extended services currently provided at Belah in respect of the nursery will be available at Kingmoor Infant School. Other extended services are already in existence at the other schools in north Carlisle.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

See attached

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

From September 2008 the existing catchment area for Belah School will be split between that of Stanwix School and that for the Kingmoor Schools (as suggested in the consultation document). This will enable the majority of those displaced by the closure of Belah School the opportunity of obtaining a place in a school within reasonable walking distance. It is not envisaged that there will be any increase in the number of car journeys to transport children to and from school as a result of this proposal.

Related Proposals.

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

This proposal is related to the proposal to extend the age range at Kingmoor Infant School.

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the body's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable