

Written Responses in the Consultation Period on the proposed

Point of View	Against Proposal	Other comments/Notes	Louth site is too far away	Detrimental effect on Mablethorpe	Perceived issues with the Louth site	Unfair distribution of secondary provision	Issues with the merger	Children will miss out on after school activities	Another public meeting is required
Resident	Y	<p>This is an area of extreme multiple deprivation. The travel conditions are not conducive to good learning or suitable for doing homework and will affect those who suffer with travel sickness. Many children will miss out on breakfast and will be impacted by an overly long day. It will be problematic for children and parents to attend after school clubs and events and will impact on their social lives if their friends live in different areas. Lincolnshire is still clinging onto the outdated Grammar school system, meaning that the most academically able children are forced into being educated in Alford. The idea that towns such as Alford (approx. population 3500) and Horncastle (approx. population 6000) could have two secondary schools and Louth (approx. population 17000) three, yet Mablethorpe (approx. population 12000) should make do with none, is no less than immoral. All the indicators clearly show that the population of Britain will rise considerably in coming decades. There is currently a huge shortage in housing and existing towns need to expand, if demand is to be met. Mablethorpe has enormous potential for growth and such growth will necessitate the need for secondary education. The closing of this town's only secondary provision will not only spoil life for today's children in Mablethorpe, but can only store up problems for the future.</p>	Y			Y	Y		
Parent/Carer	Y	<p>This will be problematic for children who have to attend numerous doctors appointments. With the additional travel times it won't be practical to transport them to appointments during the day without taking time off and impacting their attendance and progress.</p>	Y						
Other	Y	<p>Closing the school would have a severely damaging effect on the town of Mablethorpe. This in turn, will damage the aspirations and opportunities of the young people the school serves. I understand that currently the number of pupils on role has drastically reduced but Tennyson has seen this happen before. Little investment has been made in the infrastructure and equipment in the past ten years. I equally realise that the school role having drastically reduced, will be the result of the town of Mablethorpe having lost confidence in its local secondary school. This alarming consequence should be the responsibility of the County Council to improve by investing in the school, its staff and its pupils. Without a secondary school in Mablethorpe, the sense of devaluing the importance of learning and education in a rural/coastal town will be palpable. You need the very best of learning facilitation to be in place at Tennyson in Mablethorpe; the Senior Management, teachers, TAs, support staff and site staff. The learning opportunities offered need to be of the highest quality, both in academic terms and in wider cultural and vocational opportunities.</p>		Y					
Parent/Carer	Y	<p>I am totally against the closure of the Mablethorpe site. How has it been allowed to get into such a terrible situation? It would seem that the Louth site is in a similar situation with a small number of students also. The town of Mablethorpe needs this school. Even with these additional pupils Louth will not be full so will it also be closed? Why aren't you promoting the sites?</p>		Y					
Resident	Y	<p>Site closure removes secondary provision from the town, should be treated as a proposal to close a rural school. Little evidence that impact on the community considered, nor have the alternatives such as federation &amp; academisation. Cost of transport to alternatives should be considered. Journey times extended which impacts disadvantaged. Leadership failure at all levels to provide a high quality education and market the school has led to a drop in numbers. Since merger there has been an increase in pupils at JSTC and a decline for Mablethorpe, which shows a lack of action to prevent pupil migration. Expense and logistics of delivering curriculum across two sites should have been considered when merging. Closure will result in redundancies; stance taken by academy sponsor/DFE will absolve their responsibility for redundancy payments. Academisation deferral is a 'political' decision. Mablethorpe residents will NOT make Louth their school of choice, this is evident in preferences. There is insufficient capacity to accommodate pupils in schools that are preferred by parents. Students who travel to other schools are not a justification for closure. All premises users did not receive consultation correspondence. The site is the only suitable venue to run large workshops. If Governors held the August public meeting, they could have time managed. The hall was full and some were turned away. School representatives sat in groups. Members of the public felt intimidated and not at ease speaking with representatives, these were not one to one. The format did not allow others to hear questions/arguments and denied debate. Information provided in the statutory notice has been skewed to support the governors' decision to proceed with the proposal. The Student and Staff Voice Consultation; when in a one to one situation with staff, pupils will often say what they think you want to hear. ELDC confirmed their support for any innovative scheme that comes forward to support education in the town.