

Options for discussion on Potential Federations for Northumberland Partnership

Graeme Jones, December 2004

Principles

- KS3 accountability needs to be addressed
- Surplus places needs to be addressed
- Transport issues should be improved
- HBHS increasingly untenable, but increasingly important to the strength of the Federation argument
- Community involvement in school is very important
- Learning Village concept very popular

Notes to Options

- 5 options follow, which are NOT mutually exclusive, but may/should be combined if appropriate
- Each Option has some Pros and Cons – they are not at all comprehensive but serve as prompts to start discussion
- Rationalisation **will** be necessary but is not considered in these Options

Approach to discussion

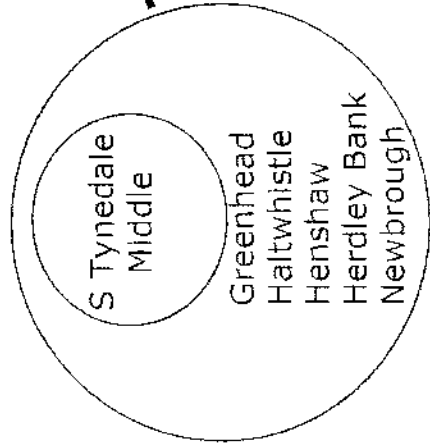
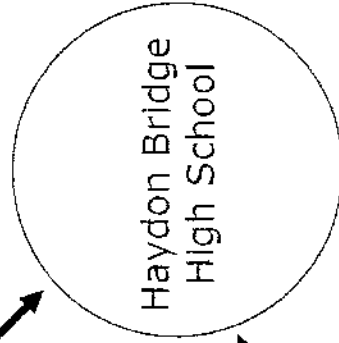
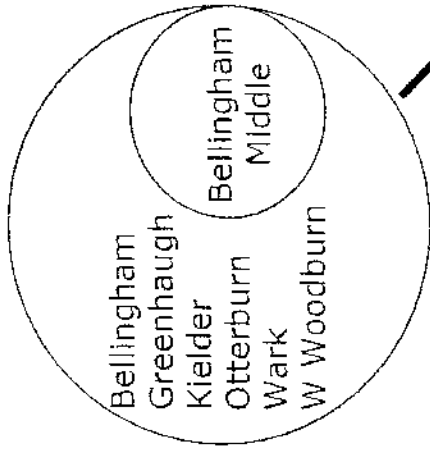
- The following is a recommendation only:
 - Would be best to split up current partnerships for meetings, so have 5 groups (preferably cross-cluster), unless Option 1 (existing) is universally agreed as untenable for future, in which case 4 groups
 - Each group to discuss 1 Option, plus the Issues for Rationalisation (1.5 hours)
 - Identify strong possibilities and definite non-runners
 - Identify possible strong “themes” for each federated approach
 - Identify the level of federation which would be appropriate and accepted (ie from soft to hard) for each suggestion
 - Identify areas in which all 18 schools can bring the power of a single (loose) federation to the common benefit – eg in purchasing, catering, maintenance etc
 - Then whole group discussion (1.5 – 2.0 hours)
 - Identify the stronger possibilities for rationalisation
 - Identify the strong points from each Option
 - Identify concepts which are definitely non-runners – write up
 - Whole group discussion of possible new mode(s) from the strong points identified – document these
- **Note:** There needs to be a lot of mutual trust in these discussions – everyone needs to take on the role of a Chief Exec, looking for future strategy, without personal interest. It's a very challenging exercise.

Issues for Rationalisation

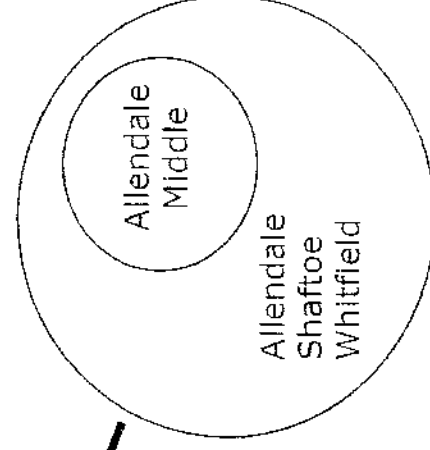
- To consider:
 - Which schools (if any) are almost certainly to close?
 - Same site schools: Allendale 1st/Middle, Bellingham 1st/Middle and Haltwhistle 1st/S Tynedale Middle
 - should they be “merged”?
 - Church schools: should they be federated anyway? Could they be rationalised onto 2/3 sites – eg Henshaw, Newbrough, Wark?
 - What are the reasons for not wanting the LEA proposed 2 tier system? Identify strong arguments against – eg community involvement currently etc
 - Consider alternative use for Ridley Hall – suggested as 6th Form to HBHS in Option 5. It is currently good for revenue, but not used to the optimum for your **children’s** benefit – and it is a beautiful asset to have in the area
 - Which sites might come free and could be used for other purposes – eg community learning, boarding for pupils, specialist teaching etc?

