

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**Building Schools for the Future
Secondary Education Consultation
November 2007**

Summary of an analysis and report by
NWA Social & Market Research

INTRODUCTION**1. Introduction and Methodology**

- 1.1 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council expects to receive around £150 million for transforming secondary education through the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative. Work with secondary headteachers, college principals and other partners led to a set of possible options for school organisation for general consultation.
- 1.2 A brochure under the title of Future Learning was designed and published by the Council for distribution at the end of October 2007. 100,000 brochures were printed with 77,000 copies being distributed to households in the Borough and the rest placed in schools, libraries, doctors' surgeries and other public buildings. The brochure was also made available on the Council website.
- 1.3 Included within the brochure was a questionnaire in the form of a 4-page pullout for completion and freepost transmission to NWA Social & Market Research. NWA's role was to enter the data, analyse and report the results. The questionnaire offered 2 options to residents in each of the four integrated service areas (North Stockton, Central Stockton, South of the Borough and Billingham). Respondents were invited to comment on each of the options and to offer options of their own. In addition to the postal survey the questionnaire was available to complete and return on-line.
- 1.4 The questionnaire was designed by NWA in collaboration with the client, so as to best meet their specific needs. In addition to the information detailed above on the options, data was also collected in relation to:
- The respondent's postcode
 - any connection with a school (Pupil/ Parent or carer/ Staff member/ Governor)
 - further comments about the suggested options or any new options
- 1.5 All responses with a valid postcode were analysed. This includes a large number of proforma sheets, which were derivatives of the official questionnaire with options and comments for the North Stockton area already completed.

2. Achieved Response

- 2.1 In total 3882 responses were received. These were in the following formats:
- 697 by e-mail from the on-line questionnaire
 - 1160 'proforma' sheets
 - 2025 questionnaires
- 2.2 Statements were received from the governing bodies of The Norton School, Ian Ramsey Church of England School, Northfield School, and Egglecliffe School. College; and from Egglecliffe Parish Council, Ingleby Barwick Town Council, and the Corner House Youth Project, as well as from a number of individuals.

MAIN FINDINGS

1. South of the Borough Options

Option A - One new School in Thornaby and three Schools for Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick	Option B - Two new Schools in Thornaby and three Schools for Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Thornaby Community School and St Patrick's School. Replace them with one new school for 1,400 students. The new school might be a Voluntary Aided School, a Foundation School, a Community School or an Academy, depending on the result of the competition. • Refurbish Conyers School for 1,200 students (plus 300 sixth form places). • Replace Egglecliffe School with a new building on the site of its sports fields at Allens West (1,200 students) and a sixth form block on its current site (300 students). • Keep All Saints School at its current size (600). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Thornaby Community School and St Patrick's School as separate schools in a shared building for 1,400 students. • Refurbish Conyers School for 1,200 students (plus 300 sixth form places). • Replace Egglecliffe School with a new building on the site of its sports fields at Allens West (1,200 students) and a sixth form block on its current site (300 students). • Keep All Saints School at its current size (600).

- 1.1 1256 respondents completed this part of the questionnaire. The following table sets out the number and percentage that gave each response.

	Number	%
I prefer Option A	163	13.0
I prefer Option B	253	20.1
I consider both options acceptable	58	4.6
I consider neither option acceptable	665	52.9
I am not sure/have no opinion	117	9.3
Total	1256	100

- 1.2 540 people provided further comments. Main comments are listed in the following table.

Comments about South of the Borough	Number	%
Build secondary school at Ingleby Barwick	185	34.3
Keep St Patrick's separate	90	16.7
Increase school capacity in Ingleby Barwick	77	14.3
Increase All Saints capacity	75	13.9
Keep TCS & St Patrick's as is	54	10.0
Avoid bussing	50	9.3
Catholic school needed for Catholic pupils	29	5.4

2. Billingham Options

Option A - Three Schools	Option B - Two Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish Northfield School on its present site, and reduce it from 1,120 to 800 places. • Move St Michael's School to a part new-build, part refurbished building on the Billingham Campus site. Reduce its capacity from 875 to 800 places. • Refurbish Billingham Campus School for 800 places. St Michaels and Campus would share some facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish Northfield School on its present site, and enlarge it from 1,120 to 1,400 places. • Move St Michael's School to a part new-build, part refurbished building on the Billingham Campus site. Increase its capacity from 875 to 1,000 places. • Close Billingham Campus School.

2.1 895 respondents completed this part of the questionnaire. The following table sets out the number and percentage that gave each response.