</p>	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Other	Y	<p>I would have thought it obvious that the solution to the problem is to close the Junior Academy infants/juniors, then move the staff and pupils to Monks Dyke Tennyson College. Thus forming a proper academy to include both schools. This is a simple solution and will save money in the long term and hopefully make a profit by closing the Junior Academy and selling the land.</p>							
Parent/Carer	Y	<p>If you close the Mablethorpe site we will not be sending our children to the Louth campus. Expecting our children to travel this far is not only unacceptable in terms of distance and time but will also have a detrimental effect on their education when it comes to medical appointments etc as they will need a full day off as opposed to maybe an hour now. It will make it a very long day for them. Many parents in this area do not drive so would not be able to actively engage in their child's education nor deal with any issues that may arise whilst in the care of the school on a one to one level as is currently possible.</p>	Y					Y	

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Other	Y	I believe that you have a duty to provide education for the children of Mablethorpe. I can't believe how short-sighted it is to close the only secondary school. You should maybe look at changing the format of the school to a studio school.					Y		
Resident	Y								
Other	Y	<p>The governing body has failed to follow correct and fair procedure by their failure to organise a public meeting during the formal consultation period. The meetings which were run during the pre-consultation period were unsatisfactory, as parents were unable to share their concerns in a proper public forum. The format which was adopted made it impossible for independent minutes to be taken and evidence of attendees' opinions were therefore not accurately represented and thus liable to misreporting. There were similar issues with the consultation regarding the merger of the two sites.</p> <p>To merge two schools 15 miles apart and to expect this to raise standards and to work efficiently was surely a decision showing mismanagement and lack of planning of the highest order. Either this, or a disingenuous step towards the eventual closure of the site seen as the weaker partner in order to save money.</p> <p>The local community would not only lose an educational institution, but also the base for many important community and youth activities which add a huge amount to social cohesion and well-being. It is difficult for residents to access activities in neighbouring towns due to the low socio-economic demographic of the town. Businesses will suffer and house prices will fall and funding and planning will be affected. The overall effects on the town and surrounding area would be long-lasting and far-reaching.</p> <p>How are poorer parents with no transport (in an area where public transport is inadequate) going to attend school related activities at a site 15-18 miles away or collect children who fall ill during the day? How are less advantaged students going to participate in after-school activities? This is surely discrimination against poorer families and goes against the requirements of decision makers stated in the Options document.</p> <p>It is of the greatest importance that the site is kept open for another year in its present form, so that time is allowed for the long-term alternative options being put forward by the Save Our School Steering Group to reach fruition.</p>	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
Other	Y	<p>Closure of the Mablethorpe site is unfair to both the students and the town, which will be adversely affected to the extent of falling house prices, a demographic shift to the concentration of an even older population profile and demotion of status for funding and planning concerns. Local businesses will also be adversely affected. Surely to disadvantage an already disadvantaged area and population cannot be justified ethically - or in the long term view, economically and socially.</p> <p>Closing the site also makes a mockery of the concept of parental choice. The difficulties produced by the merging of two schools in 2012 have given the Mablethorpe site the perceived status of an annexe, which has further eroded its desirability in parents' eyes. To amalgamate two schools such a distance apart was always going to be unworkable. One could cynically suggest that this move was the first step in a longer strategy to close the smaller school by depleting its roll.