

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

Petitions

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

That the response, attached as Appendix 1, is approved.

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

To respond to the petition.

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

None.

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

Ms. Gemma Davies was present at the meeting.

### **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, Skills and Educational Achievement

**Date of Decision:** 17 January 2017

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 18 January 2017

**Date decision effective (This item cannot be called in):** 18 January 2017

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

TULK TRUST FOR SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES

**This item was deferred.**

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF DOWNS WAY SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement approves the publication of a statutory notice to close Downs Way School, as an integral element of the proposed amalgamation of this school with St. Mary's C of E Junior School, inclusive of the expansion of Key Stage 2 provision, effective from 1 September 2018.

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

The schools serve the same geographic area and are on adjacent sites. The proposal will formalise existing partnership working; augment the cohesiveness of the school community; provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages; and allow for the most efficient allocation of resources. The proposal to expand the school is in response to the local demand for junior school places at this school and a basic need for more school places in the Oxted & Limpsfield area. In particular, as infant provision in the area has recently been expanded, through the enlargement of Downs Way, this amalgamation provides an appropriate opportunity to expand what would become corresponding junior provision in an amalgamated all-through primary school.

In line with this, Surrey County Council has undertaken the requisite first stage of informal consultation to inform the decision making process and a significant majority of respondents confirmed their agreement with the proposed alterations. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement approves the publication of a Statutory Notice (appended to this report as Annex 1), formally proposing the closure of Downs Way School, as an integral element of the proposed amalgamation of this school with St. Mary's C of E Junior School.

#### **(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, Skills and Educational Achievement

**Date of Decision:** 17 January 2017

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 18 January 2017

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Education and Skills Board):** 26 January 2017

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

Tuesday 17 January 2017

**RESPONSE TO PETITION TO ALLOW 2 FORM ENTRY TO DANETREE YEAR 3 FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 INTAKE**

**The Petition**

As current parents of year 2 children, in schools that are converting next year to Primary's, we are very concerned about the one form entry intake at Danetree. When we applied for our original school places, the schools were infants and our intentions were always to move our children to Danetree. We understand that SCC have authorised a one form, 30 pupil entry into Danetree in 2017 and that siblings will be considered for these places first. As there are more siblings than places on offer this is a major concern and gives parents extremely limited choice in terms of their child's ongoing education. It also puts parents with children of Year 3 entry age and Reception age in an impossible position if they wish both children to be in Danetree as places are so limited for year 3. The pressure on the converting schools is high and distributing this pressure out by offering more year 3 places at Danetree would seem sensible. Parents want the security of knowing there is a 2 form intake if demand for those places is there.

Submitted by Gemma Davies

Signatures: 119 confirmed, 11 unconfirmed

**Response**

Surrey County Council, as the Local Authority, has a legal duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in its area of jurisdiction. This includes negotiating with academies, like Danetree, which are not managed by the Local Authority.

When Surrey County Council consulted parents on a proposal to change the pattern of primary education in Ewell, and make three schools (Danetree Junior, West Ewell Infant and Ewell Grove Infant) into all through primary schools, there was overwhelming support for this from parents and from the schools themselves. The Council has therefore proceeded on this basis.

This re-organisation has been complex and costly but the Council accepts that it is what the majority of local parents want. It is committed to completing the re-organisation in time for the September 2017 academic year and supporting the successful transition of all three primary schools.

Part of the planning for the transition of the three schools has included ensuring that there would be sufficient Reception and Year 3 places for all pupils in the area. It has been agreed with all three schools that their Published Admission Numbers (PAN) would change to reflect the capacity of each newly formed primary school and the forecast demand for school places in 2017 and beyond. These figures were published in the consultation document and were

discussed at the public meetings. The intention was always that each school would keep its Year 2s into Year 3 once the Council had provided the accommodation. No promises were given to any individual parents that they would be guaranteed a change of school for their child, however Danetree agreed to retain a small number of Y3 places to enable some siblings to move schools.

Danetree is committed to admitting 5 classes into Reception in 2017 (PAN 120 plus a bulge class to help us meet the demand for places for 5 year olds) and to reducing its junior PAN to 30 with a view to finally eliminating it in 2019. It has published its admission criteria for 2017 and they state that the school will only be admitting 30 Y3 places. The school does not have sufficient accommodation to provide classrooms for extra Year 3s over a 4 year period. Also as the Local Authority does not require more Year 3 places in 2017 it is not minded to commission additional Y3 places at Danetree over and above its published PAN.

Furthermore the two converting infant schools are looking forward to retaining most of their current Y2 pupils to make up their first Year 3 cohorts in September 2017. The schools have planned for this change in their staffing and will both rely on 60 Y3 pupils being on roll to attract sufficient funding. Surrey County Council has no wish to do anything to de-stabilise their successful transition to primary status. The overall number of school places available has been discussed with all three schools and they are in agreement that this is the right solution.

**Mrs Linda Kemeny**

**Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement**

**17 January 2017**