



# Statement of Community Involvement

## Co-op Academy Smithies Moor, Heckmondwike

Prepared by Stonyrock Limited on behalf of Bowmer + Kirkland

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025



Co-op Academy  
Smithies Moor



Department  
for Education

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## 1.0 Engagement summary

### 1.1 Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared on behalf of Bowmer + Kirkland (B+K) by Stonyrock Ltd. It supports the planning application for the regeneration of Co-op Academy Smithies Moor, Leeds Old Road, Heckmondwike, WF16 9BB,

The scope of the engagement exercise was to inform the community and stakeholders about the revised proposals and seek their feedback. The exercise complemented the consultations undertaken by other members of the project team who continue to liaise with statutory consultees and Council officers through the planning process.

- The community engagement strategy has been to involve and seek feedback from;
  - Neighbours of the site (residential and businesses)
  - Parents/carers, staff and governors
  - Political and community stakeholders



- Headlines from the community engagement:
  - Engagement with Councillors and community groups.
  - Letter invitations posted to 151 neighbours of site.
  - Over 1200 flyers distributed to the community.
  - Email invitations issued to stakeholders including Councillors, community representatives, community groups and other local schools.
  - The school issued invitations to parents/carers.
  - Public exhibition on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025 at Co-op Academy Smithies Moor.
  - Project website [smithiesmoorplans.co.uk](http://smithiesmoorplans.co.uk)
  - Feedback form to share views.
  - Press advertisement
  - 13 people attended the public exhibition.
  - 6 people completed the feedback form.
  - Project telephone and email address have been used by the community and enquiries responded to.

Feedback has been responded in section four of this document. Those who completed feedback forms selected the two most important key elements of the proposals to be; modern, inspiring and sustainable primary academy and transformation of the learning environment for all pupils and staff.

## **1.2 Community engagement guidance**

In undertaking community engagement for the plans, Stonyrock followed best practice provided by national and local legislation and guidance.

### **1.2.1 The Localism Act 2011**

- The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for developers, in certain circumstances, to carry out pre-application consultation when making certain applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) (see Section 61W). The Act also places a duty on developers to take account of responses arising from this process.
- Section 61W outlines that developers must notify the local community about its proposals to “bring the proposed application to the attention of a majority of the persons who live at, or otherwise occupy, premises in the vicinity of the land.” It states that such publicity must explain how the developer can be contacted by those “wishing to comment on or collaborate...on the design of the proposed development.” Feedback received during consultation must then be taken into consideration by the developer.

### **1.2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024**

- The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) recognises the benefit of early engagement with stakeholders and communities, stating that:
  - Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community. Section 4, paragraph 39.
  - Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community. Section 4, paragraph 40.

- They [Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications. Section 4, paragraph 41
- So to is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process. Section 12, paragraph 131.

### **1.2.3 Planning Practice Guidance Revision 2019**

- The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) is an on-line resource, which is designed to bring together planning practice guidance for England in an accessible and useable way. The Guidance provides further detail to assist in the understanding of planning policies set out within the NPPF, including requirements for pre-application engagement.
- The section entitled Guidance Before Submitting a Planning Application sets out the process and expectations on pre-application discussions. It states: “Pre-application engagement by prospective applicants offers significant potential to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and improve the quality of planning applications and their likelihood of success. This can be achieved by:
  - providing an understanding of the relevant planning policies and other material considerations associated with a proposed development.
  - working collaboratively and openly with interested parties at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development, including, where relevant, the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing.
  - discussing the possible mitigation of the impact of a proposed development, including any planning conditions
  - identifying the information required to accompany a formal planning application, thus reducing the likelihood of delays at the validation stage. The information requested must be reasonable.
- It states that “pre-application engagement with the community is encouraged where it will add value to the process and the outcome.”

### **1.2.4 Kirklees Council Statement of Community Involvement**

- Kirklees Council Statement of Community Involvement Adopted March 2024. The community involvement and consultation methods detailed within the SCI are based on national planning legislation and regulations as well as the Council’s own policy and procedures. The document sits alongside ‘Our Development Management Charter’ December 2024.
- Kirklees Council Development Management Charter details the Validation Requirements for the Submission of Planning Applications, May 2024 including the submission of an SCI for major planning applications.

### **1.2.5 Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)**

- Stonyrock Limited is registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office, the UK’s independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals.

### 1.3 Engagement programme

The open and collaborative engagement programme was designed to:

- Connect with stakeholder groups
- Establish a collaborative relationship with stakeholders
- Complement the engagement with statutory consultees
- Present the revised plans clearly and widely
- Listen to views from the community
- Respond to any issues raised.