</p> <p>Since the merger, Mablethorpe parents feel disengaged from the school's management and activities; students are excluded from many events, which have been focussed on the Louth site. There are travel implications for parents and pupils.</p> <p>It would make more sense to close the Louth site.</p> <p>The school is used for many community activities and events. There is no other suitable venue in the town. Therefore less mobile, poorer members of the community would lose out if this site were closed.</p> <p>What will happen with the site? Demolition would be a waste of a resource. Using the site for residential properties would negate the closing of a school site. Selling off the Louth site would bring in more revenue.</p> <p>A suitable Academy provider has shown an interest in the site, but in order for this to happen we need to keep the site open for another year. Bearing in mind that LCC has recently reported a substantial underspend both generally and in its education budget, surely funds can be found to keep the site open for another year.</p>		Y			Y		

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Resident	Y	<p>There are two sites and only one put forward for closure. Despite the report prepared, there exist alternatives that did not come before the GB or scrutiny committee. Any decision made was without the awareness of all alternatives. Issues raised from the published document; No evidence that changes in parental preference and the availability of alternative places has had an effect on the number of pupils. Parents may no longer consider Mablethorpe a viable option as the results have been dragged further down due to the merger.</p> <p>I think the point raised above refutes the assumption that parental preference in the area is historic and not a result of MDTC recent Ofsted inspection. Evidence would show in a "first past the post" vote Mablethorpe would top the poll compared to other schools prior to the merger. It is due to worsening results post-merger.</p> <p>Issues regarding the logistical and financial challenges for delivering parallel curriculum across two sites weren't highlighted at the time of the merger. It was argued that the larger organisation would be key to providing a full curriculum and travel between sites would not be an issue. This suggests the feasibility study prior to the merger was unsound and the decision appears to have been taken in haste.</p> <p>The DfE's academisation deferral decision due to the consultation runs contrary to the Government's norm as academies are their chosen option. The statement "To improve the quality of the offer that the school can make to students, parents and the communities it serves, in order that it will become a school of choice and increase the number of pupils who choose to attend, thereby securing its future sustainability" appears to have been copied from the reasons why the schools should MERGE, thereby irrelevant.</p> <p>Neither Louth staff nor parents of Louth pupils take into account that there will be further reviews of staffing across the whole school.</p> <p>Governors could be accused of "protecting" Louth rather than working for the whole school. Governors have displayed a reluctance to delay proceedings in order to explore and implement alternatives.</p> <p>"First past the post" figures prove over many years the Mablethorpe site/school was the most desired in the area. It is gross mismanagement to quote 60% of students living in Mablethorpe travel out of town for secondary education. The area is selective so choice is not straightforward. Grammars are more appealing to most but the blanket referral to 60% takes no account of this. It would mislead people into believing that all parents had a like for like offer to consider. It is misleading to use it to justify that pupils would travel to Louth or parents would support that. You could infer that a small amount of travel is acceptable to some and inevitable to those who opt for a Grammar. No true public meeting has been held. The August meeting was not within the control of Governors and had an independent chair. The format precluded the community hearing individual submissions and was intimidating to those unused to confronting figures of authority. This was designed to dilute the mass message and a hindrance to those unable to get a position at a team table.</p> <p>Response from Louth Campus supporting the proposal – 161, not supporting the proposal – 80, don't know – 86. If it is correct to say 60% don't choose Mablethorpe would it be true to say that the majority of Louth respondents do not agree with proposals? Governors have not deviated from their chosen path even though alternatives were forthcoming in the pre-publication consultation phase. Stating that the Representation period will give people and organisations opportunity to express views, and then these explored is perplexing.</p> <p>The School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for Proposers &amp; Decision Makers in deprivation reference is always made to rural deprivation issues which pertain to Mablethorpe, the proposed closure should be treated as the closure of a rural school.