



**Notice of a public
Decision Session - Cabinet Member for Education, Children and
Young People's Services**

To: Councillor Looker (Cabinet Member)

Date: Wednesday, 27 February 2013

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4.00pm on Friday 1 March 2013**. Items that are called in will be considered by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm on Monday 25 February 2013**.

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare:

- Any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- Any prejudicial interests or
- Any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 5 February 2013.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting may do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Tuesday 26 February 2013.**

4. The Future of the Derwent Schools Federation (Pages 7 - 56) and Osbaldwick Primary School

This report provides the Cabinet Member with details of the responses to the recent public consultation concerning the proposals to close Derwent Schools and to expand Osbaldwick School in order to create a two form of entry school, using both of the existing sites.

The report recommends that the Local Authority should now publish a statutory notice proposing the closure of Derwent Schools Federation and an expansion of Osbaldwick Primary School, followed by a six-week representation period, after which the Local Authority would consider all further observations and comments received and decide whether to proceed with the proposals.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Cabinet Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jayne Carr

Contact Details:

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Email – jayne.carr@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
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The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business following a Cabinet meeting or publication of a Cabinet Member decision. A specially convened Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	DECISION SESSION - CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
DATE	5 FEBRUARY 2013
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR LOOKER (CABINET MEMBER)

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Cabinet Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests she may have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 13 December 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

14. A NEW DEAL FOR YORK FOSTER CARERS - RECOGNISING AND REWARDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Cabinet Member considered a report that detailed the current fees and allowances scheme for foster carers and which proposed the implementation of an accreditation scheme for foster carers with a professional development pathway and associated remuneration.

The Cabinet Member considered the following options:

Option 1: To continue the existing remuneration arrangements.

Option 2: To implement a new accredited scheme with corresponding grading for foster carers' skill,

knowledge and experience with effect from April 2013. The remuneration arrangements for allowances and fees would enable a rationalisation under a single scheme.

The Cabinet Member noted that the proposed new scheme would ensure that there was a clearer set of expectations for foster carers as well as offering a professional development pathway with accredited training and a revised remuneration framework.

The Cabinet Member asked about the consultation that had taken place. Officers gave details of the work that had been carried out and expressed their appreciation of the contribution made by the Chair of the Foster Carers Association.

Officers were asked about the financial implications, particularly if a significant number of carers progressed to become advanced foster carers. They stated that indicative figures had been drawn up and that factors such as the likelihood that there would be travel in both directions had been taken into account. The situation would, however, be closely monitored. Officers also gave details of the arrangements that would be in place in respect of advanced carers with two or more placements.

RESOLVED: That Option 2 in the report – the implementation of a new accreditation scheme with corresponding grading for foster carers' skill, knowledge and experience be approved with effect from April 2013.

REASON: The implementation of an accreditation scheme for foster carers will enhance their place in the Children's Social Care Workforce and provide a platform for recruitment of new foster carers with a clear professional development pathway and associated remuneration.

15. EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet Member considered a report that detailed recent progress on major schemes within the Education, Children and Young People's Capital Programme and which informed her of

new schemes proposed for 2013/14 and 2014/15, and of revisions to the programme.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to note that good progress was being made on current projects, including the scheme to increase capacity at Knavesmire Primary School. The Cabinet Member's attention was also drawn to work undertaken as part of the maintenance programme, including new boilers and roof repairs at a number of schools.

The Cabinet Member gave consideration to proposed schemes for 2013/14, as detailed in the report. Progress with these schemes would be subject to funding being available from the Department for Education (DfE) at similar levels to 2012/13 but an announcement from the DfE was still awaited.

Officers stated that it was intended to prepare a report on outstanding schemes for which funding had not been identified. The Local Authority was also consulting with other councils to ensure that it was doing everything possible to access funding that was available.

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the proposed schemes to be developed from within the available resources of the approved capital programme, as detailed in the report, be approved.
 - (b) That the revised schemes and funding of the capital programme, as detailed in Annex A of the report, be recommended to Cabinet for approval to enable the effective management and monitoring of the capital programme.

REASON: To ensure the efficient management and delivery of the Education, Children and Young People's Capital Programme.

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**Meeting of the Decision Session –
Cabinet Member for Education,
Children and Young People**

27 February 2013

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

**The Future of Derwent Schools Federation and Osbaldwick
Primary School**

Summary

1. The report provides the Cabinet Member with details of the responses to the recent public consultation concerning the proposal to close Derwent Schools and to expand Osbaldwick School in order to create a two form of entry school, using both of the existing sites.
2. The report considers the proposed closure and expansion, particularly in light of low parental demand for places at Derwent, creating a high number of surplus places.
3. The report concludes that the primary education of children will be best served by expanding Osbaldwick School, building on the strong leadership and governance already available in the local education community and using the excellent facilities available at Derwent Schools.
4. The report sets out proposals that describe how an expanded Osbaldwick might be organised and how the two sites will work effectively as one school. The governing bodies of Derwent and Osbaldwick, together with the local authority (LA) have and will continue to communicate and consult with parents, carers and pupils openly and clearly about the future of their children's primary education to ensure that the best possible quality of education can be provided.
5. The report recommends that the LA should now publish a statutory notice proposing the closure of Derwent Schools Federation and an expansion of Osbaldwick Primary School, followed by a six-week representation period, after which the LA will consider all

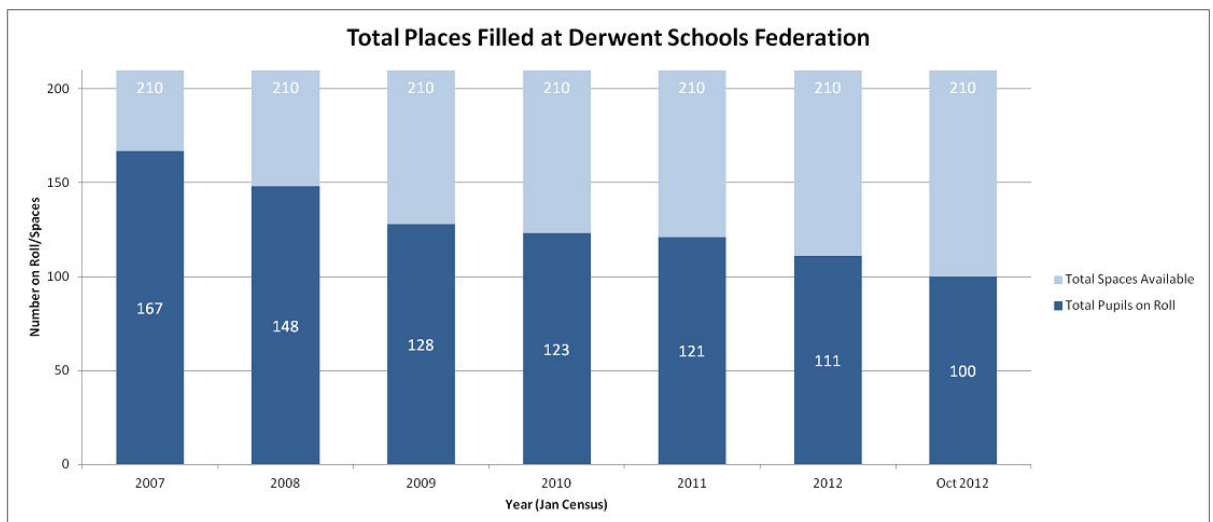
further observations and comments received and decide whether to proceed with the proposals.

Background

6. Derwent is a one form of entry school taking children from nursery (age 3) through to Year 6. Over 80% of the parents who live in the Derwent catchment area select other schools as their first preference, many choosing Osbaldwick. With only 100 pupils on roll in October 2012, representing 51% in surplus places, pupils are being taught in a building that can accommodate 210. Such small numbers means that pupils across Years 3 to 6 are taught in mixed year groups (Years 3 and 4, 4 and 5, 5 and 6). Some areas in the building are therefore no longer used.
7. The small numbers of pupils at Derwent directly affects the operating costs of the school. The average cost per pupil per year is £8,600 compared with under £4,500 at Osbaldwick.
8. The Derwent site benefits from a number of excellent facilities used by both the school and the local community. To the rear of the site is a floodlit multi use games area, together with a purpose-built changing room block. The main building is host to a satellite children's centre, opened in 2011. The children's centre will continue to provide services from the Derwent site to families in need of support in the local area.
9. Osbaldwick is also currently a one form of entry school, with a capacity for 210 pupils. In October 2012, there were 202 pupils on roll. Osbaldwick takes children from Reception through to Year 6. The school is facing a rising demand from parents who select it as their first preference both within its own catchment and also outside of its catchment area.
10. Both schools benefit from good wrap around care. Derwent operates a well attended Breakfast Club and Osbaldwick operates both a playgroup and an after school club. In 2010, both Derwent and Osbaldwick were inspected by Ofsted. Derwent was judged overall as being 'satisfactory.' Osbaldwick was considered by Ofsted to be a 'good school with outstanding outcomes.'
11. The headteacher at Derwent (Mrs Carole Torode) retired in December 2012. Both governing bodies appointed the current headteacher of Osbaldwick (Miss Lesley Barringer), as interim

executive headteacher of both Derwent and Osbaldwick from January 2013.

