**Governors at Longbenton High School Statement**

**in response to the Education White Paper**

The governing body of Longbenton High School recognises that North Tyneside has a high attaining education system and is proud to be part of that. The nature of schools has changed significantly over the past decade with the majority of secondary schools now being academies. The governors have discussed the implications of the White Paper, “Educational Excellence Everywhere” 2016 and the fact that, as a foundation school, we are not an academy.

The governing body of Longbenton High School greatly value the work of the local authority in supporting our school , and particularly value being part of a collaborative environment where schools across North Tyneside support each other and share good practice.

As a school we want to focus on our core aims and beliefs; the never ending drive to improve the life chances of the young people who are students here, through excellent outcomes for them both academically and also in their development as young people, ready to take up their place in our local community.

The governors of Longbenton High School see our relationship with the local authority as a strength, not a constraint. In these uncertain times, with changing priorities for government, we want to continue with the close partnerships and links that we have with other schools in North Tyneside, and for this not to be fragmented or hindered by academisation. Within this context, the governors are open to discussions about converting to become an academy. However, should we decide that it is in the best interests of our community to convert, we would want to maintain the strong links that we have with the local authority and to continue to work with other schools from within North Tyneside. We are committed to seeking to maintain this partnership at a time of uncertainty and change.