1. Current Partnership

Bellingham Cluster



Haltwhistle Cluster

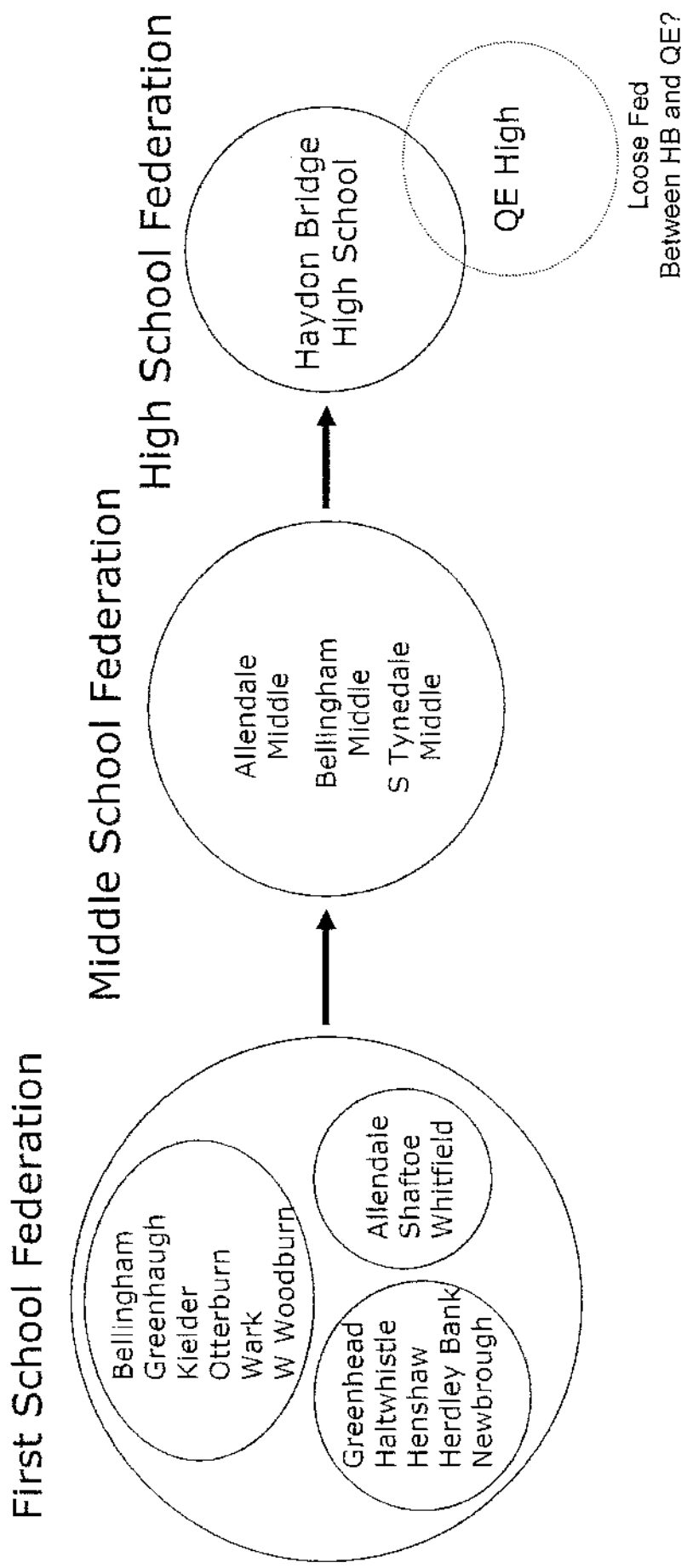


Allendale Cluster

1. Current Partnership

- Pros
 - Geographical federation type structure
 - Less change involved (except necessary rationalisation)
 - Federations can be formed more quickly, since high level of agreement at the Cluster level
- Cons
 - Too much of the same – geographical split/opinions
 - Does not address KS3 accountability
 - Perception of HBHS being the “controller”