12. Formerly Derwent Infant and Derwent Junior, the future of the Derwent site was last publicly debated in 2006 when the governing bodies proposed a plan to federate the two schools together to share resources and expertise to help raise standards and add greater value for money. The plan was supported by both City of York Council and the other schools in the city. Despite these changes, demand for places continued to decrease.
13. The LA launched a public consultation regarding the future of Derwent Schools Federation and Osbaldwick Primary School in December 2012. This was predicated on the low number of pupils at Derwent, the increasing number of surplus places, and the rising demand for places at Osbaldwick leading to increasing pressure on space.
14. LAs are required to keep surplus capacity under review and to ensure an appropriate balance between supply and demand so that resources are used effectively.
15. The chart below shows that the number of pupils at Derwent has been falling since 2007. With 100 pupils on roll at the October 2012 census point, Derwent has the highest surplus places across the city. This trend is set to continue. Currently, only seven parents have requested Derwent as their first preference for Reception class in September 2013. If this number remained unchanged, following the departure of the current Y6 to secondary school, the total number of pupils on roll at Derwent would fall to 93. The percentage of surplus places would increase to 56%.



16. The table below shows the pupil numbers in each year group at the schools in October 2012.

Current class sizes			
Derwent		Osboldwick	
Class	Size	Class	Size
Nursery	8	Reception	30
Reception	15	Y1	31
Y1 + Y2 (mixed class)	15	Y2	30
Y1 + Y2 (mixed class)	15	Y3	27
Y3 + Y4 (mixed class)	19	Y4	30
Y4 + Y5 (mixed class)	17	Y5	28
Y5 + Y6 (mixed class)	19	Y6	29
Total	108	Total	205

17. Declining pupil numbers impacts upon the school in several ways. The school will receive less funding, usually resulting in a reduction in the number of staff. A smaller school provides limited opportunities for promotion making it harder to retain ambitious staff.
18. Annex 1 includes the presentation provided at the public consultation meeting at both Derwent and Osboldwick schools on 28 January 2013. This details the school preferences of parents living in both catchment areas.

Options

19. The consultation document noted that in addition to closing Derwent and expanding Osboldwick, four other options were considered with the governing bodies of both schools. These options were:
- Close Derwent and transfer the pupils to other schools in the area.
 - Close both Derwent and Osboldwick and then create a new school.
 - Federate Derwent with Osboldwick under one Head teacher and one Governing Body.
 - Apply to the Government for Derwent to become a sponsored Academy.

20. These alternatives do not appear to offer a credible way forward as:
- Expected increases in pupil numbers, together with rises in the local population due to the Derwenthorpe housing project, means that this option would remove pupil places from the city that will soon be needed. It would also remove an excellent school building which has some outstanding facilities, such as the MUGA (multi use games area) that can be used by both the school and the community.
 - Closing two schools and opening one would be costly. It would also mean closing one very popular school judged by Ofsted to be good with outstanding outcomes and another that's in good condition with some outstanding facilities.
 - A federation between Derwent and Osbaldwick would not resolve the issue of surplus space as separate admissions limits would continue together with separate Ofsted inspection arrangements. Nor would this create value for money, as separate budgets would still be required.
 - The creation of a sponsored academy would mean changes in leadership and governance. This would not address the issues of surplus places or value for money at Derwent, or overcrowding and increasing parental demand for places at Osbaldwick.
21. The consultation document encouraged people to give their views regarding these and any other options that should be explored. The responses are considered below.

Public consultation – summary

22. Both governing bodies have worked together to arrange and organise public consultation events involving parents, carers, children, and staff of both schools. Osbaldwick Primary School governing body organised a well attended public meeting at Osbaldwick Primary School on 10 December 2012 to explain the need for the public consultation. Comments received at that event are shown at Annex 2. Osbaldwick's governing body invited written questions in advance of the meeting and those questions were answered along with others raised on the night. Following this meeting a set of Q&A responses was sent out from Osbaldwick Primary School governors to parents and carers to ensure those

who could not attend the meeting were kept informed around the main issues being raised.

23. Parents from both schools were given the opportunity to visit each site on 17 January 2013. Many parents, carers and children took the opportunity to look around the buildings and talk with staff. Many (40) also took the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire produced by the schools and to make comments. Annex 3 shows the questionnaire issued on the 17 January and quotes the comments received.
24. Two consultation meetings with LA officers and school leadership teams were held with parents at each school on 28 January 2013. The meetings gave parents the opportunity to meet LA officers and to ask questions and air their views. Both meetings were well attended.
25. The formal consultation began on 10 December 2012 and closed on 15 February 2013. The consultation document described the reasons for the consultation, the options already considered, and set out the proposals and their potential implications. It also explained how people could send the LA their views.
26. Five hundred and twenty paper copies of the consultation document were distributed to pupils, parents and staff at Osbaldwick and Derwent schools, Tang Hall Primary and Tang Hall Library. The consultation paper was also promoted on-line on the council's website at www.york.gov.uk/education.

Issues raised during the consultation process

27. The initial public consultation with parents and carers generated much discussion within both school communities. The governing bodies have welcomed the responses from parents and carers and have incorporated some suggestions into their plans for operating an expanded Osbaldwick school across both sites. The various issues raised by parents, carers and staff are detailed in the annexes to this report. A small number of detailed emailed responses were also received by the LA (6 in total). These covered a diverse and broad range of views with some objecting to the proposals and others supporting them. These are all included in annex 4.
28. The responses received inevitably reflect a wide diversity of views and the perspectives of different stakeholders. The LA produced a

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that was distributed to all parents and carers at both Derwent Schools and Osbaldwick Primary, together with staff and governors on 25 January 2013. The FAQ document is included at Annex 5.

29. The FAQ document highlights and addresses the general messages and major issues that have been raised by those who have responded to the consultation document. The majority of issues concern the detail of school organisation and implementation arrangements if the proposals proceed.

Support for pupils and parents

30. If the proposals move forward it will be important to respond to any ongoing concerns of parents, carers, pupils and staff. The LA and the governing bodies will ensure that:
- the needs of individual pupils are taken into account
 - pupils with special educational needs continue to receive the same levels of support
 - early years provision, including the maintained nursery, out of school clubs and children's centre provision will continue to the same standard
 - consultation with parents and carers will continue regarding all of the detailed arrangements including the provision of sweatshirts/uniform for all pupils transferring from Derwent.

Proposal to make a change to the existing catchment areas

31. An expanded Osbaldwick would change from being one form of entry to two forms of entry providing up to 60 places per year group. This will mean the school should be able to meet the anticipated local demand for primary places in the foreseeable future, given current parental preferences. It is proposed to make minor changes to the catchment area of Tang Hall Primary School and the existing Derwent catchment area. In order to better balance the available school places within local catchment areas, it is proposed that Tang Hall Primary School will include the area north of Tang Hall Beck and west of Tang Hall Lane, in its catchment area for admissions from September 2014. No objections to this proposal were made or received during the consultation period. The governing bodies of Osbaldwick, Derwent and Tang Hall schools have been consulted on this proposal.

