

QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question

The recent Ofsted Inspectors Report on Chiltern Edge School included the following criticism of Oxfordshire County Council as the local authority:

‘Leaders have not received the support they need from the local authority. Although officers acknowledge the weaknesses in teaching and pupils’ outcomes, standards have continued to decline. The local authority has acted too slowly.’ What is the Cabinet Member’s response to Ofsted?

“The response to Ofsted is that we are in agreement with the judgement and are working to support the school to address the areas identified for improvement. Although we admit that support for the school was too slow until we became aware of the extent of the difficulties at the school, support was offered. The situation has been thoroughly evaluated’. (Hilary can then add to this, as appropriate, from her knowledge from the briefing that was originally copied).

Question

In the light of the comments in the Ofsted report on Chiltern Edge School about Oxfordshire as a local authority and also those about leadership in the Ofsted Report on St Gregory the Great, also rated inadequate by Ofsted, will the Cabinet Member now review whether there is the need for a senior strategic post specifically for education and reporting directly to the Director of Children’s Services and focusing on school improvement?

“Currently there are three senior strategic posts for Education reporting to the Director of Children’s Services (for Education Sufficiency/Access, Vulnerable Learners and Education Quality). In addition, as St. Gregory the Great is an Academy, it is the Trust, not the local authority, that is responsible for School Improvement.”