

Appendix E

SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD COMMENTS TO CABINET

Rodmell Church of England Primary School and Pells Church of England Primary School Review Board – 4 July 2016.

Membership of the Review Board:

Councillors Kathryn Field (Chair), Stephen Shing, Peter Charlton, Kim Forward, Roy Galley, Alan Shuttleworth and Francis Whetstone and representing the Church of England Diocese, Dr Ann Holt.

Review Board Comments for inclusion in report to Cabinet.

No.	Comment	Response
1	Rodmell Church of England Primary School.	The majority of the Review Board members agreed that it would be appropriate to defer the proposed closure of Rodmell Church of England Primary School for a year whilst the Governing Body and School Leadership team rigorously explore the option for partnership working.
2	Pells Church of England Primary School.	<p>Having listened to the evidence put before them, the Review Board were evenly split in their views on the emerging plan for Pells CE Primary School. Four of the eight Members of the Board accepted the Council's position that there is sufficient evidence to support the view that the school should be closed.</p> <p>However, four Members were concerned as to whether there would be a sufficient number of school places available in Lewes should the Pells CE Primary School close. In reaching this view, these Board Members were concerned whether the Council's forecast for future demand for school places might not be accurate, especially taking into account the impact of proposed developments in the area.</p> <p>Some Members of the Board expressed the view that there was merit in exploring the 'Farm School' option. The Board agreed that if the school were to stay open, further significant work would need to be done on changing the perception amongst local people of the school, so that it could attract more preferences from local families.</p>

No.	Comment	Response
3	General comment relating to both proposals.	The Review Board agreed that these proposals needed sensitive handling by the Council and that clear reasoning should be provided to the public explaining the reasons for any decisions taken regarding the futures of both schools. This would be especially important if Cabinet made different decisions about the futures of these two schools.