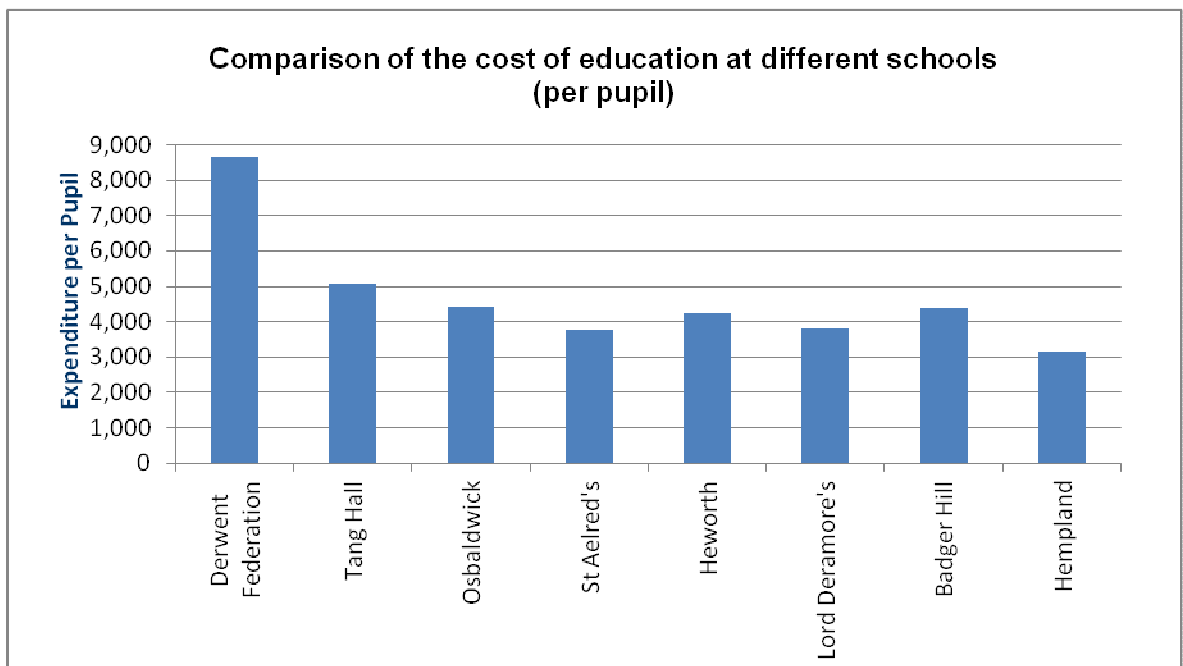
32. Archbishop Holgate’s CE Academy is the local secondary school serving the catchment area of these schools. The leadership of that school fully support the proposals set out in this report.

Council Plan

33. The provision of primary education is a key responsibility of the council. The LA is confident that this proposal will ensure that local children can access high quality teaching and learning in a vibrant, secure and well resourced primary school.

Financial Implications

34. With the highest amount of surplus spaces in the city at 51%, the continuation of low demand for places at Derwent leads to increasingly high costs of educational provision. This trend will continue to be an issue for the foreseeable future. The LA is fully aware of the pressures on budgets and the importance of providing the best value for money possible. The cost of provision of education per pupil at Derwent is almost double that of other schools. This makes keeping Derwent open difficult to justify as the following chart shows:



HR Implications

35. The proposal to close Derwent Schools Federation with effect from 31 August 2012 means that all staff employed at the school on that date would be redundant by reason of the closure. Formal consultation on these potential redundancies has already started with staff, their trade unions and professional associations.
36. The current position suggests that there would be a total of up to 25 staff (16.7 full time equivalent posts) affected by redundancy, 7 (6.6 fte) teachers and 18 (10.1 fte) support staff. In order to mitigate potential redundancies, volunteers for redundancy would be sought first and then redeployment for as many staff as possible thereafter.
37. One main redeployment opportunity will be provided by the governing body of Osbaldwick Primary School, who have given an undertaking to ring fence any vacant posts that arise on its establishment as a result of the expansion of their school, to those staff that have been identified as redundant due to the closure of Derwent Schools. Other sources of redeployment will continue to be sought up until the date of closure.
38. Staff, who have not volunteered for redundancy or secured redeployment by 1 September 2013, will receive a redundancy payment in line with City of York Council's scheme.

Other Implications

39. There are no specific Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information technology, or Property implications arising at this time.

Risk Management

40. If Derwent Schools Federation is to close and Osbaldwick Primary School is to expand, a managed process will be put in place by Council Officers working in conjunction with both governing bodies with the aim to have an expanded school across two sites ready for September 2013.

Conclusions

41. The general economic climate has worsened considerably in recent years and significant reductions in public expenditure introduced. Although schools have seen some protection, it is clear that pressures on schools are increasing and many are having to make difficult decisions to balance their budgets. The LA has a responsibility to ensure an appropriate balance between supply and demand of school places so that resources are used effectively.
42. The initial public consultation generated much discussion within both school communities. The governing bodies have welcomed the responses from parents and have incorporated some suggestions into their plans for operating an expanded Osbaldwick School across both sites.
43. Following the consultation the LA remains of the view that the interests of children and families in the local area are best served by building on the strong leadership and governance already available in the local education community and improving on the use made of the existing school buildings and facilities. Consolidating the admission preferences of most parents provides better value for money than existing arrangements and will give children in the local area greater opportunities to achieve the best possible educational attainment and outcomes, as they prepare to move into the secondary school environment.

Recommendations

44. The Cabinet Member is recommended to:
 - i. Consider the feedback and responses received and included in Annexes 2, 3 and 4.
 - ii. Agree to publish Public Notices in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to discontinue Derwent Schools Federation from 31 August 2013 followed by a six-week statutory representation period. The notices will include the proposed expansion of Osbaldwick Primary School, and the changes to catchment area of Tang Hall Primary School described at para 31 above.

- iii. Request the Cabinet, following the representation period, consider any further observations and comments received and to then decide whether to proceed with the proposals.

Reason: To ensure the provision of high quality and sustainable primary education in the local community.

Contact details

Authors:	Chief Officer responsible for the report:		
Claire McCormick School Planning Adults, Children and Education 01904 554334	Kevin Hall Assistant Director 01904 554207		
	Report Approved	✓	Date 19.02.13
	Pete Dwyer Director of Adults, Children and Education 01904 554200		
	Report Approved	✓	Date 19.02.13
Specialist Implications Officer(s): Richard Hartle (Finance) – ext 4225 Jo Sheen (HR) - ext 4250			
Wards affected: Hull Road, Osbaldwick, Heworth Without, Derwent		All	
For further information please contact the authors of the report			

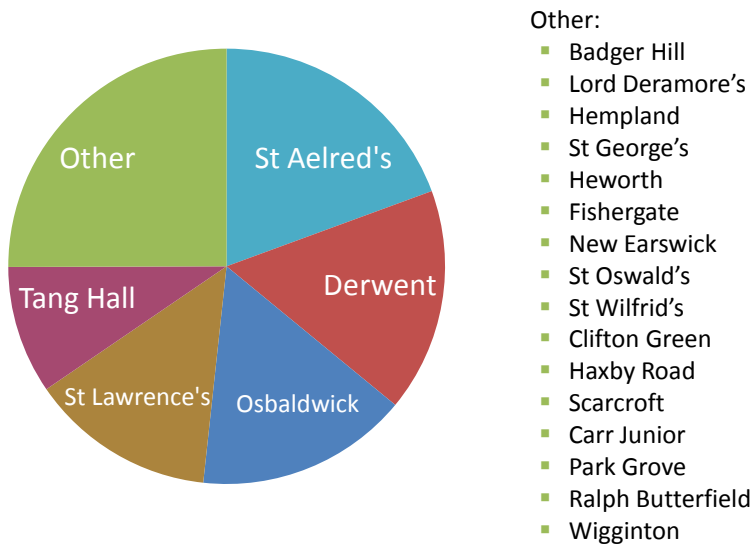
Annexes

Annex 1	Presentation	Presentation given at Osbaldwick and Derwent Public Consultation Event on 28 January 2013
Annex 2	Comments	Comments received at the public meeting at Osbaldwick on 10 December 2012.
Annex 3	Questionnaire	Questionnaire issued to Parents, Carers and Children on 17 January following their visit to Derwent School Federation.
Annex 4	E-mails	Details of the 6 e-mails received in response to the consultation document.
Annex 5	Frequently Asked Questions	Frequently Asked Questions distributed to all parents at both Derwent Schools and Osbaldwick Primary, together with staff and governors.

