

## APPENDIX F – Consultation Questions and Answers from Website

### CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

(grouped in subject areas)

#### Pupils

1. Parent: Why haven't Year 6 children from Primary schools been invited to spend the day at MDTC.

Students from Yr 6 have been invited to various activities throughout the year, and a whole day for Yr 5 (current Yr 6) took place in July 2015

2. Parent: If you do a search on the website for Secondary school in the area, Mablethorpe doesn't come up – why?

This is likely to be because MDTC is a single school with two sites and the administrative address is the Louth site. Each school is legally identified by an individual DfE number. There is only one number for MDTC, even though there are two sites. Mablethorpe site is not a separate school and therefore does not have a separate DfE number to the Louth site.

3. Parent: Why hasn't MDTC got more involved in local Primary Schools to encourage children to apply for a place here?

MDTC has given information to all its feeder Primary Schools and also provides taster activities to encourage pupils to apply to MDTC. Current students are also ambassadors and coaches in local Primary Schools

4. Parent: How can students take part in after school activities if they are at Louth and parents are unable to fetch them?

Transport has been provided for students to Louth and return to enable them to participate in many activities.

5. Ex staff: What about the SEN students? – 38% of students on SEN register at Mablethorpe at one time. Education in Mablethorpe was so good but we just didn't fit the criteria.

The support for SEN students would be provided in line with the SEN Code of Practice regardless of which campus they were attending.

6. Parent: How will it affect my child – he cannot travel to Louth?

Any student with a place at MDTC who is currently based at Mablethorpe site is entitled to remain at the school and will be provided with free transport to Louth site by the LA. If parents of students currently at MDTC Mablethorpe wish to seek a place at a different school, an application can be made via the

mid year process. Parents can get more information about transport and admissions issues by contacting the county council:

- ADMISSIONS – email -[schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Tel: 01522 782030
- TRANSPORT – email - [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport) Tel: 01522 782020

7. Parent:How can you predict projected intake so far ahead accurately?

There is a nationally recognised mechanism used by all local authorities for forecasting the demand for school places against the actual number of places available in schools. This mechanism uses data taken from the registration of live births, GP registration data, school census, parental preference data and post code data. This mechanism is the chief planning tool for the provision of school places for all local authorities and is accepted by the DfE when allocating capital funding.

8. Student: Why do the teachers have to swap sites?

To enable the delivery of a full curriculum for all students. Due to the variance in year group size, differing numbers of teachers are needed at different times on each campus.

9. Parent:What percentage of local area children go to the Louth Campus as opposed to other schools in Louth?

The table below shows how many secondary aged children who live in the Louth Designated Transport Area attend a Lincolnshire state school as at January 2015:

Alford John Spendluffe Technology College	15	1.06%
Alford Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Alford - A Selective Academy	32	2.26%
Caistor Grammar School	4	0.28%
Caistor Yarborough Academy	3	0.21%
Cherry Willingham Community School	2	0.14%
Gainsborough The Aegir Community School	3	0.21%
Horncastle Banovallum School	12	0.85%
Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	14	0.99%
Horncastle St Lawrence School	19	1.34%
Lincoln Castle Academy	1	0.07%
Lincoln UTC	1	0.07%

Lincoln, St Francis School	2	0.14%
Louth & Mablethorpe Monks' Dyke Tennyson College	405	28.66%
Louth Cordeaux Academy	421	29.79%
Louth King Edward VI Grammar School	365	25.83%
Louth St Bernard's School	4	0.28%
Market Rasen De Aston School	26	1.84%
North Somercotes Birkbeck College	70	4.95%
Pilgrim School	5	0.35%
Spilsby King Edward VI Academy	3	0.21%
Spilsby The Lady Jane Franklin School	4	0.28%
Welton William Farr	2	0.14%

#### 10. Parent: Why are the numbers on the Louth Campus so low?

Parents can choose to apply for a school place at any school or academy. If schools are selective then students are awarded a place based upon selection criteria/test. Non selective schools allocate places to applicants up to their Planned Admission Number. If they receive more applications than the places available they then use their subscription criteria as the basis for allocating places. These criteria are outlined for each school in the guide Going to Secondary School In Lincolnshire which is published every year. Louth is served by three secondary schools – MDTC (non selective), Codeaux Academy (non selective), and King Edward VI Grammar School (selective).

#### 11. Parent: Why have Options been reduced?

Options have only been reduced where students have not chosen a particular subject and small group size has meant that it is not viable to run a class.

