

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Sylvia Tidy
on Friday 25 April 2014 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors Field and St Pierre spoke on item 4 (minute 46)

44. MINUTES

44.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2014.

45. REPORTS

45.1 A copy of each report referred to below is contained in the minute book.

46. LEASE OF WILLINGDON TREES CHILDREN'S CENTRE

46.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Acting Director of Children's Services which sought approval in principle to lease the Willingdon Trees Children's Centre to Aurora Academy Trust.

DECISION

46.2 RESOLVED to approve in principle the lease of Willingdon Trees Children's Centre to Aurora Academy Trust, subject to negotiations with the Trust and provided alternative space can be found for Children's Centre staff and services. .

Reasons

46.3 Leasing the Willingdon Trees Children's centre building to the Aurora Academy Trust would facilitate the development of early years education provision by the Trust on one site, from age 2 to the end of the reception year. There is evidence that integrated early years delivery of this kind helps to improve outcomes for children. The local authority is separately looking to merge some Children's centres in order to reduce overhead costs, and a merger of the Willingdon Trees and the nearby Hamden Park Centres is among proposals due to go out to public consultation in May. Children's Services Department are exploring with Eastbourne Borough Council the potential to use the Hampden Park Community Centre as a venue from which to operate Children's Centre services for both communities. Either this or another solution needs to be identified before the release of the Willingdon Trees Centre can be confirmed, but use of that building by the Aurora Academy Trust is desirable in principle in order to achieve integrated early years provision at Oakwood Academy.