



Northamptonshire County Council

All Stakeholders

Email: schoolconsultation@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Date: 22nd March 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

REF: Consultation on the possible closure of Great Creaton Primary School

As you may be aware, on Tuesday 13th March, the Cabinet of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) made a decision to begin a period of consultation on the possible closure of Great Creaton Primary School.

The purpose of this correspondence is to outline the reasons behind the decision to begin consultation on the possible closure of the school, provide further details regarding the statutory process involved and timelines for any future decisions. This correspondence will also identify the manner in which any stakeholder may make their views known to NCC on the proposal.

This is the beginning of an initial period of consultation on the possible closure of Great Creaton Primary School, and no decision on the school's future has been made at the current time.

NCC would like to invite all stakeholders to make their views known on the proposal and to ensure that all points of view are given full consideration during the consultation and future decision-making processes.

Why are NCC consulting on the possible closure of the school?

The low number of pupils on roll at the school, and the challenges this represents to the school, has been a cause for concern for both NCC and the school itself for a number of years. It is for this reason and those outlined below that the Chair of Governors wrote to

PLACE Directorate
One Angel Square
Angel St
Northampton NN1 1ED

W. www.northamptonshire.gov.uk



NCC on the 6th February stating that in their opinion the school was no longer viable and requesting that NCC begin consultation on the possible closure of the school.

- The school has a maximum capacity of 84 pupils. At the time of writing, there are just 28 pupils on the school roll. This number is likely to fall to 23 from September 2018, once the current Year 6 cohort of 10 pupils leaves the school. Over 72% of the school's total capacity will be available as surplus from September;
- Pupil projection forecasts, compiled by NCC and analysis of other demographic factors, such as planned housing development in the area, do not indicate this trend will change;
- At the time of writing, 7 pupils residing in the village of Creaton attend Great Creaton Primary School. The school can no longer be considered to be primarily serving the community it was originally intended to serve;
- The school's most recent Ofsted inspection (Jan 2018) placed the school into the 'Requires Improvement' category for the third time in succession;
- The small number of pupils on roll at the school mean it is very difficult for the school to achieve pupil outcomes in line with the expected national standard;
- Having less than 30 pupils on roll throughout the entire school could dictate that the all pupils at the school, from Reception to Year 6, are taught in a single class. This poses significant challenges in terms of effective curriculum delivery and the outcomes achieved by all pupils at the school;
- Such low pupil numbers means the school will struggle to fund sufficient experienced and capable staff for the following management and support roles; SENCO, subject leadership, safeguarding and the supporting of vulnerable pupils.

What happens next?

Any Local Authority that proposes to close a school is required to follow a statutory process that is enshrined in legislation and defined by the Department for Education (DfE). This process with dates for the Great Creaton consultation is set out below. The NCC decision making process which facilitates this process is also identified (in bold);

<u>Stage/Decision</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Full Cabinet decision	To begin consultation process			13th March 2018
Stage 1	Consultation	No prescribed timescale – 8 weeks total taking into account Easter Holidays	Informal/Pre consultation.	22 nd March – 17 th May
Cabinet Decision	Whether to issue statutory notice of closure			12th June 2018

If decision in June is to proceed with proposal				
Stage 2	Publication		Publication of the statutory notice and proposal.	21 st June 2018
Stage 3	Period of Representation	Must be 4 weeks	Formal consultation.	21 st June – 19 th July 2018
Stage 4	Decision	LA should decide a proposal within 2 months		September Cabinet meeting – date TBC
If formal decision is to proceed with closure				
Stage 5	Implementation	No prescribed timescale.		31 st December 2018

How can stakeholders make their views known?

There are a number of ways in which stakeholders can make their views known to NCC on the proposal to close Great Creaton Primary School;

Via email: schoolconsultation@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Via SurveyMonkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GreatCreatonProposedClosure>

By Post: Chris Wickens, Strategic Planning Team, Property, Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, Angel St, Northampton, NN1 1ED

Please be advised, all consultation responses received from stakeholders will form part of the decision making process during possible future stages of the statutory process defined above. Each consultation response will be given full consideration prior to any future decisions being made on the proposal.

A public consultation meeting will also be held for all stakeholders who wish to attend and make their views known to NCC. This meeting will be held at the school and is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 19th April 2018, between 6.30 and 8pm.**

A feedback form has also been provided with this letter, please complete and return to the postal address identified above. Alternatively, the feedback form can be submitted at Great Creaton Primary School.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Wickens
Capital Programme Manager - Schools
Northamptonshire County Council

