

27 January 2021

Crewkerne and Ilminster School Structure Change Proposals

Dear parent/carer,

I'd like to start by reinforcing what I said to you in my letter dated 22 January. Your contributions to the pre-publication consultation that ran for four weeks before Christmas were gratefully received. We were very impressed by the quality of engagement and the passion you have demonstrated for our excellent schools.

Your responses allowed us to explore a wide range of issues and questions relating to the proposal so we could decide whether to progress with it or to change it. Our summary of what you said and how we responded are available online here:

www.somerset.gov.uk/schoolsconsultation

Having reviewed all of the evidence, a decision was taken on 18 January to progress to another, more formal stage of consultation called a Statutory Consultation, which is required by law. This stage involves the publication of notices, which you will find in today's Chard & Ilminster News.

We are offering members of the public a further opportunity to have their say within the next four weeks - from today until 24 February. This presents the same model as before but provides more detailed information about how we think this might work, based on your questions during the pre-publication consultation.

When the Statutory Consultation has finished, the Council's Cabinet will make a final decision on what will happen to schools in the area.

Consultation responses should be submitted before Wednesday 24 February at 5pm.

You can make your views known in the following ways:

1. Through the online questionnaire available between Wednesday 27 January and Wednesday 24 February at www.somerset.gov.uk/schoolsconsultation
2. In writing to us between Wednesday 27 January and Wednesday 24 February at: 'Crewkerne & Ilminster Consultation, Somerset County Council, County Hall, The Crescent, Taunton TA1 4DY'.
3. By emailing us at crewkerneilminsterschools@somerset.gov.uk between Wednesday 27 January and Wednesday 24 February.
4. By submitting a public question to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 3 March 2021 (or other date to be confirmed). [For more information about this process, click here.](#)
5. By submitting a public question to the Council's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 17 March 2021. [For more information about this process, click here.](#)

We once again encourage you to take part and have your say in our consultation. If you have shared your views already and have nothing further to add, rest assured that responses already received will be reflected in the evidence that will be given to the Council's Cabinet to inform their decision making.

Amelia Walker
Assistant Director, Education, Partnerships and Skills
Somerset County Council