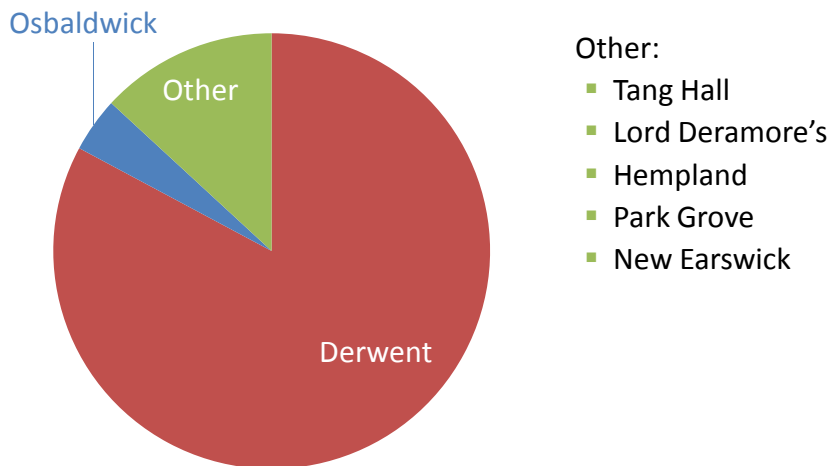
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**Presentation given at Osbaldwick and Derwent Public Consultation
Event on 28 January 2013**

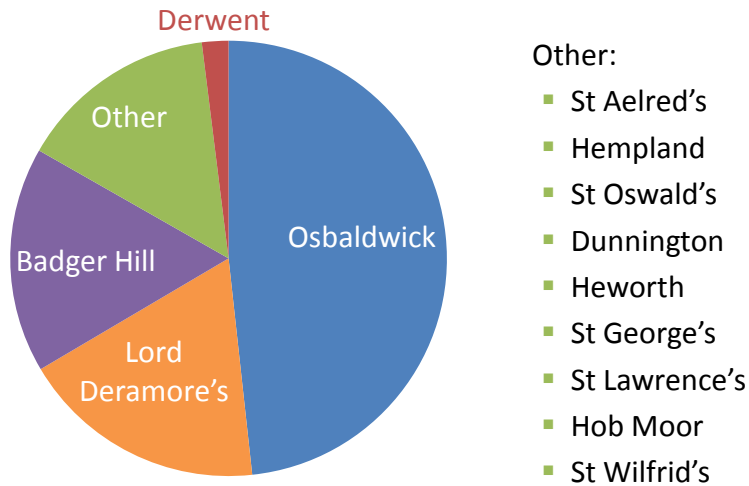
**Pupils living in Derwent catchment
go to school at:**



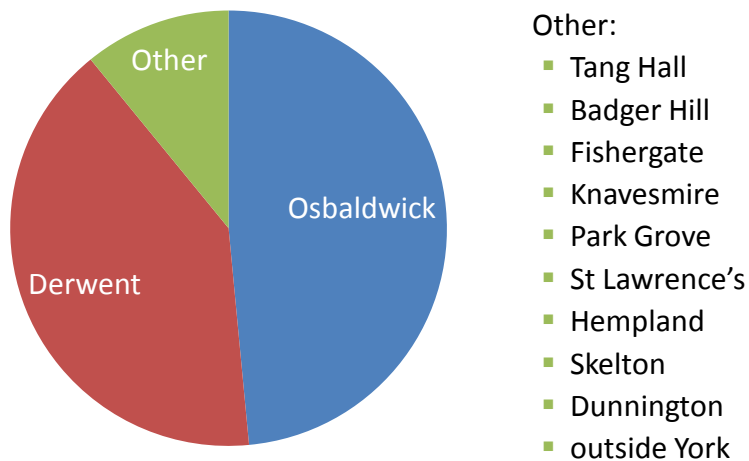
**Pupils attending Derwent Federation
live in the catchment area of:**



Pupils living in Osbaldwick catchment go to school at:



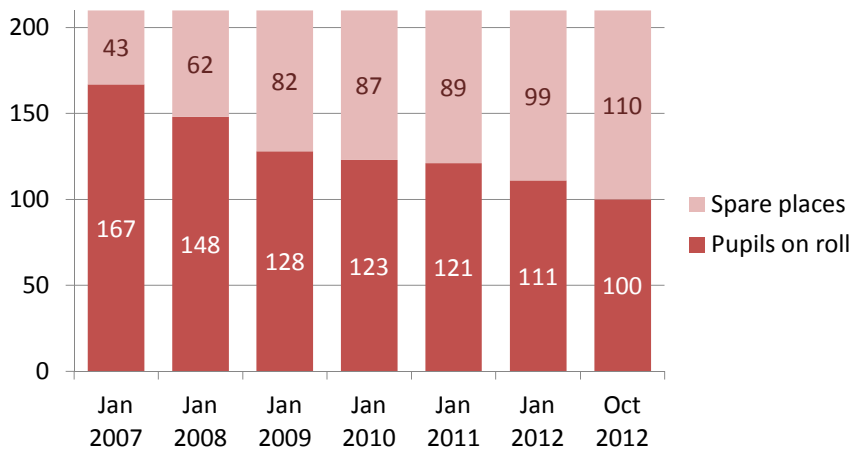
Pupils attending Osbaldwick Primary live in the catchment area of:



Challenges for Derwent Federation

- Over 80% of the parents who live in the Derwent catchment area select other schools as their first preference
- As a result there are too many surplus places (51%) in a building that is large enough to teach up to 210 pupils
- This means that the cost of operating the school is very high (an average of £8,600 per pupil per year) when compared with other schools across the city
- the school needs to recruit a headteacher following the retirement of Mrs Torode.

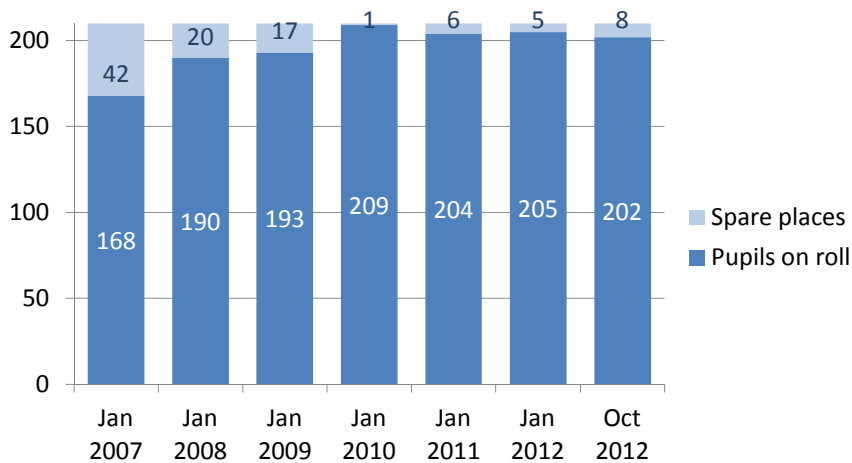
Pupil numbers at Derwent Federation



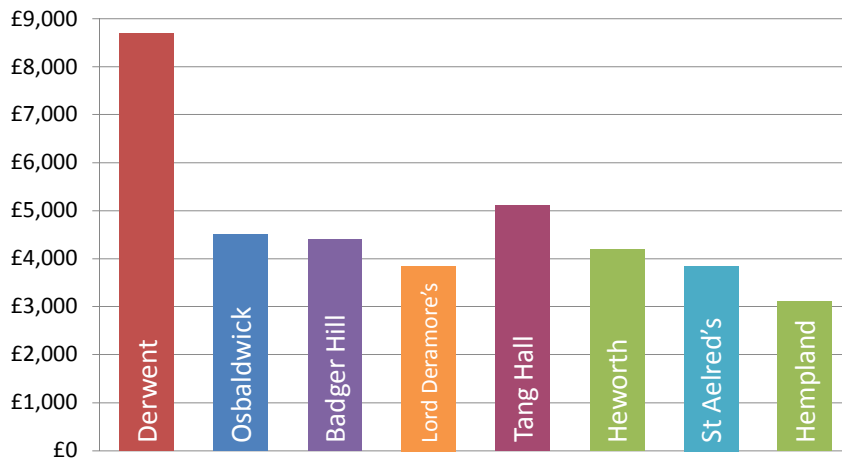
Challenges for Osbaldwick Primary

- The school is popular and attracts children from across the local district and as the community population of children rises, demand is expected to increase further
- The building is overcrowded and the school needs more space.

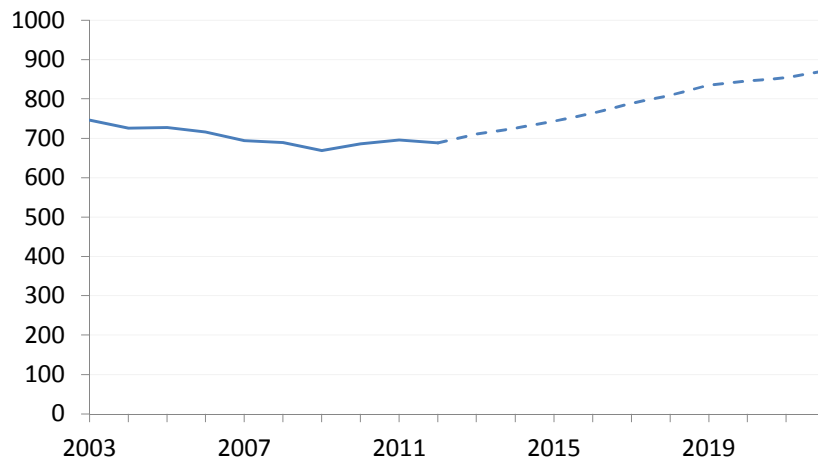
Pupil numbers at Osbaldwick Primary



Cost of education at different schools



Past and projected pupil numbers 2013–22 Derwent and Osbaldwick catchments



Why close Derwent?