#### 12. Parent: What are the predicted intake numbers for next year?

\*\*\* SLT Response re current number on roll: The number of offers made for Year 7 places (200 available) in September 2015 was 64 across the whole school. This breaks down to 29 places offered at Mablethorpe site and 35 at Louth. At the start of September the school took in ??? pupils in Year 7 - ??? at Mablethorpe and ??? at Louth site.

#### Travel/Journey/Pupil Movement

#### 13. Parent: What about children who can't travel on a bus?

If a student who is entitled to free school transport is unable to use a bus, due to disability or a learning difficulty, the council will make alternative arrangements, involving more suitable vehicles.

14. Parent: Closing the school will take away the right to a social life for students – how can students take part in after school activities in parents don't have transport?

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of student development. Transport planning will be looked at with the LA if required.

15. Parent: Will children be offered a place at Mablethorpe for September 2016?

If there is a decision taken in January 2016 to close the Mablethorpe school site, places will still be offered to students who apply for a school place at MDTC in September 2016. Any student who accepts a school place in September will attend MDTC at the Louth site and be in receipt of free school transport to Louth if they live in the present Mablethorpe Designated Transport Area.

16. Parent: Why not move students from Louth?

The Mablethorpe site is not large enough to accommodate all MDTC students forecast to be in the school in September 2016 (currently 806 pupils). Mablethorpe can accommodate 425 students on its site. Louth can accommodate 1160 students. Even if numbers of students were to drastically reduce, it is highly unlikely that Mablethorpe site would have sufficient space to accommodate the whole school. Louth site has sufficient space for the predicted number of students, and more, should the demand increase.

17. Parent: Why can't Louth Campus be closed? There are other schools available in Louth.

As above

18. Parent: Why not close the Louth site?

As above

19. Comment: Travelling to Louth will mean too long a day – school work is bound to suffer.

Additional time will be required to travel to school for pupils who live in Mablethorpe and currently attend MDTC if Mablethorpe site closes. The school day for some pupils will be longer than it is presently. Across the county some secondary age children have to travel on school busses and experience a longer day but continue to achieve well because they have better access to quality education provision, to staff and to resources whilst in school.

20. Ex Staff: What about the inevitable impact on attendance?

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school. Depending on which school they attend, students will have access to school transport, which in many cases will be available free of charge

21. Parent: It will cost a huge amount of money to transport students to Louth – why can't that money be invested in Mablethorpe to keep the school open?

Additional funding to cover transport costs for students to go to Louth, or a nearer school, will have to be found from within the county council's own resources, if there is no secondary provision in Mablethorpe. It is not permitted by the financial regulations to use money from the local authority transport budget to financially support school budgets.

#### Finance/Funding

22. Staff: What was the financial situation of Tennyson High School as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 before the merger? Can we see the accounts?

There was a surplus of £30,747 as at 31.8.12 reduced from £107,870 carried forward from 31.3.12. This confirms an overspend of £77,123 for the 5 months to 31.8.12. The SAP summary is available on request. As at 31.3.12 Monks' Dyke Technology College had a carried forward deficit of £205k (reduced from £336k as at 31.3.11). This deficit has been managed without the need for external funding. As at 31.3.13 (7 months after merger), the combined position of Monks' Dyke Tennyson College was a surplus of £196k.

23. Parent: Can the financial figures for both MDTC and Tennyson High School prior to the merger be published?

As above

24. Parent: Mablethorpe has not been invested in despite the promises made – why? Closing the school will be another nail in the coffin.

There have not been any recent investment needs identified at the Mablethorpe site of MDTC that the local authority have been aware of or rejected.

25. Parent: What additional funding is available?

No additional funding is available.

26. Parent: Has the deficit happened since the merger?

The deficit has only occurred post 1.4.15 following full discussion and agreement with LCC.

27. Parent: It will cost a huge amount of money to transport students to Louth – why can't that money be invested in Mablethorpe to keep the school open?

The Home to School Transport budget is funded via the Local Authority budget. Schools are funded via a ring fenced grant. The funding delegated to schools is governed by the Government's schools funding reforms, which

provides consistency in how schools are funded. Local authorities do not have flexibility to allocate funding outside of the DfE Regulations.

28. Parent: What will happen if you go over budget?

The scheme for financing schools states that "schools are not permitted to overspend, where this is unavoidable schools must seek prior written approval from the Local Authority" Where a school goes into financial deficit, the Local Authority will work with the school to recover the deficit in a relatively short period of time.

### School Organisation

29. Parent: Why can't MDTC un-merge?

The LA is not permitted under DfE policy to create new schools. If there were proposals to create a new stand alone school in Mablethorpe this would need to be under the sponsorship of an academy or Free School, and be approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The current number of pupils at Mablethorpe site (currently 199 pupils), projected future demand and the type of curriculum on offer would be carefully considered by the DfE and Secretary of State as part of the approval process.

