

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Halesowen Area Committee - 10 March 2004

Report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Public Consultation on a Proposed New primary School for Halesowen

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the public consultation on the possibility of a new Church of England (CE) Voluntary Aided (VA) Primary School for Halesowen to replace both Halesowen CE VA and Hasbury Voluntary Controlled (VC) Primary Schools.

Background

2. The Council published a consultation document which proposed the closure of both Halesowen CE VA and Hasbury CE VC primary schools and their replacement by a new Church of England VA School to serve central districts of the town. The consultation paper included five options to progress the project, but Option 1 – the construction of a new school on the site of the present Hasbury School - was and remains the Council's preferred option at this stage.
3. The consultation period ran from November 2003 to 31 January 2004. Public meetings were held in Halesowen on 14 January 2004. Over 2000 copies of consultation documentation were produced. A copy of the consultation summary is attached for the Members' ease of reference. The views of the Committee will still inform future action of the Directorate when it responds to feedback from the bid made to fund the new building. The DfES has not agreed to grant the capital funding and has promised detailed feedback on the reasons for the decision by the end of March 2004.

Finance

4. The cost of the consultation was met from within the existing Directorate budget.

Law

5. Any proposals for closure and rebuild will require publication under section 28 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 if they are to be implemented.

Equal Opportunities Policy

6. This report does not raise any equal opportunities issues.

Recommendation

7. The Area Committee is asked to consider the options included in the consultation and comment upon them. The Committee's comments, as recorded in the minutes of the meeting, will be taken account of in the next stage of the consultation process.



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Background Papers

Halesowen Consultation Paper