

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education held on Thursday, 13 October 2016 at 4.15 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Neill Young (in the Chair)

Councillors Suzy Horton

Apologies for Absence

Alicia Denny

7. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Denny and also from the Labour Group.

8. Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Future Changes to Early Years Funding

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Richard Webb, Finance Manager. Anthony Harper, Service Manager - Children's Centres and Childcare Development was also present for this item to answer questions. In response to a question, officers advised that current parents and children are not expected to notice any difference in their provision as a consequence of the DfE's proposed funding changes. However, Portsmouth as a whole is anticipated to benefit positively as a result of the DfE's proposed funding formula changes.

DECISION: the Cabinet Member

- (1) Noted the Department for Education's proposed changes to the early years funding arrangements for three and four year olds and the potential impact of these changes, as set out within the report,**
- (2) Noted the submission of the response to the Department for Education's (DfE's) consultation, as shown at Appendix 1.**
- (3) Noted the areas of the existing local funding formula that are to be reviewed in response to the DfE's proposed changes; as set out in paragraph 7.16.**
- (4) Endorsed the proposed consultation process with early years childcare providers as set out in section 11.**

10. School Funding Arrangements 2017-18

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Alison Egerton, Group Accountant.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their work on this as it has been hugely complicated but this report sets out the situation very clearly. Officers explained that this report would go to the Schools Forum next week for endorsement.

DECISION: the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Endorsed the principles proposed by the mainstream working group in Appendix 1 to guide and inform the development of the funding arrangements for 2017-18.**
- (2) Agreed, that following the confirmation of the 2017-18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), officers will amend the funding unit values to minimise the impact of fluctuations in funding at the school level and to maintain overall affordability. In order to provide schools with some certainty, where possible any changes will be limited to the following formula factors:**
 - Basic per pupil entitlement
 - Prior attainment
 - Lump Sum
 - The percentage of the financial cap.
- (3) Approved the proposed changes to the mainstream funding formula factors, together with choices the council has made in implementing these factors locally, as set out in section 5.**
- (4) Agreed to the de-delegation of the following budgets for central administration in 2017-18 and note the proposed rates for de delegation (as shown at paragraph 3.41 of the consultation document), which will be finally agreed in January:**
 - i. Behaviour Support - Primary Only
 - ii. Special Staff Costs (Union Duties)
 - iii. Schools Contingency Fund
 - iv. Licences
- (5) Noted that subject to the guidance awaited from the Department for Education (DfE) and the results of the work being undertaken by the Inclusion Commissioning Manager, that the authority is not proposing to make any changes to High Needs place numbers for Special Schools, Resources Units and Alternative Provision settings for 2017- 18.**
- (6) Noted that subject to the guidance awaited from the DfE that the authority is not proposing to make any changes to the annual rates for Element 3 Top-up funding for Resource Units and Alternative Provision settings for 2017-18.**
- (7) Noted that as set out in paragraph 7.2, work is being undertaken by the Inclusion Commissioning Manager to review the Element 3 Top-up funding arrangements for Special Schools.**

- (8) Approved the MFG exemptions submitted to the DfE by the required deadline of 30 November 2016 as set out in paragraph 7.3.**
- (9) Approved the funding allocation to Redwood Park Special School as set out in paragraph 8.2.**

11. Change to SEN designation of Redwood Park School - outcome of statutory representation stage

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Chris Williams, Pupil Place Planning & Capital Strategy Officer. He advised that if agreed, the changes would be implemented on 1 November 2016.

Councillor Young said that he was pleased that the proposal would not affect children already in the school and he was fully in support of the proposal.

DECISION: the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Considered the outcome of the statutory representation undertaken between 3rd September and 3rd October 2016**
- (2) Approved the proposal to change the formal designation of Redwood Park School from a school for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and / or Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) to a school for pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) or Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASD)**
- (3) Authorised the Deputy Director for Children's Services - Education to proceed with the implementation of the proposal.**

12. Closure of Brambles Nursery School and replacement full day care provision at Goldsmith Infant School

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Chris Williams, Pupil Place Planning & Capital Strategy Officer. In response to a question, officers explained that parents and children would not notice any difference following the changes. The change in status of the school will be reinforced by the completion of the capital works later this year to modernise the buildings and to expand the infant provision.

DECISION: the Cabinet Member

- (1) Considered the outcome of the statutory representation undertaken between 3rd September and 3rd October 2016**
- 2) Approved the proposal to close The Brambles Nursery School (Maintained) for Goldsmith Infant School to operate full day care**

comprising 0-4 provision alongside the operation of the Infant School from 1st April 2017
(3) Authorised the Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, to proceed to the implementation stage.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm.

Councillor Neill Young
Chair