- There are too many surplus places
- This makes inefficient use of limited resources
- It is very expensive education provision
- There is low demand for places next year
- It will be difficult to recruit a new headteacher

Why not close Derwent and move children to neighbouring schools?

- Children would have to travel further elsewhere
- In future, places will be needed as number of primary children rises
- It would lose an excellent local resource with good facilities and services

Why expand Osbaldwick?

- Use strong and expert leadership across the wider local community
- Will lead to improved educational attainment for more children
- Secures best use of Derwent site
- Enables Osbaldwick to grow and develop as an outstanding school, meeting local needs and parental preferences

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**Comments received at the public meeting at Osbaldwick on
10 December 2012**

CONSULTATION MEETING QUESTIONS

Comment 1

- 1) What provision will be in place for dropping off and picking up children when they are located on differing sites?
- 2) Is this proposal the long term plan and at some time (and when?) is there going to be one school on one site?
- 3) What happens to Osbaldwick School and the maintenance required to the building if the merger doesn't go ahead?
- 4) The majority of children have been with the same classmates since playschool, how are the existing classes going to be divided? Are friendship groups to be maintained or will it be decided academically or is it just pot luck?
- 5) I chose Osbaldwick School as there was only one class per year. Because of this the children know one another and the teachers know nearly, if not all, the children in the school. I have friends who have children at schools with 2 class sizes for each year group and the school does not have the same benefits as we do because of this. The initially smaller class sizes are only going to get bigger this is not why I chose this school. How will this be addressed?
- 6) How is the fact that there is a nursery provision at Derwent and there is a playschool provision at Osbaldwick going to work, are these to remain separate or are they going to be merged?
- 7) How will we be sure the standard of teaching will be maintained, come September, if our children are then being taught on the Derwent site by a Derwent teacher? (Whom we know nothing about and have had no feedback from parents with children in the higher years.) Bearing in mind the Ofsted reports have not been as good.

Comment 2

- 1) It is not clear at which site the breakfast club would be, what if it's at a different place to their class?
- 2) I have been told that the breakfast club is free at Derwent but £3 at Osbaldwick. How will this be addressed? I would rather there was a charge, if it being free meant there was an increased demand and those that really need it due to work commitments lost out on a place.
- 3) How would we drop children off, if we have one at each site. I wouldn't want the start and finish times to be staggered even more as it would take up a lot of time out of each day picking up and dropping off.
- 4) My son is in reception class and has made lots of good friends, if the proposal goes ahead of splitting 30 or 15 into two classes of 22, will this be 15 Osbaldwick children to 7 Derwent, how will you make sure that children who have settled in won't be split from their friends?
- 5) Reception class are currently on Osbaldwick site and will go to Derwent for year 1, back to Osbaldwick for years 2, 3, 4 and back to Derwent for years 5 and 6, this seems a lot of change for young children, and wouldn't it be a lot more straightforward to have KS9 at Osbaldwick and KS2 at Derwent?
- 6) It would be interesting to see how many apply for Osbaldwick this year now that this proposal has been announced, will the numbers be published?
- 7) Once split into two forms per year, will they stay with the same class each year, or be mixed up every year, very unsettling for young children?
- 8) Will we be given the opportunity to look around the Derwent site and see what the facilities are like?

Comment 3

- 1) We are concerned about how teaching quality will be maintained, both during the transaction and in the short to medium term during the disruption.
- 2) What plans will be put in place to help the children through the disruption of any changes that are put into place?

- 3) Wrap around school care is very important to us as both working parents. Will before and after school care be provided and will this be on one site or two?
- 4) We are concerned about how children will be safely transported from one site to another, especially if wrap around care is located only on one site.
- 5) We are currently concerned about poor management of the before/after school care provision. We would like assurances that any developments will be properly managed.
- 6) Will there be a guaranteed place for before and after school care for all those parents and children who currently use it?
- 7) Will there be consideration as to whether a holiday club can be reintroduced given this opportunity for restructuring?

Comment 4

- 1) Are the 2 sites going to stagger start and finish times so that siblings can be dropped/collected by some carer – it's impossible to be in 2 places at once?

Comment 5

- 1) Why isn't there an Option 6? Where Osbaldwick School serves just its catchment area and stops taking children from other areas. Derwent takes children from its own catchment area. This way the 80% of Derwent families which choose other schools would fill the empty places and Osbaldwick would not be over-subscribed, therefore meeting the needs of the children in the village of Osbaldwick. It just seems to make more sense!

Comment 6

- 1) Don't like the idea of children walking from one school to the other.
- 2) Are the Osbaldwick teachers continuing to teach the year groups that they are currently teaching?
- 3) Not happy with smaller children moving schools, when they are settled and know the school and layout.

Comment 7

- 1) If the proposal goes ahead, how is the splitting of existing classes going to work? Many children have been in their class groups for a considerable time, and close friendships have formed.
- 2) Many families will have children attending school on two different sites. How will the logistics of dropping off and collecting work?
- 3) How much influence do the opinions of parents have on the final decision? The consultation documents give the impression that this is a 'done deal'.

Comment 8

- 1) It was discussed at the meeting the logistics of having the school on split sites with the years split between the two sites. Whilst I understand the idea behind not having an infants and a junior school, it does mean that the majority of parents with siblings born 2 – 3 years apart will have their children at different sites for the majority of their primary education.
- 2) The meeting then went on to discuss how the school would manage the start and end of the school day to enable parents to pick up and drop off their children at both sites. Staggered bell times were suggested, my concern with this is that as a working parent I currently drop my children off in the morning at 8.50am and then go straight for a bus which gets me back into the village in time to pick up at 3.15pm. I would be very grateful, and I am sure I speak for a lot of working parents, if the school would take into consideration that they do not shorten the school day too much by having the last school drop close to 9am and the first pick up earlier than 3.15pm.
- 3) Currently the morning school bell is 8.50am and then the children line up and as parents we wait for the teachers to take the children into school, therefore leaving the playground at any time between 8.50am and 8.55am. If the last morning school bell across the two sites does not ring until 8.55am this could potentially mean parents do not leave the playground until 9am and unfortunately would mean, in my case, I would be late for work.

- 4) I would be very grateful if my concerns could be taken into account as the school moves through this stage of the process, in the current climate it is very important that parents can work part-time and many look for school hours of 9.30am – 2.30pm and need time to travel to and from work.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

Leave the current catchment areas the same and re-distribute the children to the appropriate school, maybe Derwent and Tang Hall would not be undersubscribed and parents would not be driving to schools they live within walking distance and driving past the schools they should be attending.

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**Questionnaire issued to Parents, Carers and Children on 17th January
following their visit to Derwent School Federation**



Derwent Schools Federation

Open Afternoon Thursday 17th January 2013

Visitor Survey

We would very much appreciate your comments on our schools and how we can work together to improve it.

	YES	NO
The school was welcoming		
Staff and pupils were helpful		
The schools were well kept and well resourced		
The play areas, equipment and MUGA were inviting for children		
The school provides children with the latest IT equipment including laptops, iPad's, Kindles, IPod, netbooks		
The school is well maintained and in good condition		
The pupils benefit from nice furniture, carpets and spacious areas and classrooms		
The spacious school hall provides many opportunities for the children including: Breakfast Club, after school clubs, joint assemblies, dining room, performance area		
The classrooms are inviting, colorful and well resourced		
Any comments you wish to make?		

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey

Summary of comments received from parents, carers and children

'My daughter is really looking forward to starting at the school.'

'Mint.'

'First of all I didn't want to come here but now I can't wait.'

'Glad to have had a look around, very nice.'

'Lovely school and would welcome the merger.'

'Pleasantly surprised with the school.'

'A really good impression was created by the beautifully equipped school and very friendly staff. Felt reassured.'

'Much more than expected.'

'Looks like a lovely well maintained school. Yr 5 and Yr 6 students were great at helping out.'

'Well done.'

'Proposed split locations of Yr1 classrooms may lead to settling in issues with it being a new location and change of environment.'

'Overall I was impressed with the school.'

'Very informative, a happy place, 10/10.'

'Very impressed by the size and resources available.'

'Beautifully bright building, very impressed.'

'Excellent resources – IT particularly.'

'Very well resourced school.'

'My daughter is looking forward to moving schools.'

'I really like it.'

'No parking facilities, some rooms and open spaces need decorating, roof needs looking at visible signs of leaks, damp smell. How to coordinate getting kids to and from each site for clubs and after school clubs, etc.'

'What about parking for parents, as I drive from Murton every day?'

'Very nice atmosphere, great outdoor space – hope that the proposal happens.'

'I have really enjoyed my visit, and think your school is great.'

