

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Robert Wright (Chair), Emma Bushell, Claire Ellis (Vice-Chair), Emma Faramarzi, Cathy Martyn, Gemma McCracken, Kevin Parry, Vera Tomlinson and Steve Weisinger

Councillors Fionuala Foley (Cabinet Member for Children's Services) and David Renard (Leader of the Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Dempsey, Des Moffatt, James Robbins and Chris Watts

79. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

80. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

81. Consideration of Cabinet Panel on School Organisation Decisions

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report introducing decisions arising from the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation held on 27th March 2017.

10. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Abbey Meads Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by the Chair and Councillors Gemma McCracken and Vera Tomlinson on the following matters:

- The budget of £350,000 approved by Cabinet for the creation of additional school places.
- Competition from existing nursery provision in the locality.
- The provision offered by Little Scholars Pre School.

Resolved – That Minute 10 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.

11. Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 70 to 77 from September 2017.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by the Chair and Councillor Vera Tomlinson on the following matters:

- The demand for new places at Brimble Hill Special School.

- Admission capacity of the school.

Resolved – That Minute 11 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.

12. Lowering the Age Range at the Special Resource Provision (SRP) at Eldene Nursery and Primary School from 7-11 to 6-10 from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by the Chair and Councillor Kevin Parry on the following matters:

- Confirmation of the age range to be introduced.
- The protection offered by the SRP for eleven year olds.
- The outcomes and benefits in lowering the age range at the SRP to six year olds.
- Reasons why the age range was not lowered to five year olds.

Resolved – That Minute 12 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.

13. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Even Swindon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by the Chair and Councillors Gemma McCracken and Vera Tomlinson on the following matters:

- Recruitment of learners during the summer of 2017.
- Background to the retrospective application and the need to avoid similar applications in the future.

Resolved – That Minute 13 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.

14. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Lawn Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Resolved – That Minute 10 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.

15. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Chiseldon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to a question put by the Chair on the following matter:

- Details of the consultation undertaken.

Resolved – That Minute 15 of the Cabinet Panel on School Organisation be noted.