

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Learning and School Effectiveness
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness –
Councillor Nick Bennett on Monday 9 March 2015 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillor Tidy spoke on items 4 and 7 (see minutes 31 and 34)

Councillors Field, Forward and Shuttleworth spoke on items 5 and 7 (see minutes 32 and 34)

Councillor Shuttleworth spoke on item 6 (see minute 33)

28. MINUTES

28.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 9 February 2015.

29. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

29.1 Councillor Field declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 5 as Chair of Battle and Langton Pre School Playgroup and item 7, as a family member is the business manager at a school for children with SEN which accepts placements from the County Council. Councillor Field did not consider these to be prejudicial.

30. REPORTS

30.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

31. PRIMARY SCHOOL RE-ORGANISATION IN CROWBOROUGH

31.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to amalgamate Whitehill Infant School and Herne Junior School in Crowborough. Councillor Tidy spoke in support of the proposal as a local member.

DECISION

31.2 RESOLVED to (1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to amalgamate Whitehill Infant School and Herne Junior School in Crowborough with effect from 1 September 2015; and

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

Reasons

31.3 The Council and the governing body believe that a change to the current organisation of Whitehill Infant School and Herne Junior School will build on the progress made since federation in September 2009 and lead to a sustained improvement in educational standards at Key Stage 2.

32. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – INTER BLOCK TRANSFER

32.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval for a transfer of funds between the blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

DECISION

32.2 RESOLVED to approve the inter block transfer of funds within the Dedicated Schools Grant, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Reasons

32.3 Based on an estimated figure of 2,100 2 year old children, there will be a shortfall of £200,000 in funding between what East Sussex County Council pays and what the Council are funded for. The inter block transfer of funds will mitigate this shortfall.

33. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR

33.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought to determine the final admission arrangements for the 2016/17 school year.

DECISION

33.2 RESOLVED to agree the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2016/17 school year following the statutory consultation period, which ran for the required eight weeks from 19 December 2014 to 27 February 2015 contained in:

- Appendix 1 – The proposed admissions criteria;
- Appendix 2 – The proposed admissions numbers;
- Appendix 3 – The proposed co-ordinated admissions schemes, to include clarification on the procedure for parents who request their summer-born children start reception at the beginning of the academic year following their child's birthday (i.e. the year after the normal year of entry).

Reasons

33.3 The County Council is required by law to carry out consultation on admissions arrangements. There have been no comments on the proposed arrangements following the consultation.

34. SEND JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

34.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval of the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy. The Lead Member for Children and Families fully endorses the Strategy.

DECISION

34.2 RESOLVED to agree the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy.

Reasons

34.3 The Local Authority has a duty to implement joint commissioning arrangements with the NHS and this Strategy gives East Sussex County Council a clear focus for future joint commissioning intentions.