Activity	Date
Early engagement with Birstall Victoria ARLFC	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Early engagement with Fairfield School	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Invite to MP, Councillors including leadership	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Invitation to all parents/carers	14 <sup>**</sup> August 2025
Letter posted to 151 immediate neighbours	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Email to community stakeholders and local schools	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Website launched	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Flyer delivery to local community	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Local newspaper advertisement	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
<b>PUBLIC EXHIBITION (5.00pm-7.00pm)</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> August 2025</b>

Engagement activity will continue throughout the planning process and beyond and will include:

- Update emails to subscribers
- Support school sharing updates with staff and families
- Letters or newsletters as required
- Meetings with stakeholders and neighbours
- Website updates
- Guidance on how to comment on the application
- Next steps through construction until project completion.


### 1.4 Website

Our project website [smithiesmoorplans.co.uk](http://smithiesmoorplans.co.uk) provided the opportunity to review the proposals and leave feedback.

The website launched on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to allow the community early sight of the proposals and to ask questions of the project team. The website was updated following the public exhibition with detailed exhibition display after the event. This ensured those unable to attend or those seeking further reference could view the proposals. The website had 115 unique users during the consultation period, 14<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

**Planning for our future**

HOME   LAYOUT   DESIGN   NEWS   HAVE YOUR SAY



Artist's impression of proposed main entrance

**Bowmer + Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor on plans to redevelop Co-op Academy Smithies Moor in Heckmondwike. This website supports our programme of community engagement and will be updated as the plans progress.**

The current building at the school is in a poor condition and approaching the end of its useable life span. The proposals include the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new school building, new external sports facilities and layout.

The DfE has tasked Bowmer + Kirkland with developing a scheme that will: better accommodate pupils, staff and the community; enable the school to remain operational on site during construction; achieve net zero carbon in operation; and provide improved facilities.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
Click here to comment on the plans

**REGISTER FOR UPDATES**  
Click here so we can keep you informed.

If you know of anyone in the community who is digitally isolated please ask them to call us on 07592 570528 so we can share information with them.

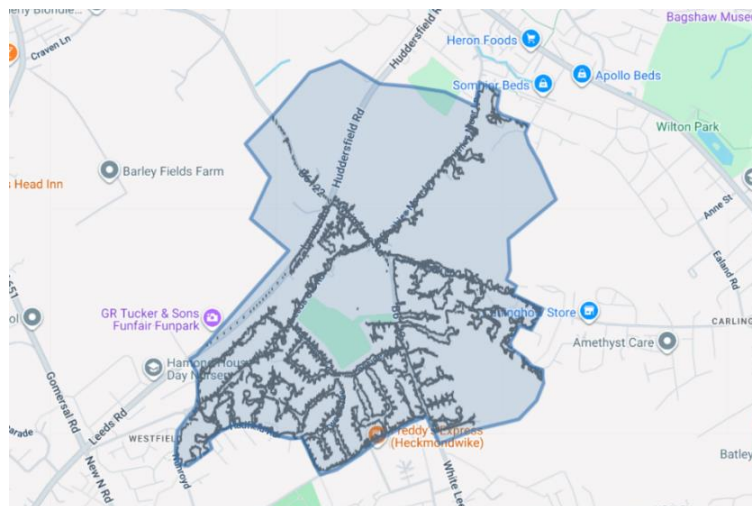
**CONTACT US**  
info@smithiesmoorplans.co.uk  
07592 570528

[Privacy policy](#)

## 1.5 Digitally isolated

We informed those without internet access about the plans via a newspaper advertisement, letters and flyers.

The map below shows flyer delivery carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> August to 1246 residential and commercial properties.



One neighbour of site contacted the project team by telephone and their feedback is incorporated in the SCI.

### 1.6 Media Coverage

- A quarter-page advertisement was published in the Dewsbury Reporter, Batley News and Spenborough Guardian on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025 with a group audience of 17,490.
- A Facebook post by Co-op Academy Smithies Moor with 272 followers, received 12 likes, 6 comments and 2 shares.
- A Facebook post by Kim Leadbeater MP with 7.9k followers, received 112 reactions, 204 comments and 1 share.

#### Batley & Birstall News – Advertisement – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Station Coaches**  
AUGUST 2025

Thurs 18th	York	£15
Sat 19th	Shefferson	£25
Sun 20th	Claxton	£21
Thurs 21st	Leigham, News & Settle	£21
Fri 22nd	Leeds at North Stn, Featherstone & Southgate	£25
Sat 23rd	Bury Market	£15
Sun 24th	Keatonville & Ray	£21
Mon 25th	Whitby	£21
Tue 26th	Leeds Windermere & Ardsley	£25
Wed 27th	Beverly Market & Southgate	£21
Thu 28th	Bury Market	£15
Fri 29th	Southport	£21

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Wed 3rd	Bury Market	£15
Sat 6th	Southport	£21

**Charity asks for support as it launches urgent fundraising appeal**

**01924 477230**  
CALL NOW TO REQUEST OUR BROCHURE  
LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-4.30PM  
(Excluding Bank Holidays) | VISA | MASTERCARD

**Planning for our future**  
PUBLIC EXHIBITION

**Co-op Academy Smithies Moor**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
AUGUST 2025

#### Co-op Academy Smithies Moor Facebook post – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Co-op Academy Smithies Moor**  
20 August at 13:11

Community Consultation Event

We're excited to share plans for our brand new school! 🎉

- 📅 Date: Thursday 21st August
- 🕒 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
- 📍 Location: Co-op Academy Smithies Moor, Leeds Old Road, Heckmondwike, WF16 9BB

Come along and meet the project team from Bowmer & Kirkland alongside colleagues from Co-op Academies Trust. This is your chance to see the vision, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

👉 Together, we're building something special for our community.