2. Federation by age

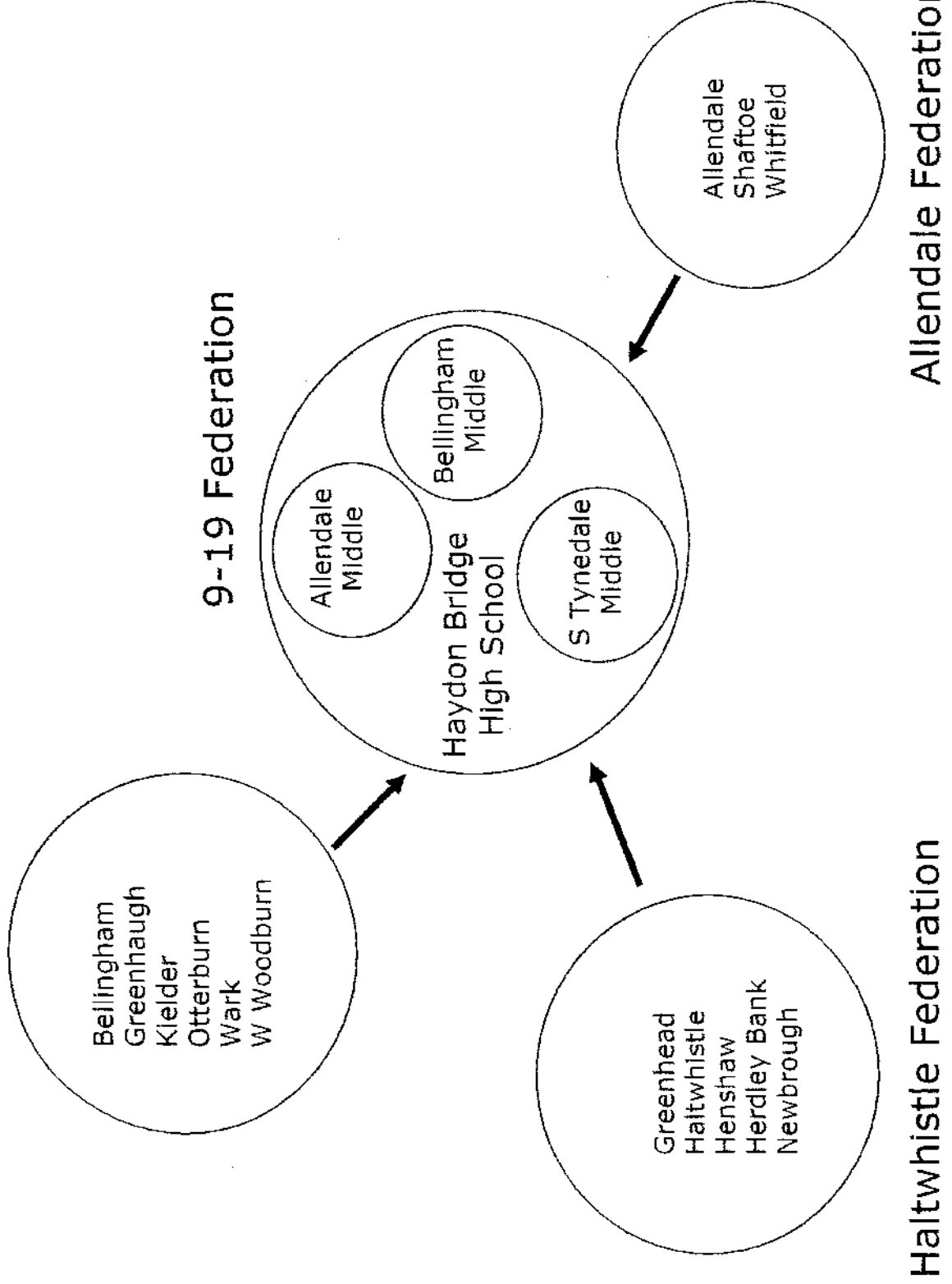


2. Federation by age

- Pros
 - Strong links between schools of same type
 - Crosses geographical distances
 - Strong statement of educational policy – 3 tier
- Cons
 - Does not address KS3 accountability
 - HBHS still in weaker position – needs ally (QE High?)
 - Structurally sound but geographically difficult to operate

