

Appendix 2 Consultation Improvements suggested

- Some consultees expressed the view that the consultation booklet should have been sent home to all families of children attending the schools affected by the proposals. This has been commented on in previous proposals and we have reviewed the cost of the production of additional booklets and carried out a cost benefit analysis. It was concluded that this would not be an effective use of public resources.
- Some local residents, particularly those living in new housing developments near East Ardsley Primary School, felt that the consultation meetings could have been advertised more widely around the local area. Others felt that there could have been better engagement with the local community. The meetings were advertised to local schools, children's centres, whose outreach workers distributed posters, and private early years providers, as well as in post offices, doctors surgeries, libraries and on the Council website. Other options have been explored, such as advertising in the local press, supermarkets and other suitable locations, but due to time constraints, could not be utilised, however, these options will be considered for future consultations.
- Some respondents commented on the lack of detailed design information available at the consultation meetings, and felt that they could not agree or disagree with the proposals without this information. Others commented that there was a lack of transparency as to what options in terms of the building design and location, were under consideration. There is a balance between the work required and the cost involved in developing detailed designs at the consultation stage before the decision is made to proceed. However, it is acknowledged that this may cause people to feel that they cannot make an informed response. There are further opportunities for the community to comment during the planning application stage, and we will endeavour to ensure there is sufficient pre-application involvement with ward members and the local community in the future.
- Two respondents felt that the public consultation period was too short. The statutory guidance regarding prescribed alterations to a school states that public consultation **must** be undertaken for a minimum of 4 weeks. Wherever possible we seek to consult over a period of 6 weeks, however in this case due to school holidays, the consultation period for this round was shortened to 5 weeks.