Artist's impression of proposed main entrance

12 6 comments 2 shares

#### Kim Leadbeater MBE – Facebook post 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**Kim Leadbeater MBE**  
21 August at 21:50

This evening I attended the Community Consultation at Co-op Academy Smithies Moor to find out more about the exciting plans for a brand new school. The team behind the project were extremely helpful and it was good to see residents calling in to ask questions. This lovely local school is long overdue a makeover, and with more facilities, especially outdoors for PE and play, the pupils and staff will be delighted. There will also be better parking and improved security. More information can be found on the dedicated planning website - <https://smithiesmoorplans.co.uk> #Spenn Valley #Education

112 201 comments 1 share

## 2.0 Engagement activity

### 2.1 School community

The school community was informed of the public exhibition by the school by email and a school Facebook post.

The exhibition display has been left with the school and the feedback form left open so that staff and parents can be encouraged to continue to have their say at the start of the new term, September 2025.

### 2.2 Political stakeholders

Prior to the consultation launch following a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise, political representatives and community stakeholders were contacted. All Councillors were emailed details of the proposals and exhibition and will be kept informed as the project progresses. No Councillors attended at the public exhibition.

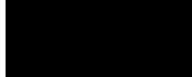
Kim Leadbeater MBE Member of Parliament for Spen Valley attended the public exhibition and shared details of the proposals on her Facebook page encouraging constituents to engage in the consultation process.

### 2.3 Immediate neighbours

151 immediate neighbours of site received a letter inviting them to the public exhibition to discuss the proposals and were provided with contact information for the project team, see sample letter below. 1246 flyers were distributed in the area. Some registered for project updates ahead of the public exhibition.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED



11<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear neighbour

**Co-op Academy Smithies Moor - Planning for Our Future - Invitation to Public Exhibition**

I am writing to invite you to a public exhibition on proposals to redevelop Co-op Academy Smithies Moor. The drop-in event will take place at the school, on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025, 5.00pm - 7.00pm** where you can view the plans, meet members of the project team and share your feedback.

The current building at the school is in a poor condition and approaching the end of its useable life span. The proposals include the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new school building, new external sports facilities and layout.

The Department for Education (DfE) has tasked Bowmer + Kirkland with developing a scheme that will: better accommodate pupils, staff and the community; enable the school to remain operational on site during construction; achieve net zero carbon in operation; and provide improved facilities.

If you are unable to attend, the exhibition display will be available on the project website [smithiesmoorplans.co.uk](http://smithiesmoorplans.co.uk) along with a feedback form.

Please contact us at [info@smithiesmoorplans.co.uk](mailto:info@smithiesmoorplans.co.uk) with any questions and to register for updates. If you do not have internet access, call 07592 570528 so we can send information by post.

Your views are important to us. Please share your feedback by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**. The project team will carefully review your feedback along with that from other consultees before submitting a planning application to the local planning authority.

We look forward to welcoming you to the exhibition.





Yours faithfully

Rebecca Darling - Community Engagement

Stonyrock is providing community engagement support to the project team.  
address - Stonyrock Limited, 26a Childs Hill Road, Bookham, Surrey, KT23 3QG

### 2.3.1 Fairfield School

Fairfield School Headteacher, Senior Business Leader, Pinnacle FM representatives and Kirklees Officers joined a meeting with Bowmer + Kirkland and Stonyrock Limited in June 2025. The presentation is provided below.

<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Bowmer + Kirkland introduction meeting</b></p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Bowmer + Kirkland's draft construction and replacement facilities plans at Co-op Smithies Moor Academy with Fairfield School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Existing site</li> <li>Construction phases 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Completed site layout/B+K decant</li> <li>Next steps</li> </ul> <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Ian Youlic, B+K, Bid Manager          Libera Lawson, B+K, Contracts Manager          Rebecca Darling, Stonyrock, Community Engagement</p>	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Existing site</b></p> 
<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed construction phase one</b></p> 	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed construction phase two</b></p> 
<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Completed site layout - B+K access road decant</b></p> 	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Next steps</b></p> <pre>         graph TD             A[Meetings with stakeholders regarding draft proposals] --&gt; B[Co-op Smithies Moor decant into new building]             B --&gt; C[Construction phase two - approximately 11 months]             C --&gt; D[B+K decant the site and access road]             D --&gt; E[Co-op Smithies Moor external facilities fully operational]             F[Community engagement of proposals] --&gt; B             G[Construction phase one - approximately 19 months] --&gt; B             H[Planning application submission to Kirklees Council] --&gt; I[If planning permission is approved, start on site]             I --&gt; B             </pre>

### 2.4 Community groups

Community groups including local churches, heritage and local interest were contacted prior to the exhibition, encouraged to share information and will be kept informed as the project progresses.

