WE WANT YOUR VIEWS
CONSULTATION ON THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED MOVE TO ASYMMETRIC WEEK

WHY ARE THE CHANGES BEING PROPOSED?
Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and its Education and Lifelong Learning Department (E&LL) are facing a challenging budget situation over the next few years. E&LL must prepare to deliver a service to schools with £11 million per year less than is currently available. At the same time we must ensure Curriculum for Excellence is fully implemented and attainment and achievement levels for all pupils continue to rise.

As teachers salaries make up the majority of the schools’ budgets, a managed reduction in teacher numbers is the most viable route to achieving these savings targets. A move to an asymmetric week will assist schools to plan and deliver effective teaching and learning with fewer teachers.

WHAT IS AN ASYMMETRIC WEEK?
Instead of each school day being the same length, the change could mean four days of the week being a little longer with every school finishing earlier on the fifth day. The result would be a four and a half day week in school for pupils without any reduction in the total hours attendance and teaching in the school week. A number of Scottish local authorities are already operating in this way.

WHAT BENEFITS WOULD AN ASYMMETRIC WEEK BRING?
The key benefit will be that for many, teacher training, development sessions and cross-school working groups will be held during the pupil free afternoon. This will mean that teachers will not have to be released from as many classes to attend meetings or training and result in less disruption to the teaching week for pupils.

There is a consensus among all our primary and secondary head teachers that an asymmetric week would allow for greater collaboration between primary and secondary teachers and enhance joint planning around key aspects of Curriculum for Excellence. An asymmetric week will also enable secondary schools to increase the number of courses they are able to offer on a shared basis, through timetable alignment, and as a result increase the choices for pupils.

HAVE YOUR SAY
We know these proposed changes will have an impact on you and your family and we’d like to learn more. Please help us by giving us your feedback below.

ABOUT YOU
Please tick the box or boxes that apply to you. I am …

A PARENT/CARER—PRIMARY SCHOOL
A PARENT/CARER—SECONDARY SCHOOL
A PARENT/CARER—PRIMARY & SECONDARY
A SCHOOL STUDENT
A TEACHER—CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN SCOTTISH BORDERS
A MEMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF—EMPLOYED IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS
AN EMPLOYER—OPERATING IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS
OTHER—PLEASE SPECIFY:
WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FOR YOU?

Please describe any issues and concerns you might have if schools move to an asymmetric week from August 2014:

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

Please give us any other comments you may have, including any benefits you see as a result of a move to an asymmetric week:

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE US YOUR VIEWS.

Your completed form can be handed into your local school, an SBC contact centre or library addressed to: School Week Consultation, Education and Lifelong Learning, Scottish Borders Council. You can also post it to School Week Consultation, Education and Lifelong Learning, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA or give us your views online at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolweek

BY FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2014

If you have any queries about this consultation, please email: ellicstransformation@scotborders.gov.uk