

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education held on Thursday, 21 July 2016 at 4.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Neill Young (in the Chair)

Councillors Alicia Denny
John Ferrett
Suzy Horton

9. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

10. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11. Re-designation of Redwood Park School

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The report was introduced by Chris Williams, Pupil Place Planning & Capital Strategy Officer. He explained that the consultation ran from 5 to 20 July and circulated to members a summary of the responses received (copy attached to the minutes).

In response to questions the following points were clarified:

- The low turnout from the consultation was not unusual. All responses received were from parents and the school are supportive of the proposals.
- The consultation was sent to all parents at the school which is approximately 140 and 11 responses were received.
- Those pupils currently in the school would not be affected by the change of designation.
- The previously agreed capital investment in both Redwood Park and Cliffdale schools will completely remodel the schools.
- There are currently 38 pupils in expensive out of city provision.
- Trafalgar School has specialist classes for autism pupils and would take 6 pupils and St Edmunds specialises in sensory impairment and would also take about 9 pupils.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their work on the consultation.

DECISIONS: The Cabinet Member:

- (1) Noted the outcome of the pre-statutory consultation.
- (2) Authorised the Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, to proceed to the representation stage, by publishing statutory proposals to re-designate Redwood Park School as a school for complex needs and autism (i.e. pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD) or autistic spectrum condition (ASD)).

12. Closure of Brambles Day 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 questions the following points were clarified:

- Unions had been involved in the consultation and there would be no detrimental impact on staff as a result of the proposal.
- The majority of users would see no change and it would be an improved facility.

DECISIONS: The Cabinet member:

- (1) Considered the responses set out in this report to the consultation undertaken.
- (2) Authorised the Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, to proceed to the representation stage, by publishing statutory proposals to close the Brambles Nursery School and for Goldsmith Infant School to operate full day care provision comprising 0-4 provision alongside the infant school
- (3) Supported the renaming of the school to Bramble Infant School and Nursery.

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm.

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Councillor Neill Young
Chair

Re-designation of Redwood Park School

Outcome of the consultation undertaken between 5th and 20th July

Section 4.2 of the Cabinet member report states that the consultation responses received will be tabled at the Decision meeting on the 21st July, 2016.

At the end of the consultation period on 20th July, the table below shows a summary of the responses received.

Total responses received	11
Number in support of the proposals	9
Number not in support of the proposals (reason unknown)	1
Number undecided/unknown	1

From the responses received, four comments were made, as follows:

- I welcome this change as I believe as in the case of my son and others with autism, it is more about specific needs and requirements and these children should be taught according to their abilities reflecting this.
- The change (and profit) is understood. Provision at mainstream schools for ASC needs to be reviewed in line with designation to ensure that it is fit for purpose.
- Hopefully the change will be what Portsmouth has been waiting for, a provision for an autistic school for senior pupils.
- Felt unable to decide due to the following reasons: Should have been asked after the 4 week consultation and feel that there has not been enough consultation undertaken. When my children left Cliffdale School I understood them to have a diagnosis of MLD which has since moved to SLD, it is worrying that under the new system they may well have been sent to mainstream and would their category have been picked up and acted upon? I understand that there is a high exclusion rate in mainstream schools, with the emergence of so many academies will these schools have carte blanche to exclude these MLD children?