

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education - Wednesday, 22 November 2017

Statement of Decision

Present:

Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Officers: Barbara Chillman and Janine Foulkes-Williams (Children's Services); Deborah Miller (Law & Governance).

Also in attendance:

Other Members: Councillor John Howson

Questions from County Councillors

Councillor Howson put the following Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles:

What steps are being taken by the County council to ensure no child is forced to attend any school both rated inadequate by Ofsted and in financial special measure to the Funding Agency?

I have that date in my diary as also the meeting of Schools Forum, does that affect this meeting mean the Cabinet Member won't be attending School Forum?

Councillor Hibbert-Biles answered as follows:

The Council seeks whenever possible to meet parental preferences expressed for school places and typically manages to meet 90%, or more, of first preferences. Sometimes it is not possible to meet any of a parent's preferences and in such a circumstance the Council will, in order to satisfy its duty to make a school place available to all who request one, identify the nearest school with an available place and offer this. Unfortunately, it is possible that this could be a school which is subject to a financial warning notice and also judged inadequate by Ofsted.

Parents are not obliged to accept the offer of the place at the school but they must ensure that their child receives an appropriate education. They could do this by requesting a place at a more distant school but this would not entitle them to free home to school transport if it is over the statutory walking distance.

With regards to attending the Delegated Decisions meeting, this is my intention and then travel to attend Schools Forum afterwards"

Councillor Howson asked the following supplementary question:

I recognise the excellent work in relation to Chiltern edge and other schools. However, I am particularly concerned about St. Gregory the Great which has now been in special measures for two years and future employees being put off.

Councillor Hibbert-Biles answered as follows:

St. Gregory the Great has been a difficult situation, made more difficult by the fact that it is run by the diocese from Birmingham. However, we have had a very productive meeting with the diocese and plans are in motion for change. I will keep you informed of any progress.

Oxfordshire County Council's Recommended Sponsor for the New Primary School at Southam Road, Banbury

Documentation considered:

Report Oxfordshire County Council's Recommended Sponsor for the New Primary School at Southam Road, Banbury

A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.

Summary of representations in person

Barbara Chillman presented the report. Councillor Hibbert-Biles indicated that she would like the decision to come back. This was agreed.

Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

to approve the preferred provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

Signed
Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Date2018

Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan 2017-2021

Documentation considered:

Report Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan 2017-2021

A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.

Summary of representations in person

Barbara Chillman presented the report. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that figures were based on adoptive plans but that it was a living document and would be revised annually.

Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

to approve the Oxfordshire 2017-2021 Pupil Place Plan.

Signed
Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Date2018.

Proposed Extension of Age Range at Hardwick Primary School, Banbury

Documentation considered:
Report Proposed Extension of Age Range at Hardwick Primary School, Banbury

A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.

Summary of representations in person

Barbara Chillman presented the report.

Cabinet Member’s Comments

The Cabinet Member welcomed maintaining this provision, ensuring continuity for local families and helping the local authority with a shortage of places.

Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

to approve the proposed change of age range at Hardwick Primary School.

Signed
Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Date2018

Expansion of Edward Feild Primary School, Kidlington

Signed
Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Date2018