

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 January 2005 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Lewes.

99. PRESENT - Councillor Jones (Chairman)
Councillors Glazier, Lock, Reid (in the Chair for minute numbers 103 to 105), Mrs Stroude, Tidy and Mrs Waite

The following member spoke on the item indicated:

Councillor Field - item 103

100 CHAIRMANSHIP OF MEETING

100.1 At the suggestion of the Chairman it was agreed that Councillor Reid would chair the meeting for item 5 onwards. This would enable Councillor Jones to contribute to the discussion as the local member for the Rye Division

101. MINUTES

101.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2004 as a correct record.

102. REPORTS

102.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

103 THE FUTURE FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RYE

103.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Libraries, representations from the Defend Education Around Rye Campaign, exempt information as set out in a later report on the agenda and further exempt information provided by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources (see minute no. 105).

103.2 The Director of Children's Services, Education and Libraries reported that Option 5 on page 16 of the agenda should read 'Provide a new one form entry (seven classes) school in Rye and a new four class school at Camber closing both Tilling Green and Freda Gardham.'

103.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED –

(1) to note the responses received to the consultation paper;

(2) to approve in principle a proposal that a new 1.5 form entry (c300 places) all through primary school be established on part of the playing field of Thomas Peacocke Community College (subject to the satisfactory resolution of the significant matters relating to planning consent, access, flood risk and the loss/replacement of playing fields), replacing Tilling Green Infant School and Freda Gardham Primary School;

(3) to authorise the publication of statutory notices in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (School Organisation

Proposals) (England) Regulations 1999 to implement this proposal should these matters have been satisfactorily resolved or, should this prove difficult to request a further report;

(4) to agree to the disposal of the former Thomas Peacocke Lower School site, on terms approved by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Children's Services, Education and Libraries, which ensure that access over the site to the Thomas Peacocke playing fields will be provided, and the cost of the main road access being funded by the purchaser of the site and the timing of its completion being consistent with the proposed school building timetable; and

(5) to note that the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources will update Lead Members on the progress of negotiations with the prospective purchaser.

Reason

103.3 There is a recognition of the need for change in the organisation of primary education in Rye. There remain significant issues to resolve in relation to the preferred site for a new 1.5 form entry all through primary school, not only in relation to planning consent and environmental issues, but also to government policy on disposal of playing fields. The Cabinet noted that the recommended option was not the cheapest in financial terms but that the educational benefits of this option to provide a holistic solution in terms of education and children's services in Rye justified the additional cost. The approved course of action offers the best prospect of providing future generations in Rye with a quality learning environment.

104. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

104.1 It was RESOLVED – to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda item on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

105. FUTURE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RYE

105.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services, Education and Libraries and a report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

105.3 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to note the reports when considering the options for change in the organisation of primary education in Rye.

Reason

105.3 To note the information supporting an earlier item on the agenda (see minute no. 103)