



**Branton Community First School/
and**

Breamish Valley Nursery

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Thursday 11th June 2015

Dear Parents,

You will be aware that the report containing the outcome and the proposals from the consultation of the Alnwick Partnership is published today.

The County Council has considered the feedback from across the partnership. In the report it states that 12 out of the 18 schools, representing 89% of the pupils in the partnership were in favour of option B, which is the change to two tier resulting in the closure of the Middle Schools.

A further consideration was that there was "considerable concern expressed whether some of the small first schools would be able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to pupils in Years 5 and 6 should they become primary schools".

The County Council's proposal for Branton Community First School is to close the school from August 2017. This is not a final decision but a proposal, which will go forward to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet meetings next Thursday 18th June. If the proposals are approved then a further period of consultation on this new proposal will begin from Friday 19th June. As there are significant changes proposed for Branton, the consultation for our school would be in depth and there would be opportunities to meet with Council Officers and for parents and members of our community to make their views known.

Within the further consultation period Andy Johnson, Director of Education, has said that there would be the possibility for our school to put forward alternative proposals to the proposed closure.

We have always been very grateful for the support our parents and community have given our school. We are here today because of the huge swell of support when our school faced the prospect of closure previously. This response opens up further debate as to the future of our school and nursery. We will keep you fully informed at every stage and thank you in advance for your support.

Zoë Ryan
Head teacher

Should the Cabinet approve the recommendations in the report, the next steps in the process are set out in the table below.

Timetable after June	
Consultation	June 19th - 9 October 2015
Councillor's consider feedback and decide whether or not to publish statutory notices	November 2015
If approve publication of notices, a further 4 week statutory consultation takes place	November/December 2015
Councillors make final decision	January 2016