

Please contact: C&A Executive Support  
Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Date: 20.06.2019



**Serving You**

Children and Adults' Services  
Medway Council  
Gun Wharf  
Dock Road  
Chatham  
Kent ME4 4TR

Dear Mr Beamish,

Thank you for your response on 7 June 2019 to our letter dated 6 June 2019 and subsequent correspondence.

We are pleased to note that attempts have been made to address some of the concerns raised around the transport implications of the proposed closure of Stoke Primary School. However, we seek further assurances around the points below relating to a safe and acceptable means of transporting Stoke children to school at Allhallows:

- a) The expectation that the Trust provided minibus transport is formally and publically reviewed after the indicated initial three year period. For those young people impacted on from September, transport will continue to be provided for the time they remain at the school (up to 7 school years)
- b) That the transport provided is flexible to ensure that all pupils can enjoy the additional curricular activities such as breakfast clubs and after school clubs
- c) We would also like to understand the arrangements for pick up and drop off in respect of ensuring pupils are safe and have shelter to protect them from the elements.

Furthermore, given the housing developments set out in the emerging local plan and the potential for further housing developments to be located around Stoke we consider it prudent, as the responsible Local Authority, to keep all options open for school place capacity at this time.

Should the DFE, through its delegations, approve the proposals the Local Authority expects the Trust to continue to work closely with parents during the transition period and to provide comfort that everything is being undertaken to make the changes as smooth as possible with minimal disruption for pupils. Furthermore, our expectation would be for The Trust to retain the buildings and land at Stoke until further negotiations are undertaken on the surrender of the lease

However, when we consider the unprecedented growth predicted on the Hoo Peninsula (and potential for development in and around Stoke), combined with the transport and social implications of closing a rural school, the position of the Local

Authority is still one of objecting to the closure of the Stoke Primary School facility at this time.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Sutherland**  
**Director of People – Children**  
**and Adults'**

**Cllr Martin Potter**  
**Portfolio Holder For**  
**Educational Attainment and**  
**Improvement**