#### 2.4.1 Birstall Victoria ARLFC (BVARLFC)

BVARLFC who utilise the school changing facilities as well as the adjacent playing fields were engaged early in the consultation process. A meeting was held to discuss the proposals and construction phases with BVARLFC Chairman/Secretary and Treasurer with Bowmer + Kirkland, Kirklees Council and Stonyrock in April 2025. The presentation is provided below.

<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Bowmer + Kirkland introduction meeting</b></p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Bowmer + Kirkland's draft construction and replacement facilities plan at Co-op Smithies Moor Academy with Birstall Victoria AFLFC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Existing site</li> <li>Construction phases 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Proposed site plan</li> <li>Proposed changing facilities</li> <li>Next steps</li> </ul> <p>Attendees:</p> <p>Elise Arnold, B+K, Assistant Design Manager          Ian Vaulks, B+K, BID Manager          Liaison Lawson, B+K, Contracts Manager          Rebecca Darling, Stonyrock, Community Engagement          Andy Vaughan, Kirklees Council, Design Advisor          Sarah Jo Grishuff, B+K AFLFC, Treasurer          Nolan Grishuff, B+K AFLFC, Chairman</p>	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Existing site</b></p>  <p>Points for discussion:</p> <p>What are the club's typical demands of the facilities?</p> <p>What hours? Days? Parking? Access?</p>
<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed construction phase 1</b></p> 	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed construction phase 1 – rugby access</b></p>  <p>Points for discussion:</p> <p>Review temporary access to current changing facilities and pitch access for maintenance.</p>
<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed construction phase 2</b></p>  <p>Points for discussion:</p> <p>Fire service access will remain along yellow access road in this phase.</p>	<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Proposed changing facilities</b></p>  <p>Points for discussion:</p> <p>Does the club have any feedback on the layout?</p> <p>To meet the Sport England requirements the DFL have approved the following changing facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 x 2000 changing rooms with shower (maximum group size 2000)</li> </ul> <p>This facility includes provision for two WC's, four showers, and first aid room of 100sqm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFL requirements (to meet changing rooms that comply with both Sport England and Rugby Football Union (RFL) standards.</li> </ul> <p>Working Draft - Proposed Changing Room Layout          06/08/20</p>
<p><b>BOWMER KIRKLAND</b></p> <p><b>Next steps</b></p> 	

## 2.5 Public exhibition

The public exhibition was held on 21<sup>st</sup> August at Co-op Academy Smithies Moor. The community were invited by letter, flyer, social media posts, newspaper advertisement, stakeholder emails and parents/carers by school email. The event was run as a drop-in session from 5.00pm to 7.00pm, 13 people attended. The exhibition display is provided below:

Scan the QR code to access our feedback form and share your views

## Welcome



Welcome to our exhibition on plans to rebuild Co-op Academy Smiths Moor in Heckmondwike. Bower & Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor. The project team has been working closely with the school in preparation of the transformational plans you can see today.

**What is the School Rebuilding Programme?** What is being proposed?  
The plans represent a major investment from the DfE and a more welcoming, engaging and safe environment to teach and learn. The proposals include the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new school building, new external sports facilities and layout. The new building will be largely constructed off-site to help minimise disruption to neighbours.

**How can the community share their views?**  
Below we outline our planning application we welcome feedback from the community. Please share your views via our website, scanning the QR code above or by filling in one of the feedback forms available here today. If you have friends or family who are unable to attend, the website display is available at [enquiries@bkw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bkw.co.uk)

**Who are a team who work hard to inspire and promote positive learning for all the children who attend Co-op Academy Smiths Moor.** We are a school determined that our children will achieve in all that they do and for the level that they can. Following an extensive design process with the DfE and specialists on the design team we are delighted to be able to share with you our proposals for the future of our school. The plans will deliver a more sustainable and purpose appropriate education facility where we can meet our core values to be ready, respectful and safe.


Mr. Smeaton Executive Headteacher

## Planning for Our Future

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Scan the QR code to access our feedback form and share your views

## Project Team



**Department for Education**  
The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and wider jobs in England. Co-op Academy Smiths Moor was granted through the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme due to the need to address the condition issues in the existing building.

**BOWER & KIRKLAND**  
Bower & Kirkland is appointed to the DfE's national construction framework and is the contractor selected under this framework. Bower & Kirkland is one of the UK's largest privately owned construction contractors and is active in most market sectors, including education. Bower & Kirkland will manage all aspects of the project to ensure the works are carried out safely, on time, to the right quality and with the least disruption possible to neighbours.

**Co-op Academies Trust**  
Co-op Academies Trust is a group of academies led by the values underpinning the cooperative movement, but help, self-reliance, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. Our Trust is proud to be sponsored by the Co-op Group, a partnership that brings invaluable expertise and support from one of the UK's most respected businesses. Representatives from the Co-op of strategic partners, staff and other members on our Academy Community Council.