3. 9-19 Federation

Bellingham Federation



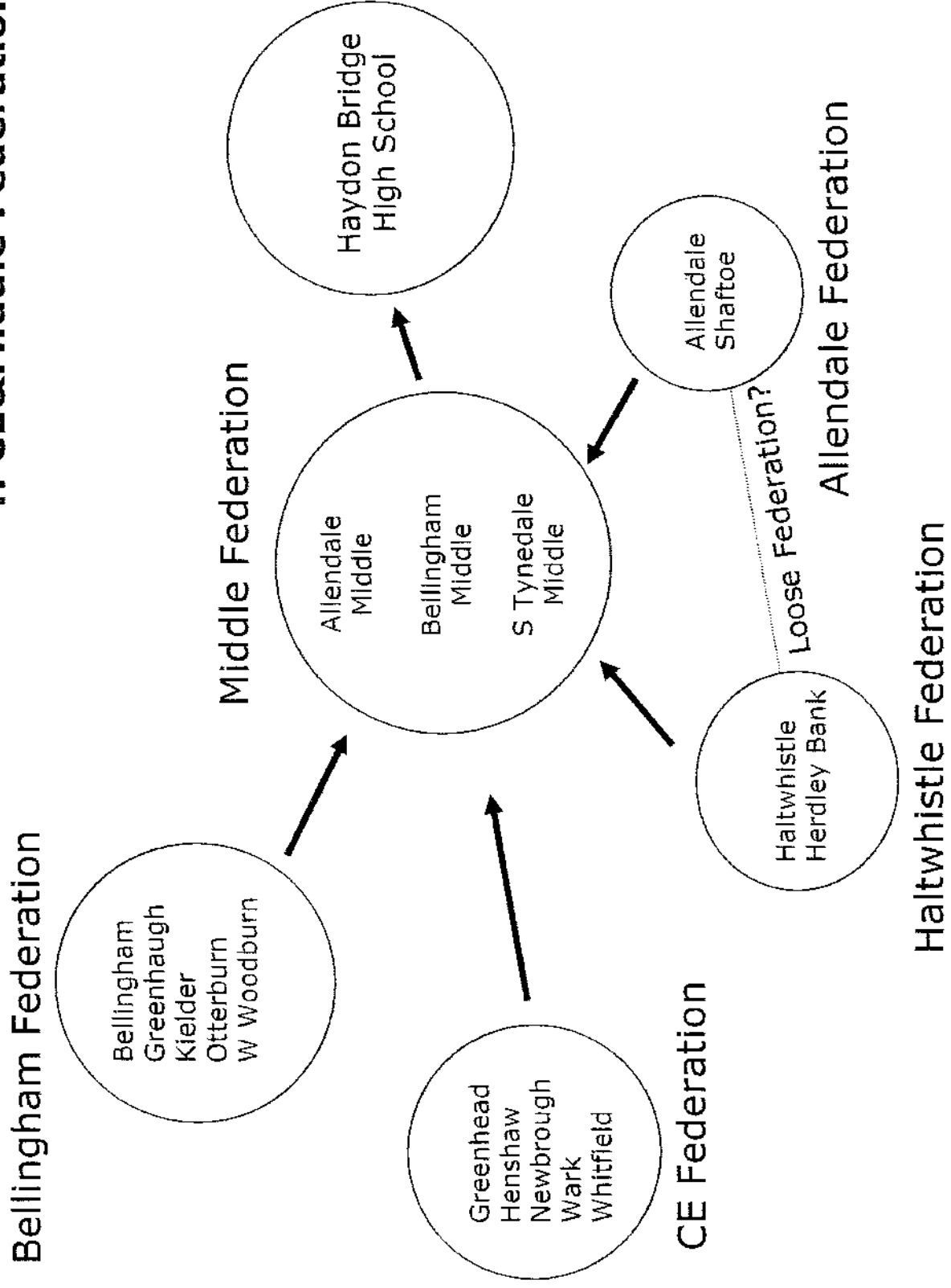
Allendale Federation

Haltwhistle Federation

3. 9-19 Federation

- **Pros**
 - Addresses KS3 accountability
 - Closer to LEA recommendation
 - Allows cross-teaching from 9-19 – good for teachers
 - Keeps existing partnerships for First schools
- **Cons**
 - Practical operation of 9-19 in geographical terms – sites?
 - Schools where First and Middle on same site – Allendale and Bellingham, unless these are federated first, making a 4-19 Federation?
 - Strengthens Middles, but may weaken HBHS