30. Parent: Can Mablethorpe go down the Academy route?

Mablethorpe site is currently part of MDTC and the DfE has decided that MDTC shall become an academy in September 2016. The DfE and has approved a sponsor which is the King Edward V1 Grammar School Multi Academy Trust. Any future proposal to create an academy or free school in Mablethorpe, should the site become available, would be made directly to the DfE who would then decide if the proposal was feasible and if they could support it.

31. Parent: Can we apply for another provider through County?

The DfE approve the sponsorship of academies, including proposals for new schools. Any proposal for a new school would be made directly to the DfE. The local authority has been in contact with some local academy providers to check the levels of interest, but viability issues have prevented any coming forward.

32. Governor: At one point prior to the merger, an all through school (Nursery to 18) was proposed – why can't the Local Authority do that now?

There is currently sufficient provision for primary age pupils in the Mablethorpe area for the next few years and therefore no demand for additional places that would be proposed if MDTC were to change its age range from 11 – 18 to 3 – 18.

33. Parent: Have you considered joining with an Academy such as Skegness?

The local authority contacted local academy sponsors when considering options for Mablethorpe provision, however, there were no expressions of interest.

### Standards

34. Parent: Why is this school failing when JSTC, KEVIS and Cordeaux are full?

The school is designated by Ofsted as “requiring improvement”. It has *not* been designated as “inadequate”. Parental preference has not favoured MDTC in the same way as JSTC, KEVIGS and JSTC. The fewer children that attend, the lower the income and the more difficult it is to maintain a viable curriculum.

35. Parent: Why is there no dedicated Ofsted report on the website for Mablethorpe?

There is a copy of MDTC's Ofsted report on the website and this covers the Mablethorpe site as it is part of the MDTC school.

### Options for Parents

36. Parent: This will force children/parents to choose another school for September 2016 due to the fact that Mablethorpe may close – how is this issue being addressed?

Students who already have a place at MDTC and are based at Mablethorpe site will be able to continue their education at the school, but will change their base to the Louth site, and have access to free school transport. Any students that do not wish to continue their education at MDTC can apply to for an alternative place through the mid year application process. Places are not guaranteed where schools are oversubscribed or year groups are full. In some circumstances students may be eligible for free school transport but parents need to check this. Queries about School Admissions and School transport can be answered by contacting:

- ADMISSIONS – email - [schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Tel: 01522 782030
- TRANSPORT – email - [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport) Tel: 01522 782020

37. Parent:What about parents who do not want to send their children to Louth because of the distance?

See above

38. Parent:If Mablethorpe students don't go to Louth, what will happen to the Louth Campus?

If the Mablethorpe site closes then MDTC will continue to operate from the Louth site

39. Parent:What has changed? Why do students choose to go to John Spendluffe in Alford?

Parents can choose to apply to any school for a school place.

40. Comment: The overall feeling amongst parents is that we are being forced to send our children to Louth

Students who are already attending MDTC and are based at Mablethorpe site will continue to have a place at MDTC unless they choose to apply for and be accepted in an alternative school place elsewhere. Queries about admissions issues can be made by contacting the Admissions Team:

ADMISSIONS – email -[schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Tel: 01522 782030

41. Parent:This will affect timelines and affect applications from Year 6 for next year – can timings be changed?

Timelines for applications for secondary school places are fixed nationally. Parents of Year 6 pupils affected by the proposal to close Mablethorpe site can seek advice and guidance from the LCC Admissions Team and School Transport:

- ADMISSIONS – email -[schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) Tel: 01522 782030
- TRANSPORT – email - [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport) Tel: 01522 782020

### Governors

42. Parent:Would Governors consider amending their proposal?

Throughout the consultation process, it is the governors' job to listen to the comments, views and possible alternative ideas of all interested parties. Should a viable idea emerge that it is possible for the Governing Body to act upon, they will consider amending the proposal.



43. Parent: Is Mablethorpe going to prop up Louth School?

The Louth site has sufficient space to accommodate students from both sites, there is not enough space to accommodate all MDTC students on the Mablethorpe site. Currently, the Louth site is viable as a stand-alone school.

44. Parent: What do you as a Governing Body and Principal want to do?

Governors have a legal responsibility to ensure the best possible educational opportunity for all students in the school along with presenting a balanced budget at the start of each financial year. Governors are conscious that whilst we do not want the site to close, we recognise that as an organisation we cannot afford to provide the breadth and quality of education that our students need whilst working across two sites.