</p> <p>Local district council officers state that site closure will result in town status removal and reclassification as a large village. A Town Council will look after the affairs of a village. Knock on effects will be enormous for primary schools, services, house prices, job prospects, businesses etc. Governors are ignoring the effect on the community they are not ensuring that the process is correct</p> <p>Consideration of transport issues is a muddle and totally miscalculated. Local companies are already at or near capacity, has the extra cost of hiring contractors from outside been calculated?</p> <p>Consideration should be given to providing additional community services/facilities. The campus is a hub of the community and could provide a role in child care, health care, adult learning, internet access etc. This would be in addition to being taken over by an academy trust.</p>	Y	Y			Y		
Teacher/ School Staff	Y	<p>I clearly object to the Mablethorpe site closing. If other options are being considered such as a free school option I'd be willing to support both sites.</p> <p>One idea going forward is that we could put together an IT support provision for outside establishments for example supporting primary schools - I feel we could extend our departments this way and provide smaller organisations with cost free savings.</p>							
Other	Y	<p>Closing the school will deprive the area. We have social housing being built here and yet will have no secondary school to send these children to. People will not want to move to an area if they think they will have to pay to transport their children to schools outside of Mablethorpe. The school day will be much longer for these children, which will impact on their attainment. Rather than close this school the local education authority should be investing in it.</p>	Y	Y					
Resident	Y	<p>The proposed closure would impact on the pupils and on the parental interaction with their children's education. Pupils will have to travel to Louth, which will have a disruptive effect on their education. In the winter this will involve walking back from the bus stop in the dark, which could be dangerous and distressing. This area is financially deprived with a large percentage of parents who don't own a car. Pupils could miss out on after school activities, which could impact on their education and happiness. Parents will struggle to attend parent's evenings and will struggle to engage with the school.</p>	Y					Y	
Resident	Y	<p>The Mablethorpe campus has a high percentage of SEN pupils with some severe cases. Moving these children to Louth will greatly disrupt them and their learning and due to the numbers at Louth they are unlikely to receive the same care and attention.</p> <p>As this is a deprived area, the sixth formers, many of them who have to manage themselves independently may struggle financially with continuing in education. If they have to travel to Louth they may lose motivation. These young people are more likely not to bother, which will adversely affect the area.</p>		Y					
Resident	Y	<p>Closing the school will affect the pupils and the local economy and population. Children won't want to stay and work in Mablethorpe. The original merger hasn't worked and should be revoked.</p> <p>The current housing development on the Golf Road estate will create more demand for school places. Closing the site may affect the viability of the local primary schools.</p>		Y			Y		

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Resident	Y	<p>Pupils cannot successfully carry out a full day's education after being bussed the distance you propose. Mablethorpe has not been advertised sufficiently hence the falling numbers. There is great support in Mablethorpe for the continuation of secondary education here and also for the recreational purposes for the local communities and visitors. There should have been a public meeting during the consultation period, but not conducted like the previous meetings which were a farce and a complete waste of the public's time.</p> <p>I fully support our steering group's plan for a studio school for 14 to 19 years olds on the Mablethorpe site and keeping an 11-13 provision here for the younger pupils. I realise this will probably mean running the school at a loss initially but surely considerable savings will be made on transport costs?</p> <p>Failing the above perhaps you should look at closing the Louth site and transporting the pupils from there to Mablethorpe. If the Louth parents don't like that idea there are other secondary schools in Louth they could attend, which would help keep those schools open.</p>	Y	Y					Y
Resident	Y	<p>Firstly it is a school not a site and is precious to the town as a meeting place as well as an education centre.</p> <p>Two failing schools were joined and the smaller one is to be sacrificed in favour of the other. what happens when Monks Dyke fails? Will you close that site too? It is too easy when you are not personally involved to take the easy option.</p> <p>Also will you take note of the bullying that is going on towards Tennyson pupils?</p> <p>Finally if you close this school how long before Monks Dyke suffers the same fate?</p>			Y				
