

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF EXECUTIVE

19 AUGUST 2019

PRESENT

Leader of the Council (Councillor A. Western)(in the Chair),
Executive Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor J. Harding).
Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change (Councillor S. Adshead),
Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships (Councillor G. Whitham),
Executive Member for Culture and Leisure (Councillor J. Baugh),
Executive Member for Finance and Investment (Councillor T. Ross),
Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Equalities (Councillor J. Slater).

Also present: Councillors Boyes (part only), Butt (part only), Carter, Coggins, Dillon, Evans, Jerrome, Lamb, Mitchell, Myers, New, Welton and Williams.

In attendance:

Chief Executive (Ms. S. Todd),
Corporate Director, Place (Mr. R Roe),
Corporate Director, Governance and Community Strategy (Ms. J. Le Fevre),
Corporate Director, Finance and Systems (Ms. N. Bishop),
Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services (Mr. G. Rowney),
Democratic and Scrutiny Officer (Mr. J.M.J. Maloney).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Hynes, M. Freeman and J.A. Wright.

33. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

On behalf of the Executive Member for Children's Social Care, the Leader of the Council gave notice that the following valid question had been received, and was to be put at the meeting:

"Item 6.1 of the report states that further consultation with interested parties is recommended. The original consultation was not well publicised. I spotted a link on the Altrincham Today website. Please advise how the second round of consultation will be undertaken to ensure that ALL interested parties are made aware of the consultation period and that a fair representation of opinions are taken."

The Lead Member for Education made the following response:

"Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the report set out the basic process but to expand on this it is expected that the council will look to use meetings with the public and with governing bodies, websites, displays in local public buildings and drop in sessions along with responses to questions received from the public to ensure that as many members of the local community are engaged in the consultation process. Details of the consultation process - and opportunities to input to it - will be published on the council's website."

RESOLVED – That the content of the question and associated response be noted.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by Executive Members.

35. APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE STAMFORD PARK INFANT SCHOOL AND STAMFORD PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE EXISTING SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Executive Member for Children’s Social Care submitted a report, introduced by the Leader of the Council, which sought approval to consult on a proposal to discontinue Stamford Park Infant School and Stamford Park Junior School and to establish a new primary school on the existing school grounds. Members’ attention was drawn to the issues affecting the schools currently, and the envisaged benefits of the proposal, and reference was made to the results, set out in the report, of the informal survey already undertaken.

Members held a wide-ranging discussion on issues raised by the report and by feedback received from the informal survey, principally in relation to the condition of the current premises and implications for pupils’ educational experience, parking issues, the availability of school places in the wider Altrincham area in the light of demographic considerations and the stance of the Governing Body of Stamford Park Junior School. In the course of discussion, Members raised a number of queries, including in relation to the timing and scope of the envisaged consultation, arrangements for verification of feedback received, school staffing and traffic and travel issues associated with the proposals. It was noted that there would be further opportunities for considering the substantive issues during the consultation period, which was intended to commence during September 2019, would last for at least six weeks, and take account of comments now made regarding its accessibility and availability.

RESOLVED -That a consultation be undertaken on the proposal to discontinue Stamford Park Infant School and Stamford Park Junior School and to establish a new Primary School on the existing school grounds.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and finished at 7.21 p.m.