**Pick Everard Architects**  
Pick Everard Architects dedicated education team has a formidable reputation for creating exceptional learning environments. Every Pick Everard project focuses on the learning objectives of our clients and their stakeholders, combining their education expertise with our design skills to deliver results that genuinely meet their needs.

**One Environment**  
One Environment is a happy oversight that surrounds and complements the plans we present, our landscape architecture and urban design teams value soft-landscaped environments, blending aesthetics with natural elements in an eco-friendly, open-air setting, often rooftop green. One Environment are supporting the project team with a focus on environmental performance and sustainable development.

**WSP Planning Consultancy and Heritage**  
WSP Planning Consultancy and Heritage teams work with clients and design teams to secure planning permission for new development. Securing sustainable future uses for land and buildings, WSP work collaboratively to balance the interests of key stakeholders and the requirements of the planning system.


**Stonyrock**  
Stonyrock has been supporting Bower & Kirkland with community engagement services for over a decade. Providing the tools to engage with neighbours through the planning process from scheme conception to completion. By enabling conversations we help the project team understand the views of residents and other stakeholders.

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## Layout



The layout of the site has been a key consideration in planning the regeneration of Co-op Academy Smiths Moor and includes the following elements:

- Welcoming and permanent main arrival
- Efficient car parking, designated loading area and clear pedestrian routes
- Improved levels of security, internet access for vehicles and pedestrians
- Maintain majority of trees around site boundary
- Complement the built area creating more valuable outdoor space
- Careful consideration of planning to the rugby pitches, Farfield School and surrounding homes
- Improved access for community use of facilities outside of school hours
- New changing facilities for Bristol Victoria AFLFC

**External sports provision**  
Key points:


- Improved site levels enables new soft PE area with mini soccer pitch and 50m running lanes
- Hard PE area - Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for football, tennis and basketball
- Fully accessible outside play areas for primary, infants and juniors adjacent to classrooms

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## Design



Matching the vision of Co-op Academy Smiths Moor the architects have followed a comprehensive set of design principles including:

- Creating a more compact single-story footprint with less energy at school hours
- Ensuring the existing school can remain operational throughout construction
- Energy efficiency - the new building will be net zero carbon in operation
- Materials and building technology that create a low-impact environment taking advantage of natural light
- Separation of key stages, connecting by secure external areas and excellent passive supervision
- Open hall, outdoor changing rooms and reception clustered to assist with community access
- External materials chosen in support of views into school site

**Sustainability credentials**  
The new building delivered under the School Rebuilding Programme will be Net Zero Carbon in operation. Bower & Kirkland uses a 'Fabric First' approach which ensures the fabric, heating, ventilation, water and lighting systems are designed to be energy efficient and robust. The following sustainability and biodiversity supporting aspects are being considered for the new building:

- bio-solar roof
- maximising daylight penetration in design to reduce use of artificial lighting
- minimisation of construction waste and ensuring a high percentage of what is generated is collected from landfill through reuse or recycling
- water users are kept at a manageable level allowing control to be achieved without the use of air conditioning
- effective surface water management
- air sourced heat pumps
- reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through incorporation of high insulation standards
- reduction of water use in building facilities
- additional trees will be planted, while majority of existing trees will be maintained
- introduction of habitat areas as well as bird and bat nesting boxes and bug hotels
- compliant with latest building regulations and the DfE's standards of Be Lean, Be Clean and Be Green

## Planning for Our Future

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## Construction Phasing

Bower & Kirkland has extensive experience of managing sites where the school remains open. Modern Methods of Construction and optimal components for efficient manufacturing reduce time on-site and improve health and safety. Bower & Kirkland will establish noise mitigation and an quality dust management plan. Pupils' safety and the maintenance of high-quality education are paramount. Following planning approval, approval of the proposals the main construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years.

**Phase one**  
The first phase will see the creation of new access to the site via White Lane Road and the set up of the site management compound. The existing building will remain operational while the new building is constructed.

**Phase two**  
Following the school access into the new building, demolition of the current school will commence with contractor parking area moving to the front of the school site on South Old Road and staff parking of the rear.

**Phase three**  
The third phase will see the new landscaping, parking and sports provision to the front of the school become operational while the site team complete the MUGA and finally make good the area used for temporary access.