Parent/Carer	Y	<p>Since the merger of the two sites we have seen the clubs moved to Louth, which has involved children being bussed out after school or missing out with children from Louth chosen over Mablethorpe students for sport's teams, etc. This is also problematic for parents wishing to support their children at these events. The merger has never proved successful for the children in Mablethorpe.</p> <p>It is a long day for children and costs us £540.00 a year in transport costs which is not easy for any of us to find.</p> <p>The school is a major part of our community and to lose it would be devastating for all. My child has no wish to travel 15 miles to school and should not need to when we have our own school. Take away our school and you will kill off our community.</p> <p>The Louth students have not welcomed our children and they get called names due to coming from Mablethorpe.</p>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent/Carer	Y	<p>There should be another public meeting with a format like the meeting at the Dunes, we feel that the last meeting was very unfair as we wanted to hear the questions, answers and opinions of everyone.</p> <p>We would also like to know what is considered to be the likely effect on the town of Mablethorpe with no secondary school. Had there not been a school here we would not have moved here, so why would anyone else?</p> <p>We feel the closure would be very short sighted as future forecasts predict that more school places will be needed and this without the impact of future migration / refugees coming into the area.</p> <p>Also we have no intention of sending our children to the Louth site if there is any other alternative. Why would we send them that distance to an under achieving school, we thought there was supposed to be a choice of where we can send our children but come next September places in schools that will be closest to us will all be taken.</p>	Y	Y	Y				Y
Resident	Y	I oppose the decision as there is different legislation for Tennyson School due to its rural location than there is for Louth.							
Parent/Carer	Y	Closing the site will reduce the choices available to parents. The Louth site is too far away and John Spendluffe is already oversubscribed. Children from Mablethorpe attending the Louth site are not accepted by the other children. Transport is a big issue particularly for children with special educational needs, medical problems and social and communication problems. It is also a problem for parents who do not drive with regards to out of school activities and emergencies such as sickness.	Y		Y				Y

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Teacher/ School Staff	Y	<p>Letter received from nine members of staff.</p> <p>Why can't Louth be shut? Louth has a higher percentage of falling roll than Mablethorpe which could house all of the pupils. Poor leadership has led to this situation and the falling roll should have been addressed a long time ago. The financial figures quoted have been inconsistent. Much money has been wasted on a new website, a PR company, on supply staff and on a poorly attended Sports Day. Our classrooms are being stripped with resources moved to Louth already. Mablethorpe students lose out to Louth students and are excluded from events and activities. We have put steps in place to improve the school and have begun liaising with feeder schools but need more time to see results. We are also rolling out a new scheme called Positive Discipline, which we are optimistic about.</p> <p>The communication has been poor. We found out about the proposed closure in the local paper during the Summer holidays and a requested meeting never occurred.</p> <p>The information used in the scrutiny report was misleading and in some cases out of date. If students choose not to go to Louth where can they go as John Spendluffe and Birkbeck have a lack of capacity with roll figures set to increase?</p> <p>Mablethorpe is a highly deprived and transient area, which will be severely impacted by the closure of this school. Many of the children have chaotic home lives and rely on the structure and support of the school. Moving them to another school would be disruptive and they may not receive the same level of targeted support in a larger environment. Travel will be an issue for some parents who will struggle to attend school meetings and to transport pupils back to school after appointments. This could lead to poor attendance.</p> <p>We have a lack of trust in the school governors and it is difficult to trust both individual governors as well as the executive head to work in the best interests of the school. Grievances are not dealt with.</p> <p>The school should provide a stable environment for the pupils, but the merger, subsequent redundancies and the decision to move from two year GCSE's to one year GCSE's has caused disruption for the pupils. Students who should be concentrating on their education are genuinely concerned over their futures and what will happen if Mablethorpe closes. Surely this is not something any person needs when trying to prepare for their exams?</p>	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