	Number	%
I prefer Option A	350	39.1
I prefer Option B	193	21.6
I consider both options acceptable	31	3.5
I consider neither option acceptable	101	11.3
I am not sure/have no opinion	220	24.6
Total	895	100

2.2 94 people provided further comments. Main comments are listed in the following table.

Comments about Billingham Options	Number	%
Other comments	21	22.3
3 schools on 3 sites	16	17.0
St Michaels needs to be on own site	10	10.6
Right to Catholic education/ethos locally	9	9.6
Leave schools alone/no closures	5	5.3

3. North Stockton Options

Option A - Two refurbished community schools	Option B - One refurbished community school and one new school (by competition)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish Blakeston School and Bishopsgarth School for 800 students each. • Close The Norton School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close The Norton School and Blakeston School. Hold a competition to establish a new school for 800 students. The new school might be a Foundation School an Academy or a Community School, depending on the result of the competition. • Refurbish Bishopsgarth for 800 students.

3.1 1981 respondents completed this part of the questionnaire (1160 of these responses being a proforma sheet adapted from the questionnaire). The following table sets out the number and percentage that gave each response.

	Number	%
I prefer Option A	223	11.3
I prefer Option B	165	8.3
I consider both options acceptable	37	1.9
I consider neither option acceptable	1314	66.3
I am not sure/have no opinion	242	12.2
Total	1981	100

3.2 1265 people made further comments. Main comments are listed in the following table.

Comments on North Stockton Options	Number	%
One school in West and one in East	1179	93.2
West site on Bishopsgarth OR Blakeston site	1171	92.6
East site on Norton SHCS, Tilery SC or Education Centre	1171	92.6
Keep/Refurbish Norton School	43	3.4
Keep/Refurbish Bishopsgarth School	32	2.5
Close Blakeston School	24	1.9

4. Central Stockton Options

Option A - Three schools on one site	Option B – Two schools on one site. All Catholic students to Billingham or Thornaby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Ian Ramsey School(1,100 places) to share the site with Grangefield School (1,150) and Our Lady & St Bede's (750) in a combination of new buildings and refurbishment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Ian Ramsey School (1,100 places) to share the site with Grangefield School (1,150) in a combination of new buildings and refurbishment. • Close Our Lady & St Bede's School. Enlarge St Michael's RC School in Billingham and St Patrick's School in Thornaby.

- 4.1 1954 respondents completed this part of the questionnaire. The following table sets out the number and percentage that gave each response.

	Number	%
I prefer Option A	1242	63.6
I prefer Option B	114	5.8
I consider both options acceptable	31	1.6
I consider neither option acceptable	426	21.8
I am not sure/have no opinion	141	7.2
Total	1954	100

- 4.2 423 respondents made additional comments. Main comments are listed in the following table.

Comments on Central Stockton Options	Number	%
Rebuild/refurbish/maintain Ian Ramsey on present site	260	61.5
Catholic education should be available locally	41	9.7
Do not close OLSB school (or Special Support Unit)	39	9.2
Leave schools alone/no closures - refurbish as necessary	36	8.5
Other Comments/Options	25	5.9
Site for 3000 students too big	10	2.4

5. Further Comments about the options (all areas)

- 5.1 1091 provided further comments. Comments made by more than 1% of these respondents are shown below. A number of general categories emerged: 5.6% simply re-stated their previous choice of option; 6.1% identified a wide range of other options or comments that are too diverse to categorise; and 8.4% were unhappy with some aspects of the consultation.

Further comments from respondents	No.	%
New school/extra provision required for Ingleby Barwick	164	15.0
Do not close Our Lady and St Bede's/Special Needs Unit	134	12.3
Preserve Ian Ramsey on its own site	104	9.5
Unhappy/issues with aspects of consultation	92	8.4
St Patrick's must not combine - lose high standards and Ethos	88	8.1
Must retain Catholic School in central Stockton	68	6.2
Other comments/options	67	6.1
Re-stating choice of option	61	5.6
Need to retain Catholic School/ethos in communities	49	4.5
Keep/refurbish all schools	46	4.2
3 Schools/3000 pupils will not work	37	3.4
Bussing/Pupils travelling long distances unacceptable	34	3.1
There are advantages in smaller schools	29	2.7
Combining faith with non faith schools won't work	17	1.6
Keep Norton School open	16	1.5
Do not close St Michaels	14	1.3
Bussing will be costly/dangerous - will Council pay	13	1.2
Retain/expand St Patrick's	12	1.1
Schools are part of the local community	11	1.0