## Planning for Our Future

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## Social Value



For Bower & Kirkland creating social value means making a positive impact on people's lives and their local communities. For the proposed Co-op Academy Smiths Moor scheme, Bower & Kirkland will meet the DfE Framework and Education Strategy Council's social value expectations, and comply with the Public Services Social Value Act by:

- creating a social value plan, setting projects to specific KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and monitoring progress
- Understanding community needs and collaborating with relevant stakeholders to meet them
- Using a social value calculator (SOMA) to quantify social value (in £)
- documenting social value impact through case studies
- providing local Level placements
- participating in local education programmes
- offer site visits for local schools and organise an site for head teaching

Once planning permission has been granted Bower & Kirkland will set targets on the following KPIs:

- spent with local suppliers
- employment of local labour
- modify the local Jobs Hub of site vacancies
- average local apprentices

**Next Steps**

- This exhibition display is available on the project website
- Please share your feedback via the QR code, paper forms available today, the website or by email by **Monday 14th September 2025**
- The project team will issue your comments together with those from other stakeholders before submitting a planning application to Kirkstall Borough Council
- The detailed planning application documents will be available on the Council planning pages ahead of the local authority making their decision on the application
- If the plans are approved construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years including final landscaping

**Thank you for coming to our exhibition.**

- Modern, inspiring and sustainable primary academy
- Enable Co-op Academy Smiths Moor to make savings on running costs
- Transformation of the learning environment for all pupils and staff
- High quality architectural design which meets needs of a primary school
- Landscape design that responds to the site's gradient and carefully considers surrounding properties
- Improved opportunities for community use of new school facilities, including changing rooms by Bristol Victoria AFLFC
- Improved security and safeguarding features
- Comprehensive construction management which means needs of a primary school

## Planning for Our Future

www.smithiesmoorplans.co.uk

Members of the project team answering questions represented:

- Department for Education (DfE)
- Main Contractor - Bowmer + Kirkland
- Co-op Academies Trust
- Technical Advisors – Turner & Townsend
- Landscape Architects – One Environments
- Planning Consultants - WSP
- Community Engagement – Stonyrock co-ordinated the event

Photographs from the public exhibition



## 3.0 Community feedback and responses

Community feedback is detailed below along with responses from the project team. Other technical reports accompanying the application provide more detail on the proposals and are available to view on the Council's planning portal.

### 3.1 Public exhibition feedback and responses

In total 13 people attended the public exhibition, including some teachers and immediate neighbours from both White Lee Road and Leeds Old Road made themselves known. Kim Leadbeater MBE, Member of Parliament for Spenn Valley attended the public exhibition, spending time the contractors discussing the construction phasing, wider benefits of the proposals for the community and sharing her support.

Exhibition attendees' feedback and responses are provided below.

Feedback	Response
<i>Concerns regarding parking resulting from rugby club visitors, school staff and parents at drop off and pick up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposal does not include wider infrastructure improvements.</li> <li>▪ A Travel Plan will be submitted with the planning application. The school encourage all staff, students and visitors to use sustainable transport options and this is facilitated by the site accessibility.</li> <li>▪ The pedestrian and vehicular access are separate, with the existing pedestrian entrance to the west of the site and the existing vehicular access to the north of the site retained. A new entrance for pedestrians and cyclists is provided off Leeds Old Road.</li> <li>▪ In support of the Travel Plan, there is improved pedestrian access and cycle parking is provided with canopy for 40 bikes.</li> <li>▪ The proposals include improved staff car parking arrangements including 20 parking bays (2 accessible, 4 EV and 1 minibus parking space. Service vehicles will utilise the same vehicle entrance with a dedicated turning space adjacent to the bin store.</li> </ul>
<i>Support for the retention of Old Leeds Road entrance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The retention of current access routes on Old Leeds Road was well received.</li> <li>▪ Pupils will benefit from a vastly improved and accessible new school with efficient staff parking and clear pedestrian routes and improved security.</li> <li>▪ The pedestrian and vehicular access are separate, with the existing pedestrian entrance to the west of the site and the existing vehicular access to the north of the site retained. A new entrance for pedestrians and cyclists is provided off Leeds Old Road.</li> </ul>
<i>Management of construction traffic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction access as agreed in principle with Kirklees Council, will be via the creation of a new temporary access gate off White Lee Road and temporary vehicle access to the rear of the school.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The temporary access will be safely segregated from the rugby pitch and other field users. The field will be restored to its original state as part of the final landscaping works.</li> <li>▪ Bowmer + Kirkland are highly experienced developers using traffic and construction management plans to minimise congestion at school pick up/drop off times, it is likely that Kirklees Council will condition construction deliveries during school pick up/drop off periods.</li> <li>▪ Residents were pleased to learn construction traffic would be managed within the construction compound entrance and haul road off White Lee Road to minimise the occurrence of idling delivery vehicles.</li> </ul>
<i>Retention of construction parking/haul road</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The construction haul road is temporary only and there are no plans for this to be of permanent use by the rugby club. The temporary access is required to facilitate construction and will be removed at the conclusion of the works.</li> </ul>
<i>Construction phasing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The construction phases will be submitted as part of the planning application.</li> <li>▪ The first phase will see the creation of new access to the site via White Lee Road and the set-up of the site management compound. The existing building will remain operational whilst the new building is constructed.</li> <li>▪ Following the school decant into the new building, demolition of the current school will commence with contractor parking now moving to the front of the school site on Leeds Old Road and staff parking at the rear.</li> <li>▪ The third phase will see the new landscaping, staff parking and sports provision to the front of the school become operational whilst the site team complete the PE areas and make good the area used for temporary access.</li> </ul>
<i>Design and layout</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall the design and layout were welcomed.</li> <li>▪ School staff were pleased to see the new design, stating that the fit for primary purpose would help local children have the best learning outcome and be safe in their new home.</li> <li>▪ The new layout, room sizes and SGR rooms would have a positive impact on teaching and learning.</li> </ul>
<i>Encroachment on rugby pitches to facilitate school build.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendees were pleased to learn that the proposals do not encroach on the rugby pitches.</li> <li>▪ The school is being built on the current hardstanding area adjacent to the playing fields, with a small section of the playing fields utilised for the footprint of the building.</li> <li>▪ The council has gifted the additional small section of land required to transform the school site. The remaining area of the field continues to be under the ownership of Kirklees Council.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Feedback forms

