

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services.

Consultees – Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources and Cllr Phillips, Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills.

2. Subject of decision

Title: Strategic Education Review Update – Outcome of the pre-publication consultation

On 22 September 2025, Cabinet authorised the commencement of an initial pre-publication consultation in relation to four proposals. Cabinet also authorised the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills to:

- (i) consider the responses to the pre-publication consultation, and
- (ii) determine if, there should be statutory consultation with schools, parents, and other stakeholders, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school closure proposals.

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary (*taken from written report)

The purpose of this report is to inform the Director of Children's Services about the responses to the pre-publication consultation on a range of school proposals arising from the Strategic Education Review.

The pre-publication consultation took place for six weeks between 2 October 2025 and 13 November 2025 and was carried out in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance.

The school communities impacted upon by the proposals have all displayed real passion for their schools. The Authority is very thankful for the time and effort taken so far by community members who have expressed their views as part of this process. The Authority is confident that a rigorous and robust consultation process was undertaken. The views expressed have been listened to and carefully considered. The main themes from the consultation can be seen along with all responses to the consultation in the Appendices.

5. Alternative Options considered

Proposal 1: – Monkseaton Middle School One potential viable alternative was presented during the consultation. Initial conversations have already taken place to explore its feasibility, and additional time is required to explore it further. To enable this to happen it is recommended that the Authority does not formally publish proposals and commence statutory consultation on proposals to close Monkseaton Middle School at this time.

Proposal 2: – Langley First School and Appletree Gardens First School One potential viable alternative was presented during the consultation. Initial conversations have already taken place to explore its feasibility and additional time is required to explore it further. To enable this to happen it is recommended that the Authority does not formally publish proposals and commence statutory consultation on proposals to merge Langley First school with Appletree Gardens First Schools at this time.

Proposal 3: – Forest Hall Primary School and Ivy Road Primary School

During the period of pre-publication consultation, no viable alternatives or options were presented, though all consultation responses were carefully considered.

Proposal 4: – Greenfields Primary School and Hazlewood Primary School

During the period of pre-publication consultation, no viable alternatives or options were presented, though all consultation responses were carefully considered.

6. Decision(s)

The Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion, Employment and Skills has:

Proposal 1: Monkseaton Middle School

1. considered the responses to the pre-publication consultation attached to this report at Appendices 1 and 2.
2. **agreed to further explore one of the options brought forward as part of the pre-publication consultation process and defer for a period of time up to September 2026, the decision as to whether or not to publish school closure proposals to enable this exploration to take place.**
3. noted that, should it be appropriate to consider publishing a statutory proposal (arising from Proposal 1 as set out within the report) at the end of the deferral period then the proposal would need to be published within 12 months of the conclusion of the initial pre-publication consultation period.

Proposal 2: Langley First School and Appletree Gardens First School

1. considered the responses to the pre-publication consultation attached to this report at Appendices 3 and 4.
2. **agreed to further explore one of the options brought forward as part of the pre-publication consultation process and defer, for a period of time up to September 2026, the decision as to whether or not to publish school closure proposals to enable this exploration to take place.**
3. noted that, should it be appropriate to consider publishing a statutory proposal (arising from Proposal 2 as set out in the report) at the end of the deferral period then the proposal would need to be published within 12 months of the conclusion of the initial pre-publication consultation period.

Proposal 3: Forest Hall Primary School and Ivy Road Primary School

1. considered the responses to the pre-publication consultation attached to this report at Appendices 5 and 6.
2. **agreed to publish proposals and undertake a statutory consultation** with schools, parents and other stakeholders, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school closure proposals on the merger of Ivy Road Primary School and Forest Hall Primary School, with the proposal to close Ivy Road Primary School and use the Ivy Road School site to relocate Forest Hall Primary School to accommodate the combined pupils;
3. agreed that for the purposes of the published proposal the closure and merger should be planned for implementation **in September 2026**.
4. agreed to finalise and publish on the Authority's website a statutory proposal document, together with publishing a statutory notice of the proposal in a local newspaper.
5. agreed that the publication of a statutory notice will take place **on 4 December 2025** and that this will commence the statutory

Representation Period for a period of four weeks between **4 December 2025 and 1 January 2026**.

6. noted the requirement to present a further report to Cabinet on the outcome of the statutory consultation, so that Cabinet can consider the outcome of the statutory consultation and determine next steps.

Proposal 4: Greenfields Primary School and Hazlewood Primary School

1. considered the responses to the pre-publication consultation attached to this report at Appendices 7 and 8.
2. **agreed to publish proposals and undertake a statutory consultation** with schools, parents and other stakeholders, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school closure proposals on the merger of Hazlewood Primary School and Greenfields Primary School, with the proposal to close Hazlewood Primary School and enlarge Greenfields Primary School to accommodate the combined pupils on the Greenfields site;
3. agreed that for the purposes of the published proposal the closure and merger should be planned for implementation **in September 2028**.
4. agreed to finalise and publish on the Authority's website a statutory proposal document, together with publishing a statutory notice of the proposal in a local newspaper.
5. agreed that the publication of a statutory notice will take place **on 4 December 2025** and that this will commence the statutory Representation Period for a period of four weeks between **4 December 2025 and 1 January 2026**.
6. noted the requirement to present a further report to Cabinet on the outcome of the statutory consultation, so that Cabinet

can consider the outcome of the statutory consultation and determine next steps.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- The Authority keeps under review the number of pupils attending each school and updates information each year about how many pupils are likely to be attending schools in the future. This is an important aspect of the Authority's function in planning school places across the Borough to ensure there are schools of a suitable size to meet local requirements and to provide the best possible education for the pupils they serve.
- The Authority recognises that school reorganisation of this nature will be of concern for local communities, however, the current position is not sustainable. Taking this into account, these proposals enable the Borough to have a system of education that will bring about the highest possible standards of education for all of the children of North Tyneside for the short, medium, and long term.
- **Monkseaton Middle School:** A potential viable alternative was presented during the consultation. Initial conversations have already taken place to explore its feasibility and additional time is required to explore it further. To enable this to happen it is recommended that the Authority does not formally publish proposals and therefore does not commence statutory consultation on proposals to close Monkseaton Middle School at this time.
- **Langley First School and Appletree Gardens First School:** A potential viable alternative was presented during the consultation. Initial conversations have already taken place to explore its feasibility and additional time is required to explore it further. To enable this to happen it is recommended that the Authority does not formally publish proposals and therefore does not commence statutory consultation on proposals to merge Langley First School and Appletree Gardens First School at this time.

- **Ivy Road Primary School and Forest Hall Primary School:** Under section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Authority is proposing the closure of Ivy Road Primary School on the basis that it is to be amalgamated with another school (Forest Hall Primary School). During the period of pre-publication consultation, no viable alternatives or options were presented, though all were carefully considered.
- **Hazlewood Primary School and Greenfields Primary School:** Under section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Authority is proposing the closure of Hazlewood Primary School on the basis that it is to be amalgamated with another school (Greenfields Primary School). During the period of pre-publication consultation, no viable alternatives or options were presented, though all were carefully considered.

8. Date decision made

26 November 2025

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on 3 December 2025

10. Date of Publication

26 November 2025

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on 3 December 2025