

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Adult Services
Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett, the Lead Member for Children and Adult Services – Councillor David Elkin and the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Colin Belsey on Monday 26 March 2012 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors Field and St Pierre spoke on Items 4 and 5 (see minute 40 and 41)

37. REPORTS

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

38. MINUTES

38.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2012.

39. INTERESTS

39.1 Councillor St Pierre declared personal interests in Item 4 in that relatives of hers are applying for school places, and that she is Chair of the Admissions Panel, but she did not consider these to be prejudicial.

40. DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2013/14 SCHOOL YEAR

40.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools required by the new School Admissions Code which came into force in February 2012. The report contained detailed responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposed arrangements.

DECISION

40.2 RESOLVED to (1) note the detailed responses to the consultation;
(2) approve the changes to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools;
(3) approve the admissions criteria set out in Appendix 1;
(4) approve the admission numbers set out in Appendix 2;
(5) approve the co-ordinated admissions schemes attached to Appendix 3; and
(6) approve the in-year co-ordinated admission scheme outlines in Appendix 4.

Reason

40.3 The County Council has carried out the annual statutory consultation exercise in order to determine the admission arrangements for the forthcoming school year. The arrangements have taken into account the comments received during that consultation.

41. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2011/12 to 2015/16

41.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval to publish a School Organisation Plan for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16. Although there is no statutory requirement to produce a plan it is considered good practice to set out where the County Council expects there to be a need to: provide additional places; remove surplus places; or reorganise existing provision in the future. The Plan is also to be used as a communication tool, to facilitate discussions around strategies to address needs across the County.

DECISION

41.2 RESOLVED to approve publication of a School Organisation Plan for 2011/12 to 2015/16.

Reason

41.3 In the light of the rising birth rate and increased pressure on school places, publication of a Plan is good practice to set out where the authority thinks there will be a need to provide additional places, remove surplus places or reorganise existing provision in the future.

42. ANNUAL SUBMISSION RELATING TO BIDS FROM SCHOOLS FOR CAPITAL LOANS FOR 2012/13

42.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out bids for capital loan applications made by Uplands Community College and Robertsbridge Community College. The support of the Local Member for the Robertsbridge application was noted.

DECISION

42.2 RESOLVED to (1) approve the loan application for Uplands Community College; and
(2) approve the loan application for Robertsbridge Community College.

Reasons

42.3 The covered walkway at Uplands Community College is an integral part of the development of the new catering outlet, and the Capital Strategy Team has advised the college on the proposal.

42.4 A detailed feasibility study and cost estimate for a new sports hall and associated facilities have been produced, and a funding package identified. Monies will be provided from the Inspired Facilities Grant, the County Council capital programme and the capital loan.