Attendees of the exhibition were encouraged to complete the paper feedback form or the online feedback form. Three forms were completed online and three paper copies were submitted at the public exhibition. The feedback has been combined and is summarised below. A copy of the feedback form is provided.

Local residents and Co-op Academy Smithies Moor staff completed the feedback form and were unanimous in their support for the proposals.

The two elements of greatest importance are a modern, inspiring and sustainable primary school and transformation of the learning environment for all pupils and staff.

Individuals were asked to provide their own comments. Feedback is responded to below.

Feedback	Response
<i>The layout and room sizes along with the SGR rooms will have a positive impact on teaching and learning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We were pleased individuals took the time to share their support for the proposals, particularly regarding the school layout and design meeting the needs of a primary school.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The layout considers the significant level change across the site (4.5m from southwest to northeast boundary) and its location within in a Coal Authority Development High Risk Area.</li> <li>▪ The building is designed specifically to support primary education offering separate accessible outside play areas for nursery, infants and juniors adjacent to classrooms and all classrooms provided with external access.</li> <li>▪ Externally improved site levels provide new soft PE areas with mini soccer pitch and 50m running lanes and hard PE area for football, tennis and basketball.</li> </ul>
<p><i>To have a school fit for the purpose for our primary children to have the best outcome for learning. To be safe in a new build. Great plans.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As highlighted above we are pleased to receive positive feedback on the design and layout.</li> <li>▪ The school will have a newly landscaped spacious main arrival area to the front of the school which includes seating areas for drop off and collection, in addition the proposals include dedicated nursery infant and junior play areas, separated with 1.2m high fencing; play areas; soft PE including 50m running track and mini football pitch markings; hard PE with pitch marketings for football, tennis and basketball; forest school; adventure play area.</li> <li>▪ Access to adjacent rugby playing fields will be retained.</li> <li>▪ Site safety is reinforced with access Intercom provided at main gates, vehicle &amp; pedestrian. Proposed and existing pedestrian (with existing gates) routes are joined to avoid early years arrival conflict. Boundary vegetation is retained, restricting views into proposed play and sports areas. The staff car park is segregated through planting and low railings.</li> </ul>
<p><i>No improvements have been made for dropping off and picking children which makes Old Leeds Road and White Lee Road dangerous during these hours.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposal does not include wider infrastructure improvements.</li> <li>▪ There are no planned increases to pupil numbers as a result of these proposals.</li> <li>▪ A Travel Plan will be submitted with the planning application. The school encourage all staff, pupils and visitors to use sustainable transport options and this is facilitated by the site accessibility.</li> <li>▪ The pedestrian and vehicular access are separate, with the existing pedestrian entrance to the west of the site and the existing vehicular access to the north of the site retained. A new entrance for pedestrians and cyclists is provided off Leeds Old Road.</li> <li>▪ In support of the Travel Plan, there is improved pedestrian access and cycle parking is provided with canopy for 40 bikes.</li> <li>▪ The proposals include improved staff car parking arrangements including 20 parking bays (2 accessible, 4 EV and 1 minibus parking space. Service vehicles will utilise the same vehicle entrance with a dedicated turning space adjacent to the bin store.</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Email and telephone feedback

Emails were received from residents and responded to regarding the public exhibition and proposals.

Kim Leadbeater MBE Member of Parliament for Spen Valley who attend the public exhibition emailed the project team with the following feedback.

“Thank you very much for this update. It was really helpful to come and see the plans for the new school – you and your team were extremely helpful and it was a pleasure to meet you all. I grew up on White Lee Road (and before that Berwick Avenue just down the road), and my Mum was Secretary at the school when it was Leaside, so I know the area very well! The new build is very welcome – it will be brilliant for the pupils and staff, and it is great to hear that the only impacts on the local community will be positive ones. We know there are issues with traffic and parking in the area, but you are clearly doing everything you can to avoid exacerbating this and it looks like there will even be some potential benefits in this regard. Thank you again for the warm welcome and as I said, please do let me know if I can do anything to help and support through my office...good luck with this exciting project.”

Telephone calls were received regarding the public exhibition, and feedback and response regarding the proposals is detailed below.

