**Comments / Responses to Consultation on Atlantic Academy Portland Admissions Policy for 2019**

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| **Prioritisation of Aspirations Academies** |
| **Children living locally**  **Community Ethos** |
| Are you aware that this school replaced 2 Infants, 1 Junior, 1 Primary and 1 Secondary school that have provided the education on the Island for ALL the children for over a hundred years, we then became inflicted with IPACA who wanted to shut down all the schools to have the children on one site except the underhill infants and juniors who had a new school built at Osprey Quay for ALL Underhill Infant and Junior School children considered too young to travel the distance to Southwell.  A public enquiry took place over several weeks which I attended daily as the main objector against the educational facility being located at Southwell Business Park way outside the hub of the community and outside walking distance for the majority of the children in the Island. But Mr Gove instructed the planning inspector to grant permission even though he had no idea of the location or even where Portland was. His mania for Academies appear to have dulled his brain about logistics and communities.  The opening of IPACA at Southwell witnessed the biggest evacuation of children off the Island that we have ever known, in fact in the 1970’s we fought DCC to keep our children on the Island which they finally agreed to. IPACA achieved what DCC was unable to. Many of the younger children went to St Georges Primary school as this was within easy walking distance for parents with young children. With the majority of pre-school facilities plus St Georges has an excellent reputation.  Sadly the building at Southwell is now our only school on the Island to cater for all ages of children, many from deprived homes.  This school as the main provider of education on Portland should and MUST provide education for all the Islands children, not a selective few to gain government brownie points. Millions of pounds of tax payers money has been spent on this building to supposedly make it fit for purpose for the ISLANDS CHILDREN, NOT A SELECTIVE FEW. This Island is a community made up of Underhill and Tophill. I have served as a local Councillor since 1980 therefore I feel able to speak for the people.  I sincerely hope you will review the situation and seek to make the appropriate provision for the Islands children as a priority now and for the long term. Don’t forget all those empty school buildings waiting to be developed into more housing. We already have planning permissions awarded for over 200 more homes on Portland over the next few years, none of those 200 included developing the 4 school sites left redundant thanks to Ipaca.  Are you aware of the prospective increase in numbers over the next few years? |
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| I would like to make a few points regarding the consultation process for the proposed move from OQ to Southwell.  Firstly, does anyone realise the detrimental effect of not having a school in Underhill will have on the local population?    This is already a declining area with high rates deprivation and as an Underhill resident, I am shocked to hear that there will be no School in Underhill.  For many generations there has been a school and in fact two schools and a maintained Nursery serving the catchment area, even then there were parents who struggled to get their children in on time and that’s without having to catch a bus!  Your plan I understand, is to move reception and Nursery so that they are the same site as communication has been a concern, however I appreciate the planned building is in the same area but in a ‘separate’ building away from the main site.  Communication and transition links etc will still be difficult especially as it is exposed to all the elements such as high wind, not to mention moving very young children to be inclusive to the main site will have Health and Safety issues.  As for your 6th form plans at OQ, well IPACA tried to establish this and IT DID NOT WORK!! what makes you think it will now?  I went to the opening of the sixth form and spoke to a few of the pupils, the majority stated they didn't want to do their further education on the island, they preferred to be in Weymouth as they said Portland had nothing to offer teenagers.  This ‘right of passage’ was the same when I left School..... This feeling amongst our young adults will still be the same ASK THEM!!!  I am totally against this proposal |

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| **Reduction in PAN** | **Transport/Travel Concerns** |
| Following discussions at Full Town Council meeting on 15th November 2017  the members of Portland Town Council are in agreement that the proposal to reduce the PAN, both at Primary and Secondary levels, creates a situation which will result in insufficient education spaces on Portland for the children of Portland. As such, we believe the argument that the Southwell Campus lacks the space to accommodate the current PAN to be invalid in that the purpose built Primary Education facility at Osprey Quay is currently under-utilised and would provide adequate space for the Primary education in the Underhill area thus providing education within that part of the community for our youngest children. We believe that local provision for these children takes precedence over any offer of 6th form places. We also have considerable doubts about the viability of 6th form provision on the Island.  The context in which a Portland Academy came into existence was based upon the acknowledgement that children on Portland would, if they and their parents wanted, have a space at a school on the Island. We cannot allow a situation where this commitment is undermined in order to achieve better results at any expense. |  |
| I am responding on behalf of Dorset County Council – and wish to make the following observations:     1. Change of PAN – The LA’s position has to be one of acceptance of the proposal but given new housing, possible diminishing capacity in Weymouth for Portland children and other possible pressures we would want assurance that if and when there was insufficient places in the Portland area at either point of entry (rec and Year 7), that Atlantic would increase its PAN through either a bulge or permanently to ensure that there are sufficient places for local children. The Local Authority would also expect that should there be pressure in year – they will be asked to take over number – in both Rec/KS1 and KS2 to ensure a local place as well as limiting the LA’s exposure to increased transport costs. 2. The Local Authority will expect that all local Portland children will be accommodated in Year 7 as may apply. Though the Academy is identifying only 60 additional places at Year 7, over and above the 60 primary places, the Local Authority would expect that all 120 places are offered regardless of the number of primary stay on children, in order to ensure that local secondary aged children may attend the academy as may apply. 3. The Local Authority would also expect that for Secondary in-year applications, the Atlantic Academy will retain capacity in all year groups to allow the placement of In Year applications from those settling on Portland. 4. The Local Authority would also expect that should the need arise that Atlantic would accept pupils over PAN in year as may be required in order to ensure local places for local children. |  |

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| **Finance Issues** | **Policy Wording** |
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**Responses From**

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| Paul Kimber | Councillor |
| Ray Nowak | Chair of Portland Town Council |
| Margaret Leicester | Councillor |
| Wayne Day | Underhill resident |
| Ed Denham | School Place Sufficiency Manager DCC |
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