

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

FINAL DETERMINATION OF A PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION AT THE ECHELFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ASHFORD

#### **(i) Details of decision**

That the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning gives due consideration to the proposed closure of the Specialist Speech, Language and Communications Needs (SLCN) Centre with effect from 31 January 2014

#### **(ii) Reasons for decision**

Pending a final decision on the future of The Echelford Centre, and at the request of the Executive Head Teacher and Governing Body, there have been no admissions to the SLCN Centre since September 2013. Prior to this date there has been a legacy of unfilled places at the Centre. This is partly due to fewer SLCN pupils in Surrey requiring this sort of provision and partly due to operational difficulties. The Echelford School Governing Body has been unable to secure appropriate specialist teaching and leadership of the Centre after standards there were judged as being unsatisfactory by OFSTED. The proposed closure will enable the Executive Headteacher and Governing Body to concentrate on raising standards in the mainstream school which currently also requires special measures and has become an academy within the Lumen Learning Trust. More suitable and effective alternative provision has been identified for the six pupils formerly on roll at the Centre.

#### **(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

#### **(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report**

None.

### **Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)**

None.

### **Decision taken by:**

- (i) Name:** Linda Kemeny
- (ii) Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning Decisions

**Date of Decision:** 15 January 2014

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 15 January 2014

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Children and Education Select Committee):**  
23 January 2014.