Feedback	Response
<i>How will drainage be managed for neighbouring properties?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing drainage is still under investigation; the current assumption is that any drainage through the site will be maintained. Any works requiring connections or adjustments to the existing drainage will be planned to avoid any disruption to neighbouring properties.</li> <li>▪ Further details will be submitted in supplementary documents as part of the planning application.</li> </ul>

### 3.4 Birstall Victoria ARLFC (BVARLFC)

As community users of the school facilities and adjacent playing fields, early engagement with the club was essential. The club were able to outline their current use of the site and opportunities for working with the main contractor.

The club were encouraged to continue their involvement in the consultation process and were invited to the public exhibition and asked to provide feedback.

Feedback	Response
<i>Will community clubs be able to use new school facilities?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is anticipated the school will be able to offer its facilities including sports facilities to community users once the construction work has been completed. This out of hours use will be managed through a Council approved Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>
<i>What impact will construction have on BVARLFC?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BVARLFC will continue to use the playing fields and have access to the current changing rooms until the new school building is complete.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gates will provide BVARLFC with access to the changing facilities throughout construction.</li> <li>▪ The temporary construction access agreed in principle with Kirklees Council will be safely segregated from the rugby pitch.</li> </ul>
<i>Where will BVARLFC access and park during construction?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access will be provided along the temporary haul road with access gates to BVARLFC out of school hours.</li> <li>▪ Out of hours parking will be provided to BVARLFC within the hoarding line and on the haul road area.</li> </ul>
<i>Where will construction workers park?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some parking will be made available along the temporary construction haul road.</li> </ul>
<i>Where are the proposed changing rooms?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The changing facilities can be accessed internally by the school and externally by BVARLFC with a dedicated gate from the playing fields outside of school hours.</li> <li>▪ DfE requirements stipulate changing rooms must comply with both Sport England and Rugby Football Union (RFU) standards.</li> <li>▪ Two 38m sq changing rooms with showers (maximum group size 20no.), plus a separate changing room and an 'officials' changing room.</li> <li>▪ This facility includes provision for two WCs, four showers, and has a total area of 38m<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
<i>Can the BVARLFC container be moved?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bowmer + Kirkland has agreed to relocate the BVARLFC container.</li> </ul>
<i>Can 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> access gates from the haul road be provided?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bowmer + Kirkland has agreed to include 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> gates from the haul road as discussed with BVARLFC.</li> </ul>
<i>Will BVARLFC continue to have storage facilities for kit in the changing rooms?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposals include replacement changing facilities only.</li> </ul>

### 3.5 Fairfield School

The meeting in June focused on the existing gate/fire route and was attended by a representative from Kirklees Council, members of Fairfield School staff and the project team.

Feedback	Response
<i>How is the existing gate/fire route maintained?</i>	The project team will continue to work with Fairfield School and Kirklees Council to ensure uninterrupted egress from their site in the event of an emergency.

## 4.0 Conclusions and next steps

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### Consultation summary

- The community and political stakeholder engagement supported the proposals for the regeneration of Co-op Academy Smithies Moor. This exercise complemented pre-application consultation undertaken by other members of the project team with statutory consultees and Kirklees Council.
- Key activities included consultation with the school, key community users and neighbouring school, a public exhibition, letters to neighbours, emails to stakeholders, flyer delivery, media coverage, project website and the opportunity to feedback on the plans.
- The project team discussed the proposals with Councillors, neighbours, staff, community representatives and parents/carers during the public exhibition and were able to explain how the plans respond to key points raised.
- Early engagement was undertaken with Birstall Victoria ARLFC and Fairfield School.
- It can be seen from the preceding sections that the consultation process undertaken has been comprehensive. It has sought to reach people who live nearby, as well as local community representatives. Easy to understand information was shared directly and through the project website. There were opportunities to meet with the team and discuss the proposals in more detail as well as having the opportunity to participate and comment.
- The project team are confident that having followed a comprehensive set of design principles working with the School and DfE they will deliver a high quality and sustainable primary setting to teach and learn, with extensive facilities for community use.
- Support for the proposals was evident during the engagement. Modern, inspiring and sustainable primary academy and transformation of the learning environment for all pupils and staff were the two most important elements.

### Ongoing engagement

Following the submission of the planning application Bowmer + Kirkland is committed to continuing dialogue with all residents and stakeholders. The exhibition display has been left with the school and the feedback form left open so that staff and parents can be encouraged to continue to have their say at the start of the new term, September 2025. We will issue updates throughout the planning process and if granted consent through construction.

Bowmer + Kirkland will work with the school to use the rebuilding project as a learning tool, encouraging pupils to look at the many different skills and activities in construction. This is one of many social value initiatives they will establish as part of the project.

Bowmer + Kirkland will strive to meet the DfE Framework's and Council's social value expectations, and to comply with the Public Services (Social Value) Act. If planning permission is granted targets will be set including spend with local suppliers, notify the local Jobs Hub and engage local apprentices and T Level placements.