



School Organisation Committee

AGENDA ITEM: 5

Title: Statutory Notice-changes to Primary Special School provision in Aylesbury Vale.

Date: 21 July 2004

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Electoral Divisions Affected: All

Recommendation

The School Organisation Committee is asked to consider the proposals as detailed in the statutory notice, and to agree whether or not to determine the statutory notice.

Summary

Statutory notices were published on 28 April 2004, proposing to make the following changes to primary phase special school education in Aylesbury Vale:

1. To establish with effect from 1 September 2007 a new Community Special School for 147 children between the ages of 2 and 11 years. This will be achieved by making a prescribed alteration to Stoke Leys School, Stoke Leys Close, Aylesbury, HP21 9ET, which currently caters for 62 children (43 boys and 19 girls, age range 5-11 years) with Moderate Learning Difficulties, by enlarging the premises and changing its status so that it becomes a primary complex school with an age-range of 2-11.
2. With effect from 1 September 2007, make a prescribed alteration to Park School, Stocklake, Aylesbury, HP20 1DP by a change in the age range from 2-19 to 11-19. The school has on roll 71 children (40 boys and 31 girls, age range 2-19 years) with Severe Learning Difficulties, of whom 25 children (17 boys and 8 girls) are in the age range 2-11 years, and 4 of these are part-time.
3. With effect from 1 September 2007, make a prescribed alteration to Furze Down School, Verney Road, Winslow, Buckingham, MK18 3BL, by a change in the age range from 5-19 to 11-19. The school has on roll 112 children (82

boys and 30 girls, age range 5-19 years) with Moderate Learning Difficulties, of whom 14 children (12 boys and 2 girls) are in the age range 2-11 years, one of whom is part-time.

4. With effect from 31 August 2007, to discontinue Kynaston School, Stoke Leys Close, Aylesbury HP21 9ET, which currently caters for 44 children (37 boys and 7 girls who are in the age range 5-11 years) with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties.

At the end of the formal objection period, 28 June 2004, the County Council had received one objection. A copy of the objection together with the Council's response is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

A copy of the statutory notice and the prescribed information is attached as Appendix 1.

Resource implications

Capital costs

The proposed complex school was agreed as a named scheme in the County Council's 2003/2004 Capital Programme. Taking account of £3.5m supported borrowing approval granted by the DfES (Targeted Capital Funding) the gross budget for the project totals £9.261m. In addition there is some £0.2m brought forward from 2002/2003 for the development of the scheme

The full design will need to take account of the purchasing power of the funding and be carefully monitored to ensure that the costs of phasing the project come within the available budget.

Revenue costs

The intention is to implement the proposal for a complex day school, with a budget equal to the current, 2004/2005 funding level for Aylesbury Vale primary special school provision, estimated as some £2.1m.

In discussions with head teachers with primary children, it is their view that the proposed school could be effective in delivering the new, collaborative approach to children's needs as described in the public consultation paper, at this funding level.

If as the school develops and demonstrates success and reduced levels of intervention and expenditure are evident in respect of some pupils, then it will be possible to invest further in those activities that are demonstrated to be successful.

The governing bodies of the schools directly involved in this proposal have all agreed to support this option.

Legal implications

Informal advice has been sought from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Following the outcome of the consultation exercise, the responses have been carefully considered and advice sought from the Head of Legal and Administrative Services. That advice was that a Cabinet Member decision paper could be published seeking agreement to the publication of Statutory Notices.

The period during which formal objections may be made is now ended. As the Council prior to the end of the objection period has received an objection, the School Organisation Committee must determine the proposals.

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services and the DfES have confirmed that the published proposals conform with the requirements of Section 31 (b) and 31 (c) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 1999.

Feedback from consultation and Local Member views

The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered this proposal at a number of meetings, between September 2003 and January 2004, and supported the proposal for a new primary special school because it sits well in the Council's Special Educational Strategy and it recommended that the project should proceed to the consultation phase.

A copy of the public consultation paper, and an analysis of the responses, were presented to the School Organisation Committee at its meeting of 21 April 2004.

Background Papers

See attached:

Appendix 1- statutory notice and prescribed information

Appendix 2- Objection letter together with the council's response

Other background papers

Report to Cabinet Members for Children and Young People & Schools: 4 February 2004.

Report to Cabinet Members for Children and Young People & Schools: 7 April 2004.

Report to School Organisation Committee: 21 April 2004:

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Appendix 3 Consultation document on proposals

Appendix 4 Analysis of the responses to the consultation