

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Children and Adult Services  
Learning and School Effectiveness  
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children's and Adult Services – Councillor David Elkin, the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Colin Belsey and the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at County Hall, Lewes

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Councillor Barnes spoke on Item 7 (see minute 20)  
Councillor Ensor spoke on Items 4, 5 and 8 (see minutes 17, 18 and 21)  
Councillor Field spoke on Items 4, 5, 7 and 8 (see minutes 17, 18, 20 and 21)  
Councillor Howson spoke on Item 5 (see minute 18)  
Councillor Livings spoke on Item 5 (see minute 18)  
Councillor St Pierre spoke on Items 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (see minutes 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21)

### 14. REPORTS

14.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

### 15. MINUTES

15.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2011.

### 16. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

16. Councillors Howson and Livings declared a personal interest in item 5 in that they were both former Governors of Peacehaven Infant School, but they did not consider the interest to be prejudicial.

### 17. CREATING ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN BEXHILL

17.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval to begin consultation on a proposal to relocate and enlarge Sidley Community Primary School from one form of entry (FE) to 2.5FE, and a proposal to enlarge St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School from 1FE to 1.5FE.

17.2 The former Bexhill High School Year 7 Block at Gunters Lane became vacant in 2010 and is considered suitable for remodelling as a primary school.

### DECISION

17.3 RESOLVED (1) to approve the commencement of consultation on a proposal to permanently relocate Sidley Community Primary School to the former Bexhill High School Year 7 Block at Gunters Lane from September 2012, and its enlargement from 1FE to 2.5FE effective from September 2013; and

(2) to approve the commencement of consultation on a proposal to enlarge St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School from 1FE to 1.5FE, effective from September 2013; and

(3) to note the likely change of status of Sidley Community Primary School to Sponsored Academy in the 2012/13 academic year.

Reason

17.4 The enlarged schools will enable the Council to discharge its statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places across the County taking into account the population projections and planned housing developments in the Bexhill area.

## 18. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF PEACEHAVEN INFANT SCHOOL AND HODDERN JUNIOR SCHOOL

18.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which reported the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Peacehaven Infant School and Hoddern Junior School, and sought approval to move on to the next stage of the statutory process. The Lead Members also considered the exempt information as set out in a later report on the agenda.

DECISION

18.2 RESOLVED (1) to authorise an application to the Secretary of State for consent to publish proposals for a new community primary school without running a competition; and

(2) subject to the Secretary of state's approval, to authorise the publication of statutory notices to close Peacehaven Infant School and Hoddern Junior School on 31 August 2012 and establish a new community primary school on 1 September 2012 and delegate to the Director of Children's Services authority to amend the proposals prior to their publication; and

(3) to authorise the establishment of a temporary governing body for the proposed new primary school in anticipation of approval of the proposals and delegate to the director of Children's Services authority to agree the arrangements for the establishment of the temporary governing body.

Reason

18.3 Amalgamation is proposed to improve teaching and learning and to achieve higher standards at Key Stage 2, and to secure a smoother and more effective transition between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 through a consistent single ethos and common policies to teaching and learning, behaviour and monitoring pupil progress. The proposal is in line with the Primary Review Policy which states the Council's ambition to create all-through primary schools where possible.

## 19. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2013/14 SCHOOL YEAR

19.1 The Lead Members were asked to consider a deferral of the report, as a Draft School Admissions Code and Draft School Admissions Appeals Code had been released since the publication of the Agenda.

DECISION

19.2 RESOLVED to defer the report until the next meeting.

Reason

19.3 The deferral will allow time for the new Draft Codes to be analysed and implemented into the proposed admission arrangements.

20. REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY PROVISION OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT: ETCHINGHAM AND HURST GREEN TO UPLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

20.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which presented the petition received by the Chairman of the County Council from Councillor Barnes on 18 October 2011.

20.2 Ms Cheryl Smith addressed the Lead Members on behalf of the petitioners.

DECISION

20.3 RESOLVED to note the actions being taken by Council officers to seek to find alternative solutions for pupils travelling from the Etchingham and Hurst Green areas to Uplands Community College prior to the ceasing of council-hired transport from September 2012 and to agree that these efforts should continue.

Reason

20.4 Officers are taking steps with regard to the decision taken in June 2011 to seek to find alternative solutions at no cost to the Council following the cessation of council-hired transport in September 2011.

21. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-2014

21.1 The Lead Members considered a report from the Director of Children's Services which presented for approval the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 as agreed by the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group.

DECISION

21.2 RESOLVED to approve the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014.

Reason

21.3 The Plan is based on wide-ranging and aspirational public and partner consultation and identifies specific priorities and the detailed work to be undertaken against these. Partner contributions can be identified clearly and monitored by the Trust Executive Group.