

# APPROACH THREE – BEGIN TO REMODEL THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

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In summary, this option would mean:

- A programme of planned changes
- Reducing surplus places
- Planning for demand
- Aiming to improve Key Stage 5 (Post 16) performance
- Building financial stability
- Building new schools
- Greater employer involvement
- Specific action at some schools.

## Across the Whitley Bay and Monkseaton group of schools

The schools in this area would work together and with the council to retain the three-tier system whilst managing places, raising standards and controlling costs. This might involve work to develop stronger federations to share costs and resources.

## In the North Shields area

Re-build Whitehouse Primary School (due to open 2016/17), re-build Marden High School (due to open 2016/17) and re-build John Spence Community High School (due to open 2016/17).

Norham High School would reduce its Pupil Admission Number and change its focus - to provide routes directly into employment.

This could involve a partnership with TyneMet College, Churchill Community College and employers. Pupils would follow the National Curriculum as well as have unique opportunities to gain work skills. Crucially, the proposals would aim to address the significant issue of youth unemployment in the area, linking school leavers directly with jobs. There would also be a plan to develop the campus.

## In the North West area

The proposals are to re-build Longbenton Community College and put a plan in place to develop the school's leadership and standards to take full advantage of the exciting opportunities that the new building will provide.

George Stephenson High School would cap its entry numbers at its published Pupil Admission Number.

No major change to Seaton Burn Community College; but the campus would be developed further as a hub for community activity and services, and the college would work more closely with its primary schools to develop standards and leadership and work on assets and costs.

Backworth Park Primary School would also be re-built (due to open in 2017).

We predict there will be some benefits and some drawbacks to this option:

Benefits	Drawbacks
The work could deliver a borough-wide education system that meets future needs.	This approach might remove some flexibility for schools to make their own decisions.
It could allow us to begin to remove surplus places across key areas.	It could present some short-term challenges to protect pupils and learning at Norham High School.
It could provide the ability to meet expected rise in demand in future years.	This approach would require lots of extra work by leadership teams made up of school leaders, council officers, employers and others. This would mean a significant investment of time and effort from those directly involved, at a time when resources are tight.
It could begin to fundamentally review what we offer at Key Stage 5 (after the age of 16) and strengthen standards linked directly to employment.	
By allowing us to tackle the borough-wide issue of surplus places, it could help to develop financial sustainability across the education system.	
It could attempt to improve employability of young people and tackle youth unemployment, by linking the education system to the local economy and jobs - right across the borough but particularly at Norham High School.	
By allowing us to tackle the borough-wide issue of surplus places, it could allow us to plan for pupils in a way that will secure full investment in Marden and John Spence High Schools. By that, we mean we would be able to show the Government that we could fill the schools once they've been built.	

We now have a detailed picture of the challenges our education system faces as well as clear knowledge about where our opportunities lie. We need to secure the future success of our education system if we are to secure the future success of our young people. I would urge residents to take part in this consultation and share their views.

**Councillor Ian Grayson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning**