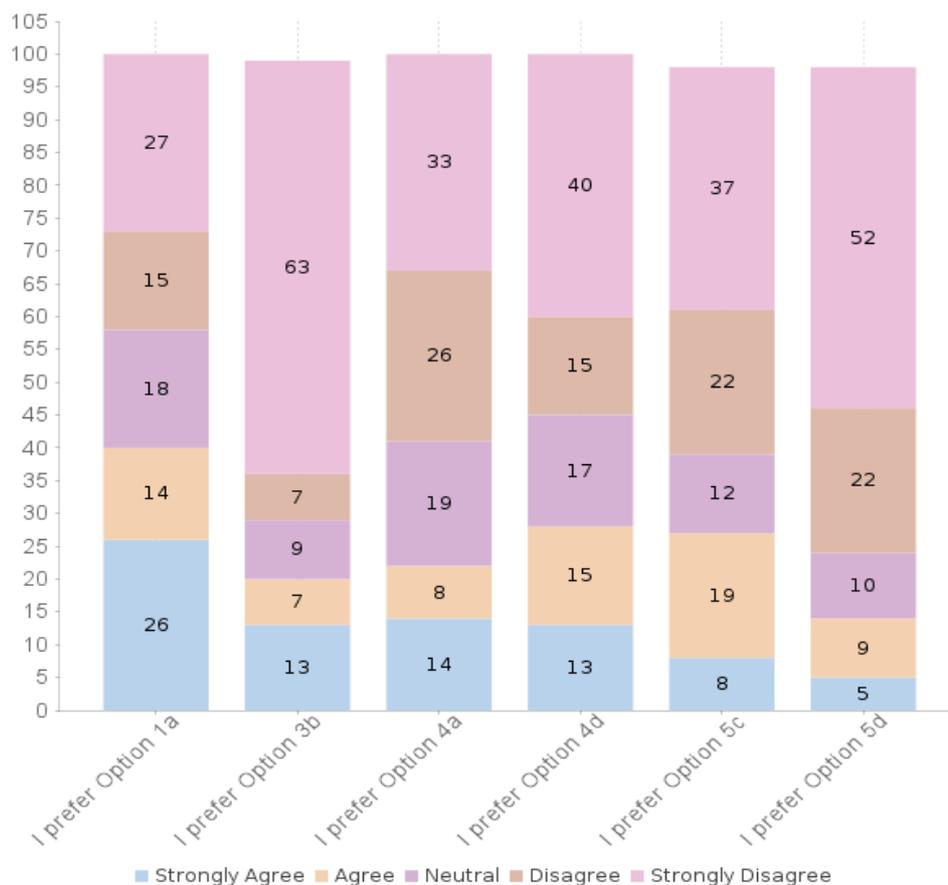


Outcome of Summer 2019 consultation

In the second half of the summer term 2019 the Futures for Somerset report and options were published online. Governors, staff and parents were invited to comment on the various options that had been identified.

Option	Description	Rank for efficiency and sustainability	Balance of responses
1A	Do nothing but prepare for growth in pupil numbers	6	-2
2	As 1A but adjusting school formula funding	5	n/a
3B	Closing all small rural schools, consolidating with a smaller number of town primaries, and a single secondary school	1	-50
4A	Close two small rural schools, split all other first and middle schools into infant/junior schools, and a single secondary school	2	-37
4D	As 4A but with the closure of five small rural schools	3	-27
5C	Close one middle school, provide middle and upper in two schools, retain all first schools	4	-32
5D	Close both middle schools, provide middle and upper in a single school, retain all first schools	7	-60

The graph below summarises the outcome of the consultation process:



This consultation did not result in any clear preferences. The strongest positive feedback was for 'do nothing' (1A) though on balance the overall response was still negative. The strongest negative feedback was for closing small village primaries and consolidating around large primaries in the towns (3B), however all options were on balance negative, and the closure of both middle schools (5D) was most negative overall.

In the consultation process, respondents were also asked to note the three things that were most important to them in relation to school organisation. The following were the most common factors:

- avoiding long journeys to and excess traffic around schools
- the importance of high-quality education for all
- the key role played in communities by village schools
- any changes to result in sustainable schools with the right capacity
- support for the needs of children caught up in change
- clarity about teaching cohorts in complete key stages

- mitigating or removing the negative effects of two school transfers
- taking account of previous building investment and condition
- ensuring a safe environment on and around school sites for children.