Details of the 6 emails received in response to the consultation document.

Please note, personal information has been removed from these e-mails.

E-mail 1:

Questions with regards to the proposed expansion of Osbaldwick Primary School and the closure of Derwent.

1. Please be honest. Is this genuinely a consultation or is it already a done deal? The view from many parents is that you are simply going through the legal motions before moving forward with your preferred option.
2. **Year Groups:** The arrangements for classes as explained in the document now mean that from September 2013 my two children will no longer be at the same school site until they reach secondary school (one in Year 3 currently and one in reception) This is our biggest concern and whilst both ourselves and our children are currently extremely happy at OPS, we are considering alternatives for September 2013. My two children are already anxious about all of this and I am curious to know what you have told the children about this so far. How will you ensure the two sites run as one, other than they have the same name?
3. **Two form entry:** My children have very good friends in their classes and have been asking if they will still be in the same class as their friends. How are you going to determine who will be with who? By DOB, ability, pot luck?
4. **Before/after school provision:** We currently rely on the excellent before and after school care currently provided on your site. I am extremely anxious to know if my children will be at different sites for this extended provision. Dropping of at 2 different sites for breakfast club and afterschool club would be very difficult. Do you intend to operate 1 site or 2?
5. **Staffing:** A) Is there a policy on how many years your child can be taught by the same members of staff? Whilst we have always been very satisfied with the standard of teaching at Osbaldwick Primary school, I

am aware of the importance in children experiencing a variety of teaching and learning styles, personalities, etc. With staff perhaps moving around again, after a recent reshuffle, there is the possibility of having the same teacher in 3 different school years. Is this something you will aim to avoid or is it down to the luck of the draw?

6. **Staffing:** B) Because of the nature of the difference in ofsted reports, I suspect many parents with children at OPS will hope their child is taught by a member of staff at OPS. I appreciate that this is unfair and I am sure there are excellent teachers at both sites, however perceptions are often far stronger than reality. How are you going to address this perception and expectation?
7. **Leadership and management:** How is the leadership team's time/responsibilities going to be split?
8. **Behaviour:** A concern that I have heard voiced by many is the issue of behaviour and the influence that poor behaviour can have upon those children who work hard and try their best. Perhaps unfairly and probably based on rumour and hearsay rather than fact, there is a huge concern about poor behaviour at Derwent. How are you going to address this and ensure that standards remain high?
9. **Governance:** How will the two governing bodies be merged? Will it form one large governing body or will it be a few from each. If it is the latter, how will this be decided?

I appreciate that you may be unable to answer all these questions at this stage, however the more information you are able to provide, the more you will put our minds at ease. Unfortunately, so far all we have heard is rumour and speculation which has only heightened our levels of anxiety. Please be aware of this and that we would very much appreciate an open, honest and transparent consultation.

Thank you for taking the time to read these questions.

Kind Regards

E-mail 2:

From:

Sent: 09 January 2013 21:24

To: education@york.gov.uk

Subject: Consultation about the future of the Derwent Schools Federation and Osbaldwick Primary School

Categories: Misc

As a parent of a pupil at Osbaldwick School with the potential for a sibling to go in a couple of years time I wanted to pass on my views about the proposed expansion of Osbaldwick to include Derwent Federation Schools.

In principle I feel that the business behind the expansion is sensible I agree that doing nothing will eventually lead to the deterioration of Osbaldwick. Without the opportunity to expand school numbers and increase funding Osbaldwick School as it presently is will no longer be viable.

I welcome the proposal for smaller class sizes as this can only be seen as a good thing. I am looking forward to seeing the facilities on offer at Derwent and agree with the split of the KS1 and KS2 classes across both sites. As a Year 6 pupil should this proposal go ahead, my daughter can only learn from the lessons that "change is good" and welcome the opportunity it will give to help her with the transition to Archbishops the following year.

My only concern is that the level of discipline/code of conduct currently observed at Osbaldwick is maintained and that disruptive behaviour is dealt with accordingly. It is paramount that a proposal like this keeps at the forefront of it the objective to maintain these standards.

My only real disagreement is that the proposal to provide a free school uniform for children transferring from Derwent to Osbaldwick should be changed to provide a free school sweatshirt to every child who is registered with the expanded Osbaldwick School in September 2013.

This then ensures a fair and equitable start to everyone involved and in no way shows any prejudice or favouritism.

Many thanks for allowing me to express my views.

E-mail 3:

From:

Sent: 11 January 2013 16:03

To: education@york.gov.uk

Subject: School Consultation

Categories:Osaldwick Derwent Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Further to the schools consultation about the future of the Derwent Schools Federation and Osaldwick Primary School, I would like to make

the following comments to the points highlighted in the document.

I fully agree with the proposal 1, to close Derwent School and extend Osaldwick School to create a two form of entry school using both of the existing sites.

The proposal for the location of the year groups seems eminently sensible and keeps the students who are in the transition phase from KS1 to KS2 together on one site, which I fully support.

I would hope that the formulation of the two classes per year group could be split on a mixed ability basis, ie avoiding one class of high achievers

and one class of low achievers. I believe that mixed ability classes are fairer. I would also like to see the children having some input (or the parents of the children) to enable them to identify a friend that they are able to stay with within their class group.

I am concerned that as full time working parents that we are able to retain our daughter's place at the before and after school club and that the provision for this is not affected by this plan.

I would also like to suggest that a parental focus/steering group should be set up to enable parents to input to the decision making process and to ensure that their comments are taken into account through this process. Some of the parents on this should be full time working parents.

Yours

E-mail 4:

From:

Sent: 18 January 2013 11:00

To: education@york.gov.uk

Subject: Response to Osbaldwick Derwent consultation

Categories: Osbaldwick Derwent Consultation

18th January 2013

Dear Sirs,

I would like to register my personal response to the proposed changes at both Osbaldwick and Derwent primary schools. I am a parent of x children who currently attend Osbaldwick Primary.

Before addressing the points made in the consultation document I want to take the opportunity to tell you that I believe the standard of education and care that my children receive under the current arrangements at Osbaldwick School are of the highest quality. The Staff, governors and children can take a great amount of pride in their achievements.

My family moved to York xxxxxxxxxxxx and we chose (after carefully considering 4 other primary schools in the east and centre of York) to send our children to Osbaldwick school because it was obvious from a short visit that the attainment at the school was helped by the strong sense of community that the head and teachers had built together. The buildings weren't the biggest or most modern but we felt our children would fit best at Osbaldwick because of the ethos of the school.

The consultation document provides no evidence that the current educational standards are likely to be sustained under the proposed new structure when clearly this might have been achieved by looking toward the performance of similarly structured (and split) schools amongst available league table data. I believe that dividing the school over two sites would cause irreparable damage to its community and undermine the results and quality of education the school provides to the children in the future. My opinion is also formed through my experience as someone who was educated at a school based over two separated sites.

I was interested in reading about the challenges faced by both Derwent and Osbaldwick schools highlighted in the consultation document (page 5) and would appreciate feedback on some questions I have around these challenges.

- It is interesting to find out that 80% of parents in the Derwent catchment select other schools as their first preference. Could I therefore ask if the other schools in the locality (Tang Hall Primary, Saint Aelreds, Badger Hill) are similarly oversubscribed like Osbaldwick?

If not, why is Osbaldwick the exception?

Are other schools locally finding themselves in a similar situation to Derwent with regard to low Pupil numbers and might therefore be more logical candidates for merger?

Merger of two schools simply because of their proximity would seem a poor decision when the risk to the quality of education provided is considered.

It would also be useful to understand how many children there are currently in the Derwent catchment area and if it is realistic to expect to fill a school of its size? This is particularly important with respect to the 80% preference data quoted in the consultation document as this doesn't give any indication of the true or yield of Derwent School in recruiting pupils from its catchment.

- The second point notes that the surplus space at the school are largely as a result of parent preference. Where again this issue cannot be fully understood in the absence information regarding the numbers of children locally and the number places provided by each school.

This point is also salient in understanding the objective of the current proposals to remove surplus excess places by merger. However, in the absence of further information it is unclear if the proposals are realistic in this objective, or excess places will simply be move them elsewhere to other schools in the locality.

- The consultation document makes several references to an increasing birth rate putting increasing pressure to find future school places locally. However, York currently has a birth rate lower than the national average (Office of national statistics, 2010) and neglects to account for the local influence of university expansion leading to a

reduced (and well publicised) number of homes occupied by families throughout the Osbaldwick and Tang Hall areas.

- The document also makes reference to overcrowding at Osbaldwick School although maximum class size is not exceeded and upon inspection this has never been previously mentioned by OFSTED.