4. CE&Middle Federation

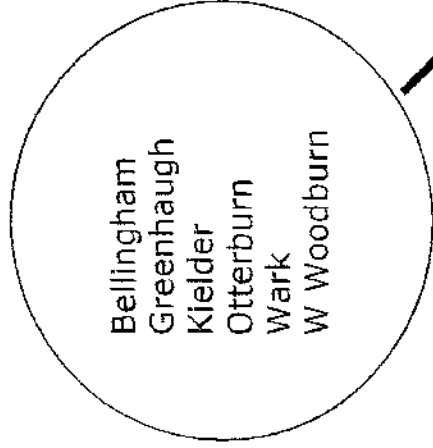


4. CE&Middle Federation

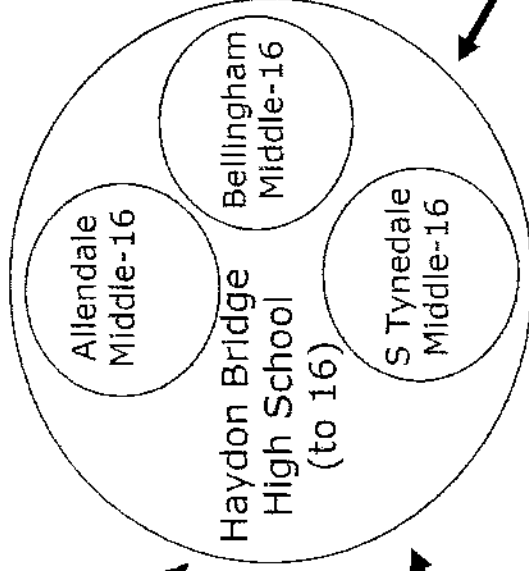
- Pros
 - Strong bond between Church schools (may need rationalisation however)
 - Strong bond between Middle Schools
- Cons
 - Does not address KS3 accountability
 - Does not help HBHS particularly
 - Halwhistle and Allendale clusters weaken – may need to be “merged”

**5. 9-16 Federation
with HBHS 6th Form Centre**

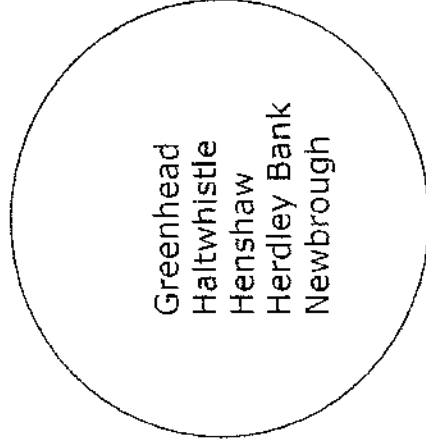
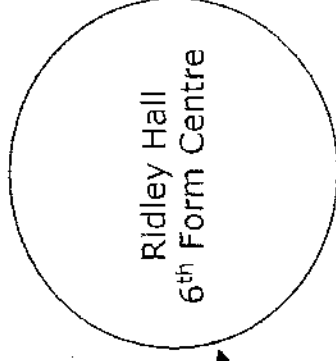
Bellingham Federation



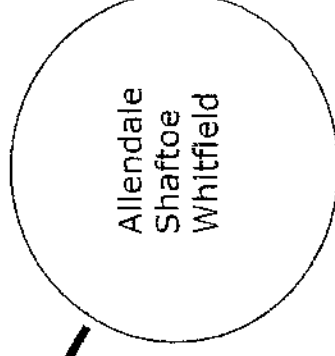
9-16 Federation



**6th Form Centre
(of HBHS)**



Haltwhistle Federation



Allendale Federation

5. 9-16 Federation, 6th Form

- Pros
 - Addresses KS3 accountability
 - Gives superb environment for 6th Form (if this is viable)
 - Strengthens HBHS, in facility/desirability terms
- Cons
 - Would need new boarding facility (from other, closing schools?)
 - Commercial aspect of Ridley Hall may be affected?