

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett and the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Sylvia Tidy on Monday 9 December 2013 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillor Field spoke on items 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (see minutes 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and 30)

Councillor Shuttleworth spoke on items 5, 6, 9 and 11 (see minutes 24, 25, 28 and 30)

Councillor St Pierre spoke on items 8 and 10 (see minute 27 and 29)

Councillor Tutt spoke on item 5 (see minute 24)

20. MINUTES

20.1 The Lead Members approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2013.

21. INTERESTS

21.1 Councillor Tutt declared a personal, non-prejudicial, interest in item 5 as the Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council.

22. REPORTS

22.1 A copy of the reports referred to below is contained in the minute book.

23. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MOUNTFIELD AND WHATLINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

23.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to close Mountfield and Whatlington CE Primary School. It was reported that the Diocese of Chichester owns the property.

DECISION

23.2 RESOLVED to:

(1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to close Mountfield and Whatlington CE Primary School by 31 August 2014; and

(2) delegate authority to the Interim Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to publication if required.

Reasons

23.3 The Council believes that the long term sustainability of the school is of real concern. Other schools in the local area are better placed to accommodate any growth in

pupil numbers in the medium to long term as a result of planned new housing and all of those schools were rated 'good' at their previous Ofsted inspections. The publication of notices will trigger a six week period of consultation, with a final decision to be taken in March 2014. The department will write to the Diocese of Chichester regarding their interests in the capital asset.

24. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ST ANDREWS CE INFANT SCHOOL AND TOLLGATE COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOL

24.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought conditional approval to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School from 270 places to 360 places and Tollgate Community Junior School from 360 places to 480 places effective from 1 September 2016.

24.2 The Lead Member heard the views of the following members of the public, who expressed concerns with the proposal regarding St Andrew's CE Infant School: Jacqui Bignell, Chair of Governors; the Reverend David King, Vicar of St Andrew's Church; Sally Hoad, Foundation Governor; Rose Campbell, Staff Governor and Carol Meakins, Headteacher.

DECISION

24.3 RESOLVED (1) to approve the expansion of St Andrew's CE Infant School from 270 places to 360 places and Tollgate Community Junior School from 360 places to 480 places effective from 1 September 2016, conditional upon:

- By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase each school's Published Admission Number from 90 to 120 effective from September 2015;
- By 30 June 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of both premises; and
- By 30 June 2014 a construction licence is granted securing access to the St Andrew's CE Infant School site during the construction period by the Local Authority and its approved contractors;

(2) to explore other options for providing school places in the local area, in full consultation with other stakeholders; and

(3) to request a report on progress in January 2014.

Reasons

24.4 The Local Authority believes that expansion of St Andrew's CE Infant School from 270 places to 360 places and Tollgate Community Junior School from 360 places to 480 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in Eastbourne for the foreseeable future.

25. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF WEST RISE COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL AND WEST RISE JUNIOR SCHOOL

25.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought conditional approval to expand West Rise Community Infant School

from 180 places to 270 places and West Rise Junior School from 240 places to 360 places effective from 1 September 2016.

25.2 RESOLVED to approve the expansion West Rise Community Infant School from 180 places to 270 places and West Rise Junior School from 240 places to 360 places effective from 1 September 2016, conditional upon:

- By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase each school's Published Admission Number from 60 to 90 effective from September 2015; and
- By 30 June 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of both premises.

Reasons

25.3 The Local Authority believes that expansion of West Rise Community Infant School from 180 places to 270 places and West Rise Junior School from 240 places to 360 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in Eastbourne for the foreseeable future.

26. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROBSACK WOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

26.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought conditional approval to expand Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places effective from 1 September 2015.

26.2 RESOLVED to approve the expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places effective from 1 September 2015, conditional upon:

- By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase the school's Published Admission Number from 46 to 60 effective from September 2015; and
- By 31 July 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of the premises.

Reasons

26.3 The Local Authority believes that expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in Hastings for the foreseeable future.

27. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF RINGMER PRIMARY SCHOOL

27.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought conditional approval to expand Ringmer Primary School from 210 places to 315 places effective from 1 September 2015.

27.2 The Lead Member heard the views of Malcolm Welsh, Chair of Governors, who supported the proposal.

27.3 RESOLVED to approve the expansion of Ringmer Primary School from 210 places to 315 places effective from 1 September 2015 conditional upon

- By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase the school's Published Admission Number from 30 to 45 effective from September 2015; and
- By 31 May 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of the premises.

27.4 The Local Authority believes that expansion of Ringmer Primary School from 210 places to 315 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in the village for the foreseeable future.

28. PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHILDREN'S CENTRE NURSERY PROVISION

28.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval from the Lead Member to implement the changes to East Sussex nurseries detailed in the review of nursery provision appended to the report. It was reported that it was intended to cease provision of childcare for under 2s at Pugwash Nursery, Rye, as Rye Primary School had confirmed that it could not provide this service.

28.2 RESOLVED to approve the implementation of the recommendations, including the revised recommendation regarding Pugwash Nursery.

Reason

28.3 The County Council needs to make savings, however Children's Centre staff will work with any parents that are negatively impacted by the recommendations to help them find suitable alternatives. The recommendations to stop taking children under two years old in some of the settings will not impact significantly on any particular groups. The Children's Centres will continue to support working parents to find suitable childcare in partnership with the "Information for Parents" service. There is sufficient alternative full daycare in Hailsham, where there is a recommendation for immediate closure for children under 2.

29 POST-16 GRANTS

29.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval of a proposed policy for reduced post-16 transport grants for mainstream students from low income families from September 2014, as appended to the report.

29.2 RESOLVED to approve the proposed policy.

Reason

29.3 Given the changes to legislation regarding remaining in education, employment or training, and the fact that government has not passed any additional transport funding to local government there is no longer a need to incentivise those most vulnerable to underachievement to attend college. The County Council would however like to continue to support young people from low income families to attend a college of their choice, with a reduced grant.

29.4 The discretionary transport grants will, however, need to be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of any changes to Medium Term Financial Plan savings requirements.

30. SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA

30.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval of the changes to the Schools Funding Formula. These are the removal of the use of Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and other changes of allocation of funding within the Formula.

30.2 RESOLVED to agree the changes to the East Sussex Schools Funding Formula.

Reason

30.3 The Schools Forum and schools have been consulted on the proposed formula changes. The Schools Forum agreed to recommend the change regarding IDACI, and the amendments to the allocations of funding within the formula.