Other	Y	The families and children living in Mablethorpe and the surrounding area deserve to have a school in their town and not have to be transported to other areas for their education. Shutting the high school will change the whole dynamics of the town. Young families will not want to move into an area without a high school.	Y	Y					
Parent	Y	<p>The initial public meeting was so full it was impossible to ask the questions we had prepared. We need another meeting.</p> <p>The reason the parents have not chosen MDTC since the merger are, lack of investment in the Mablethorpe site and the standards of teaching have fallen since the merger caused by teachers having to divide their time between two sites situated 17 miles apart, which is not feasible. This should have been identified at the time of the merger and this supports an argument that due diligence was not shown at the time.</p> <p>The mileage times stated are incorrect. The children could face 2 - 2.5 hours extension to their school day. This will exclude them from after school activities and the subsequent tiredness could impede their learning.</p> <p>The timing of the original notice of closure was appalling as it occurred just after the start of the summer break when lots of people were on holiday. I believe this was timed to minimise objections.</p> <p>This is the only secondary school in Mablethorpe, whereas Louth has three. I believe the Mablethorpe site is being sacrificed to try and keep the Louth site open.</p> <p>East Lindsey District Council, Louth Town Council and Mablethorpe Town Council have all voted against the closure of the Mablethorpe site.</p> <p>The Mablethorpe site is used for a lot of community events and clubs. These will be lost if the site closes.</p>	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Other	Y	<p>The lack of success of leadership and management at the school has resulted in some children moving to other schools in particular John Spendluffe. Surely the delivery of a parallel curriculum across two sites should have been costed before the merger.</p> <p>Closing the Mablethorpe site will reduce the choices available to parents. Parents from Mablethorpe will not be choosing to send their children to the Louth site of MDTC. Therefore it will not increase the number of pupils who choose to attend nor secure its future sustainability. The nearest school will then be John Spendluffe which is already full and not seeking to expand. It is stated that 60% of students living in the Mablethorpe area choose to travel out of the town to receive secondary education. Most of these pupils only travel 6-8 miles, so the argument cannot be used to justify closing the school and therefore requiring the pupils to travel 17-18 miles to Louth or 12-13 miles to North Somercotes.</p> <p>The public meeting was full and some people were turned away. The format of the meeting did not allow members of the public to hear the questions, arguments or replies.</p> <p>How were students selected for interview and what questions were put to them? The full report wasn't publicly available, so the validity of this process is questionable.</p> <p>On 8th October ELDC passed the motion to support the provision of high quality education and skills training within the town and will support any innovative scheme that may come forward. Yet the academisation of the Louth site of MDTC has been deferred. The poor results were across both sites and the deferral will have done nothing to improve them but it does suggest that the deferral is a political decision likely by the sponsoring academy, who could be unwilling to take on a school whilst operating on two sites and bearing the liability for any costs associated with Mablethorpe.</p> <p>There needs to be a full public meeting at each campus before the end of the statutory consultation period.</p>	Y				Y	Y	
Other	Y								
Other	Y	A petition signed by over 8500 people from the Mablethorpe and wider area (some outside of Lincolnshire) was presented to Lincolnshire County Council on the final day of the representation period. The petition is against the proposal and entitled "Stop the closure of Mablethorpe High School. Save Tennyson save our town". It has come from the Save Tennyson Group.							

	Supports Proposal	Against Proposal	Not For or Against
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
Parent/Carer	6	0	6
Teacher/School Staff	2	0	2
Resident	11	0	11
Governor	0	0	0
Employer/Business	0	0	0
Other LA/Parish Council	0	0	0
Other Family	0	0	0
Other School	0	0	0
Other Governor	0	0	0
Other (not specified)	10	0	10
Louth site is too far away	16		
Detrimental effect on Mablethorpe	14		
Perceived issues with the Louth site	4		
Unfair distribution of secondary provision	5		
Issues with the merger	9		
Children will miss out on after school activities	7		
Another public meeting is required.	7		