As requested in the consultation document, I would also like to comment around the favoured proposal for closure of Derwent and expansion of Osbaldwick School.

1. Close Derwent School and extend Osbaldwick to create a two form of entry school using both of the existing sites.

This option provides an opportunity to offer high quality primary education and early year's provision across the locality. This proposal ensures strong, effective leadership and governance, removes excessive surplus places and enables both school sites to be fully used.

- As noted previously the aspiration of the new structure providing high quality education isn't backed up by any evidence that the proposed structure is capable of achieving this objective. Do similarly split and structured schools attain top 10% places in national assessments currently? Is there any data to support this assumption?
- As highlighted previously, a surplus of places will likely be maintained under the proposal, in the provision of primary education places in the locality (Osbaldwick and Tang Hall). Although it is possible these places may be dispersed to other nearby schools rather than being retained at the expanded Osbaldwick primary.

In Addition, under the proposals outlined for two form classes per year an additional teacher is required in the expanded Osbaldwick primary. The net outcome being number of excess places in primary education in the locality would increase under the proposal.

- The proposal doesn't consider the impact of the change on the local infrastructure, and in particular Osbaldwick lane. An increase in catchment size will increase the requirement for parents living further from the school sites to really upon cars rather than public transport or walking to bring children into school. Can each site cope with this increase in number? Would staggered starts cause additional problems on Osbaldwick lane that is currently used by heavy vehicles at the Derwenthorpe development and serviced by the number 6 bus route?

2. *The proposed organisation of year groups across the two school sites.*

- The split of the school across two sites is impractical and potentially unsafe given the main route between sites is the busy Osbaldwick lane and in particular the junction with Hambelton avenue at peak times. Movement of groups or single children between sites is impractical on a regular or daily basis should facilities or timetable (e.g. higher set learning) be required and a potentially large drain on the time of school staff and children to supervise and take part in these movements.
- The split will cause the erosion of community and togetherness nurtured at the current Osbaldwick primary.
- It would be preferable for a "lower" school (reception, 1, 2, 3) to remain at the current Osbaldwick site and an "Upper" school to

be based at the Derwent site to minimise movement between sites and make best use of available facilities.

3. *The proposal to provide free school uniforms for children transferring from the Derwent to Osbaldwick Primary.*

- No Preference, although this should be on a means tested basis.

4. *The proposed catchment area for the expanded Osbaldwick Primary School.*

- The new catchment area includes the new Derwenthorpe development. Under the current arrangements this development would fall inside the Derwent catchment. This development is likely to contain around 540 new houses and require approximately 130 places in primary education.

The consultation document estimates that class sizes under the proposal will be between 22-26 during 2013, leaving at least 56 excess places in Osbaldwick School.

How does the school propose to cope with the requirement for an additional 130 places on completion of the Derwenthorpe development?

Will the current excess places at Derwent School not be used by the development at Derwenthorpe? Could appropriate budgeting at Derwent be used in the mean time to make the school more cost effective?

5. *The proposed changes to catchment area of Tang Hall Primary School.*

Will the increased catchment area reduce oversubscription at Osbaldwick School so that a merged would be less cost effective?

Since there is already a surplus of primary places in the east of York and the surplus is set to increase under the proposed merger, the catchment of Tang Hall primary is of little consequence to the effective provision of

primary education in the area. By providing further places at the proposed school Tang Hall, school might become as under subscribed as Derwent currently is.

In summary

Given that merger of the two sites is likely to move the problem of under subscription and increase cost per pupil to other schools in the locality it seems illogical to burden the combined Derwent/Osbaldwick school with operating from two sites to achieve a short term fix. This approach would simply move the current problems elsewhere in the east of York primary sector.

Because of the large development taking place at Derwenthorpe and the future closure of the primary school at Burnholme, it would seem that the current excess in places would likely be used by pupils attending the current Derwent school from this new development in its catchment. **Under these circumstances it would seem sensible to suggest the maintenance of two schools operating from their own individual sites would be more preferable than the current proposal.** In the interim period, both Osbaldwick and Derwent school could be run under a single head and governing body. Cost during this period would also need to be addressed to make Derwent school more cost effective during this interim period.

Yours sincerely,

E-mail 5:

From:

Sent: 11 February 2013 19:49

To: education@york.gov.uk

Subject: Response to consultation on Osbaldwick School

Categories: Osbaldwick Derwent Consultation

To whom it may concern

I am responding as a parent of a child at Osbaldwick School on the planned closure of Derwent School, and expansion of Osbaldwick School. I understand that our responses need to be received by yourselves on this matter by 16th February 2013.

In XXXX we moved to Osbaldwick, in part due to the fact we wanted our daughter to attend Osbaldwick School. We wanted our daughter to attend a small school with only one intake per year of 30 children, as we feel this suits the needs of our daughter best. At the time of applying for a school, had we been aware of the changes now planned, we would have very likely applied for a space in a different school.

We have reservations about the school being over two sites, the safety of children moving between the sites and the practicalities in the future of having two children on different sites. I appreciate that timings are being staggered for start and finishes, but this would definitely have again discouraged us from applying for a space.

In view of this, I would ask that if this is approved, consideration is given to building additional classrooms on one site to accommodate the entire school.

In addition to these points, I wish to raise the issue of yet another school on the east side of York being shut, at the same time as a huge housing development is being built in Derwenthorpe. Where are all these children going to attend primary and secondary school?

We are disappointed with the planned proposal, and in the likely event that this goes ahead we hope that the high standards of Osbaldwick School can be maintained.

Kind regards

E-mail 6:

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Re: The proposed catchment area for the expanded Osbaldwick Primary School and the proposed changes to catchment area of Tang Hall Primary School.

I support those changes as they will improve numbers allocated to Tang Hall.

Re: The proposed organisation of year groups across the two school sites;

I support the proposal as being an innovative way of minimising the effect of the Infant to Junior dip in attainment. Even though it raises issues for me as a parent with 2 years between each of my children I still see that this is a good way of organising the two schools.

Re: The proposal to close the Derwent Schools Federation and to expand the Osbaldwick Primary School;

I wholeheartedly support this proposal. It will benefit the Osbaldwick children to have a larger school with better facilities possible and likewise will benefit the failing Derwent school to have some good leadership and raised attainment. The current executive head is excellent, has the full trust of most parents and has shown herself to be more than capable of helping to transform failing schools. I would expect to see a considerable amount of financial support to enable her and the leadership team to provide the best and smoothest transition to two sites possible.

Re: The proposal to provide free school uniforms for children transferring from the Derwent Federation to Osbaldwick Primary

As long as the money is not expected to come from either the current Osbaldwick or Derwent budgets I support this. It seems logical that the children who come from a more deprived background should be helped out in this way. It certainly isn't tenable to expect all the parents to BUY new school uniforms and all the children should be expected to wear the Osbaldwick uniform as from September. I wonder if a PTA organised old uniform sale for cheap would also be a good idea in the long term. I will suggest this at governor level.

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Frequently Asked Questions distributed to all parents at both Derwent Schools and Osbaldwick Primary, together with staff and governors

Derwent Schools and Osbaldwick Primary

Frequently Asked Questions

The following paragraphs set out responses to the most frequently asked questions in relation to the consultation about Derwent Schools Federation and Osbaldwick Primary Schools. We are currently undertaking a process of consultation and your feedback and ideas are always welcome. These FAQs are responses to your questions about what might happen if Derwent Schools were to close and Osbaldwick Primary was to expand to operate across two sites.

Questions related to teaching

How would teaching staff be arranged across both sites?

All staff presently working at Osbaldwick Primary would continue to be employed and work from both sites, so there would be vacancies to fill at an expanded school. The Governing Bodies have agreed that Derwent staff would be given the opportunity to apply for a position at an expanded Osbaldwick Primary first. Any unfilled vacancies after this first application phase would go on to a wider application process ready for a September 2013 start. A rigorous process would ensure high quality staff with proven good teaching would be employed in all teaching positions.

Would the same teachers continue to teach the year groups they teach at present?

Teachers are deployed according to the individual circumstances within schools. Some teachers are likely to change year group if Osbaldwick Primary were to expand. Moving teachers according to the needs of the school is a best practice approach adopted by schools across York.

How would children be allocated to forms in each year group?

There are a number of ways this might be done. A final decision is yet to be made by the Governing Body, but it would be based upon the best

opportunities available for children to learn and succeed and we would like to seek the views of parents.

Options could include:

Asking children to nominate two or more close friends they would like to be with in their new form. A similar situation occurs when children move to secondary school.

By mixed ability

Combination of the two above

By date of birth

Mathematics in the Junior age range is arranged by set. This method is well supported by parents. This procedure could be broadened across the Upper Key Stage 2 and Lower Key Stage 2 on each site.

