

Q	Why is there a proposal to close Bram Longstaffe Nursery School?
A	The recent Ofsted inspection placed the school in Special Measures, the worst rating they can deliver. Numbers have steadily fallen and the school has a large deficit that is unlikely to be brought back to a healthy position.
Q	Could the closure of the school and a decision on the use of the building not happen at the same time?
A	The formal closure of the school has to come first due to the legal process required.
Q	How quickly does the Cabinet have to make a decision after the consultation?
A	A decision must be taken within 2 months of the end of the representation period, otherwise the proposal is referred to an independent adjudicator.
Q	Will the building still be owned by county council?
A	We will still own the building and looking at leasing the building to services on a 'peppercorn rent' basis.
Q	Why allow the primary school [Barrow Island] to take in nursery aged children?
A	The government has made it easier for schools to change their age range to take in younger children and the unintended impact on nursery schools was not properly considered. The government felt it would increase parental choice.
Q	Has the school [Barrow Island] got the capacity to take all the children if Bram Nursery closes?
A	There will still be a nursery operating out of the Bram building, although it will not be run by the local authority.
Q	How will it [the new hub] affect other services in Barrow, for example the sports and community hub, Cavendish Park?
A	This hub [Bram] is to be more about family and well-being. We will work together with Cavendish Park so that services are not duplicated.
Q	The deficit is huge, how has this happened and why has it not been challenged before?
A	It has been discussed over several years and it is not acceptable, which is why we are now having this consultation.
Q	With regard to the new nursery [at Bram], will it be a private nursery?
A	Yes, it will be a private nursery.
Q	So the debt disappears and the new nursery starts afresh?
A	The debt doesn't disappear, it gets absorbed by all other Cumbria maintained schools. It will not fall to the new nursery at Bram.
Q	Is there no way Bram can be run as part of the school [Barrow Island]?

A	It is possible to amalgamate, it is a long process and the deficit at Bram has been a barrier in the past.
Q	How will it look when the new nursery opens after all the bad publicity?
A	It will be a complete new entity and not have any historical link to previous nursery.
Q	If the nursery becomes a PVI; would children with an EHCP still qualify and benefit the same as in the maintained nursery setting?
A	Yes and the early years' team would go in to the PVI and support it.
Q	What would it take for the nursery to become more viable?
A	It is very much a challenge for all schools to be viable but there is a direct correlation between the number of children at a school and the amount of funding it receives.
Q	Could staff form a PVI (Private/Voluntary/Independent nursery)?
A	Yes and the county council would look at all avenues.
Q	Would the county council support the running of the building, maintenance etc?
A	As the landlord the county council will maintain the building.
Q	How would a private nursery manage financially?
A	It would need a business plan to be able to access any funding.
Q	Will SEN provision staff still get the same support from the county council?
A	There will still be support for the SEN staff and the county council will still administer an EHCP to any children that will attend the nursery in future.
Q	At what point will the process finish?
A	The consultation ends on 3 April and the Cabinet reports are for April and July.
Q	The number of children at the nursery is more than stated in the consultation document
A	The information in the consultation document is from the Sep 19 census data.
Q	The decision is on 23 <sup>rd</sup> July but that is in the school holidays, would that affect the summer clubs etc.?
A	No they will not be affected.