

Consultation on the relocation of Epinay Business and Enterprise School from its current site in Clervaux Terrace, Jarrow to the former South Shields School site in Nevison Avenue, South Shields

15 March 2021 to 12 April 2021

Introduction

This leaflet sets out the background and progress of proposals to change the designation, enlarge and relocate Epinay Business and Enterprise School from its current site at Clervaux Terrace, Jarrow to the site of the former South Shields School, Nevison Avenue, South Shields. It also sets out the two stage consultation process and how to respond to this Stage 1 consultation.

Background

The last three to four years has seen a marked increase in the numbers of pupils at Epinay Business & Enterprise School, which has meant that the school is very full and has had to make use of other off-site buildings to accommodate additional pupils and the sixth form. Governors have worked with the Local Authority in considering the possibility of extending accommodation on the current site, but the availability of space and the layout of the site means that options to do this are very limited.

South Shields School closed in August 2020 and the buildings, facilities and site are available for community and/or educational purposes. The Local Authority has explored with Governors the possibility of using part of the former South Shields School building and grounds are very large and architects have worked with the Local Authority and the school to produce plans to remodel part of the building and grounds to provide facilities for an expanded Epinay Business & Enterprise School, on a bigger site, developing the space to meet the needs of all of its current and future pupils.

At their meeting on 4 March 2020, South Tyneside Council's Cabinet agreed that Council Officers could start discussions with Epinay School about a possible enlargement and move from the current Epinay Business & Enterprise School site at Clervaux Terrace, Jarrow to the former South Shields School site in Nevison Avenue, South Shields. The Local Authority held meetings, via Teams, with parents/carers, pupils and staff to seek their views. Those views were then considered by Cabinet at their meeting in July 2020 and it was agreed to progress to a more detailed planning stage. Since then the headteacher and governors have worked with the Local Authority and their appointed architects to develop plans for the former South Shields School.

Proposals

The Governing Body of Epinay Business & Enterprise School intends to make the following Statutory Proposals:

1. To change the current designation of a school for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD), Visual Impairment (VI), Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD) to a school for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI), Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN), Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD).

Pupils currently attending Epinay Business & Enterprise School would continue their education there as long as the school continues to meet their educational needs, irrespective of their category of need.

2. To increase the number of pupils at Epinay Business and Enterprise School from the current 172 to 215. This will be phased from September 2021 to September 2024, when the school will be at its capacity of 215.
3. To relocate Epinay Business and Enterprise School from its current site, Clervaux Terrace, Jarrow, NE32 5UP, to part of the site of the former South Shields School, Nevison Avenue, South Shields, NE34 8BT.

These proposals are linked and implementation of each one will be dependent on the other being approved.

South Tyneside Council's Cabinet will make a decision as whether to agree the proposals at their July 2021 meeting.

Consultation

To support the proposals, the governing body must consult with our parents/carers, pupils, staff and other interested parties. This is the first stage of our consultation, which will run from 15 March 2021 to 12 April 2021.

The second stage of consultation, known as the Representation Period, will be held in May/June and views from both stages of consultation will be included in the report to Council's

Cabinet in July 2021, when a decision will be taken on whether to agree the Statutory Proposals for Epinay Business and Enterprise School.

Responding to Stage 1 of the consultation

The following meetings will be held with parents/carers/pupils, staff, and other interested stakeholders:

Staff:

- Monday 22nd March 2021 at 3.30pm by Google MEET

Parents / Carers:

- Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 2.00pm by Zoom
- Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 6.00pm by Zoom

Parents / Carers wishing to attend either meeting - please email sstephenson5@epinay.org for the Zoom meeting link.

Responses from this Stage 1 consultation will inform the Statutory Proposal which will be the subject of the Stage 2 consultation, known as the Representation Period. Responses from both stages of consultation will be considered by Cabinet at their July 2021 meeting.

A response questionnaire can be accessed at www.epinay.org.

An email address and a postal address are included below if you would like any other information, or want to make your views known at this stage:

Email address: Epinay.queries@southtyneside.gov.uk

Postal Address: Epinay Business and Enterprise School, Clervaux Terrace, Jarrow NE32 5UP

Responses must be received by **12 April 2021**

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