Would behaviour be of the same high standard and would the processes for managing any behaviour issues be the same as they are now?

High standards of behaviour and performance would be expected from all children at an enlarged school community. The larger school would have clear policies about behaviour. Staff would work with the children to deliver the high standards that would be expected across both sites.

Would the quality of teaching be affected?

High quality staff in all positions across the school would ensure that teaching standards are excellent, with the expectations for overall school performance being positive.

How big would the class sizes be?

From September 2013, class sizes are likely to be around 22 to 26. This may increase to a maximum of 30 per class in subsequent years.

Why are you proposing to split the age groups up across the sites, why not keep KS1 at one site and KS2 at another?

An innovative arrangement has been proposed for the sites. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y5 and Y6 would be at the Derwent site and Y2, Y3 and Y4 at the Osbaldwick site. The Governing Bodies of Derwent and Osbaldwick believe that split age groups would benefit an expanded school because:

Academic progress would be maximised, ensuring high quality education.

The two sites are very different sizes, with Derwent site being substantially larger and therefore able to take more classes.

The Derwent site has a well established early years and foundation stage provision which includes an outdoor learning area that is larger than that at the Osbaldwick site. The aim would be to have all early years through to Y1 based at the Derwent site, where well established outreach facilities, such as the Children's Centre, are also present.

The long horse shoe shape of the Derwent building allows a natural divide between one side and the other. Years 5 and 6 would benefit from having an independent block of space where they can begin to become more independent in preparation for their move into a secondary environment. This would help to promote confidence and would make the transition to secondary school smoother.

Years 5 and 6 would also be able to make best use of the outdoor sporting and ICT facilities. The school has a floodlit multi use games facility that can be used all year round.

Years 2, 3, and 4 would be based at the Osbaldwick site. Children in Y2 are preparing for their statutory test year ready for the junior curriculum and consequently Y2 and Y3 teachers work closely together to ensure optimum success and smooth transition. Keeping Years 2, 3 and 4 together on the same site would concentrate efforts to allow teachers and children to focus on their learning styles and abilities prior to moving to a more independent environment at the Derwent site.

A mix of year groups would avoid the problems that can emerge from having a traditional infant and junior split. The proposed mix of year groups would overcome such concerns and allow teachers to work as a Primary School team on two sites encouraging older infants to prepare for the KS2 curriculum. On the Osbaldwick site, Y4s would become the oldest age group and therefore would automatically feel more responsible, thus helping them to prepare for their move to Upper KS2.

This arrangement of year groups would allow setting in maths without movement between sites with four sets on each site.

Any other options for a split in year groups could involve losses in learning time due to the need to move from one site to another which would be unacceptable.

The combined resources in place at both sites, together with classroom sizes best meet the needs of the age groups concerned.

The Children's Centre would work with the community, focussing on areas and issues that would be of benefit for parents/carers, children and other groups. Children's Centre meetings and activities would be located at both sites.

Questions about wrap-around care

How would pre school and nursery provision work?

How would out of school hours activities work?

What would be the cost of the breakfast club?

Would this be a good time to introduce a holiday club?

In recognising the significance and importance of wrap-around care and holiday clubs for parents/carers, time is being taken to consider the options and arrangements carefully.

Options for out of school clubs and activities would be discussed with the various providers on both sites. There is a strong commitment to provide a high quality service for all children in the school and to allow parents/carers options for childcare across the site. It is likely that the breakfast club would be on the Derwent site as this would be the first to start. After breakfast, children in Y2, Y3 and Y4 would be escorted by staff to the Osbaldwick Primary site for their start and handed over to the staff on duty as is the practice now. After school club would also be on one site and again children on the other site would be escorted, just as the Derwent pupils accessing the provision do now. The chosen site will be based on facilities available.

Questions about how an expanded school would operate

Would there be staggered start and finish times across the two sites?

To allow parents/carers to drop off and pick up children between the two sites, there would be staggered start and finish times. An example could be:

Start at Derwent site at 8:40am and finish at 3:10pm.

Start at Osbaldwick site at 8:55am and finish at 3:25pm.

Activity clubs would begin at 3.30pm. Again children would be escorted where appropriate to the other site and back, if required.

Would children move between sites during the day?

Most activities would take place at each child's base site. There may be times where movement between sites during the school day is required. An example would be when a class at Osbaldwick site uses the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which is at the Derwent site. Children would finish the day at the same site as they started at.

Would there be an opportunity to look around both sites?

Many thanks to the parents and children who looked around the Derwent and Osbaldwick sites on the 17th January. Your positive and enthusiastic comments were very much appreciated, together with your questions and feedback.

How would the leadership of the school be arranged?

There would be senior leaders on both sites who would be accessible to parents. The Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership team would work at both sites to ensure consistency of approach and high standards of teaching and learning and behaviour. There would be regular meetings of the senior leadership team and staff teams. The current Governing Body of Osbaldwick Primary School would become the Governing Body of the expanded Osbaldwick Primary School, which would also include representation from the existing Derwent Schools Governing Body.

How would you ensure a smooth transition for all pupils?

If City of York Council decided to approve the proposal, familiarisation visits and activities would be arranged at both sites during the summer term prior to September 2013, with particular attention on the younger age groups. There are bound to be initial worries about new and unfamiliar surroundings, but children are very resilient especially when supported and encouraged by their parents and the familiar staff members they see on a day to day basis:

All pupils would visit both sites to help reassure them and to encourage familiarity.

Similarly, both schools would be open to parents/carers of all children to get to know the sites. This would enable parents/carers to talk to their children about where they would be taught, where and how they would be picked up and dropped off, and where they would be before and after school.

Staff would do their very best to answer pupils' questions and give the reassurances children need from people they trust, but avoid creating 'unknown' concerns until final decisions are made.

How would the children get from one site to the other?

The proposed split of year groups across the two sites would automatically minimise the need to move pupils from one site to another during the school day. Inevitably, there would be some movement of pupils for some activities such as performances. On these occasions, pupils would be supervised when walking the short distance between the two sites.

Questions related to admissions arrangements

Will the numbers that apply to Derwent Schools and Osbaldwick Primary for September 2013 be published?

Yes, this information will be published and will be available to the public.

If the proposal does not go ahead, what would happen?

The existing schools would continue to operate in the short term if the proposal does not go ahead. It makes sense though, to retain the excellent facilities at Derwent Schools as in future years we know that there will be an increasing demand for places.

Why don't schools just take children from their own catchments?

By law, parents have to be asked for their school preferences. Parents can choose which schools to send their children to, subject to places being available. The catchment system gives local parents a higher priority to those living outside of the school catchment.

Why didn't the Local Authority simply shut Derwent Schools and split the children between other schools?

The proposal to expand Osbaldwick Primary and close Derwent Schools does not reduce the number of school places to the local community. An expanded Osbaldwick Primary allows for an improvement in the use of

resources and opportunities to increase educational outcome and performance.

If I live in the existing Osbaldwick or Derwent catchment, is my child/ren guaranteed a place at an expanded Osbaldwick Primary?

An expanded Osbaldwick Primary will be able to offer up to 60 places to local children in the coming years. Last year Osbaldwick Primary could not offer places to all children that put it as their first preference.

If the proposal goes ahead, City of York Council will offer places in an expanded Osbaldwick Primary to all parents who have already applied to either Derwent or Osbaldwick for a place in September 2013.

School places in future years cannot be guaranteed anywhere; however, the catchment system does give priority to local children.

Other questions

How can it be financially beneficial to keep two sites open?

Closing Derwent Schools and expanding Osbaldwick Primary would mean a more effective and efficient use of resources supporting the teaching and learning of all pupils. There would be one Governing Body and one Leadership Team managing one budget across two sites.

How much influence do parents have on the final decision?

City of York Council, Osbaldwick Primary and Derwent Schools are encouraging people to comment on the consultation proposal before February 15th 2013. Comments will be collated and reported on to Council Members to help them make their decisions.

Would there be implications for increasing traffic around the new school and larger catchment area.

With less than 5 minutes walking time, between the two sites, it is not anticipated that car traffic levels should increase. Parents/carers would be actively encouraged to leave cars at home and walk to school where possible. A staggered start and finish time would be introduced to help parents/carers with this.

What is the timetable for this consultation process?

15 February 2013 - public consultation finishes.

End of February 2013 - the Council's Cabinet Member will consider the proposal and the responses received during the consultation period.

March 2013 - if the proposal is agreed, a statutory notice for closure will be published followed by a further 6 week representation period.

May 2013 - City of York Council's full Cabinet will consider any further representations received and make a final decision.

02 September 2013 - if the proposal is agreed, an expanded Osbaldwick Primary School will open.