45. Parent: Why have the Governors not raised awareness before now?

Governors did not want to create uncertainty until all other options available to us had been exhausted. Our decision in December 2014 allowed the local authority to enter into discussion with other educational providers, had those discussions become realistic viable options this would have resulted in a different type of consultation taking place.

46. Parent: Have Governors considered options like a satellite school?

To achieve this we would effectively need to de-merge. If there were proposals to create a new stand-alone school in Mablethorpe this would need to be proposed under the sponsorship of an academy or Free School, and be approved by the Secretary of State for Education. MDTC is one school across two sites and therefore an option of a satellite school is not available to us

General

47. Parent: What are the main reasons for closing

The main reasons for closing are:

- The cost of running two sites exceeds the school budget
- The school is running at half full with 554 pupils at Louth and 231 pupils at Mablethorpe and there are only 64 out of 200 places on offer for September 2015 (29 at Mablethorpe)
- School funding is based on a fixed allocation of funding (block grant) set by DfE and more pupils means more funding, less pupils means less funding
- Only 40% of 11-16 pupils living in Mablethorpe choose to attend MDTC
- The Louth site has sufficient space to take all current pupils and the number expected for the next 10 years (county council forecast)

- Small year groups at the Mablethorpe site is affecting pupils' teaching and learning as there can only be mixed ability groups which makes it difficult to cater for all learning needs
- Teachers are not as accessible to pupils outside class time because they are not necessarily based at the same site, or are travelling between sites

48. Parent: What can we do to make sure Mablethorpe School doesn't close?

At this stage (pre-publication) Governors' are consulting informally on their proposal to close the Mablethorpe site and welcome all the comments, views and ideas from parents, students, staff, and the local community. You have until October 7<sup>th</sup> to let Governors know what you think. If you would like to make comments or propose ideas you can use the form on the school website [www.mdtc.co/consultation](http://www.mdtc.co/consultation), write to the Clerk to the Governors at [clerktogovernors@mdtc.co](mailto:clerktogovernors@mdtc.co), use a comments form on the consultation leaflet and send it to/hand it in to Reception at either site – or post it to the school address: MDTC, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe, LN12 2DF or MDTC, Monks' Dyke Road, Louth, LN11 9AW. All these will be considered by Governors later in October when they will meet to decide whether they are going to move to the formal stage. If they decide to do this, they will publish a Statutory Notice and there will be a further four weeks to make your comments, views and ideas known. The decision will then be taken by the local authority (Lincolnshire County Council) who will take into account all responses made during consultation.

49. Public: Is this a political decision? Isn't it the case the Tennyson has always been earmarked for closure?

When the merger took place in 2012, it was hoped that the school would grow in strength and continue to provide education for local children in Mablethorpe and Louth. Unfortunately pupil numbers have dwindled and this has led to Governors' needing to consider the future of the school on two sites.

50. Parent: Why are we here – not heard anything positive? Do parents' opinions count?

The views and opinions of parents are very important to Governors, which is why it is important to the Governors that parents, students, staff and the wider community send in their views and ideas before October 7<sup>th</sup>.

51. Parent: Will slides be made available on the website?

The slides from the Head Teacher's presentation to Parents can be found on the consultation page of the school website.

52. Parent: What will happen to the Mablethorpe School if it is closed.

This will be decided if and when the decision is taken for closure

53. Parent:How badly do the local authority want to keep Mablethorpe open and what sort of commitment is there from them?

The local authority supports access to good quality education provision for all school age children in Lincolnshire, and parents' right to apply for a place at the schools they prefer their children to attend.

54. Parent:Why is the timescale so short? Save our School has ideas to explore but need more time? Can consultation period be extended?

The Governors welcome all ideas and proposals as part of the pre publication consultation. The consultation process is following guidelines set by the DfE, and should Governors decide to move into the formal process and publish a Statutory Notice there will be a further 4 weeks for comments, views and ideas to be expressed, before the local authority make a decision.

### Local Impact

55. Comment Mablethorpe is one of the most deprived areas in the country – the effect of closing the Secondary school will have devastating effects – people won't want to move here.

An important issue for parents is for their children to get the best education possible which supports their future life chances and opportunity. This is essential for all children, but particularly important for those who are managing in circumstances of considerable deprivation. The governors at MDTC have been concerned that despite the maintained efforts of committed staff and governors, reducing pupil numbers has had a significant effect on the school budget. These effects have impacted upon the education experience able to be offered to pupils. Closing the site and focussing resources at Louth provides an opportunity to consolidate and increase the quality of education, that could not be achieved if two sites were maintained. This proposal, whilst removing secondary provision from within Mablethorpe Town, supports the options available for pupils and parents within the locality to provide good quality education provision and opportunity, which could be important to families considering relocating to the area.

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