

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

Public Questions

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

There were six questions received from members of the public. As these all related to item 5, Proposed Closure of Ripley CofE School, the Leader took these questions as part of that item. The questions and responses are annexed to this decision sheet as Appendix 1.

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

To respond to the public questions.

### **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:** David Hodge, CBE
- (ii) Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

**Date of Decision:** 09 July 2018

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 09 July 2018

**Date decision effective (this decision cannot be called in):** 09 July 2018

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF RIPLEY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

The Leader of the Council did not take this decision as a new option was proposed at the meeting that had not been covered in the report.

A new meeting has been scheduled for 11:00am on Tuesday 17 July 2018, in order to explore the viability of the proposal of a collaboration with Shere CofE Infant School.

**(ii) Reasons for decision**

A proposal for Ripley CofE Primary School to collaborate with Shere CofE Infant School was suggested during the meeting. This option was not covered in the report and therefore, in order to explore the viability of the proposal in line with the criteria as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, the Leader proposed a new meeting be scheduled.

**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

Other Members in attendance:

Mrs Mary Lewis, Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning

Mrs Julie Iles, Local Member, Horsleys.

**Decision taken by:**

(i) **Name:** David Hodge CBE

(ii) **Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

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## APPENDIX 1

**1. Does SCC think a school where: progress in reading is average and writing and maths below average; where progress for disadvantaged children and middle attainers is well below average; where high achievers in writing and girls maths is well below average and girls reading is below average; where children are in large classes (some over PAN) is really going to provide better educational standards for Ripley children than a reduced PAN and working with another local school?**

Schools in the surrounding areas have been graded as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. Therefore, it would be anticipated that children will achieve better educational outcomes in other schools.

**2. Despite claims over the last few years of financial unviability, the school has run a surplus. What account has the council taken in recognising that Ripley raises around £90k per year which is independent of numbers of children in the school?**

It is for the Governing Body to determine how it manages the finances of the school taking into account any additional income, not the Council. The LA undertakes a monitoring role with regard to school finances.

**3. GBC plans show total housing in Lovelace and Send Wards is estimated to increase by one third over the next 5 years, yet forecast demand for school places in the area shows little or no increase. How do you explain this?**

The housing data is provided to the Council by Guildford Borough Council. The impact on school places takes into consideration the average number of families that move into new developments with children, that the number of children moving into the area will be of varying ages and thus spread across school year groups, and also that some of those families may already reside in the area and will already hold school places. The projections are the outcome of not only housing data, but also demographic data which does vary from year to year – an increase from housing can be balanced out by a dip in demographic demand.

**4. The table in paragraph 67 shows 82 vacancies for 2018/19 Reception across 17 classes. Yet table 63 shows that in the Reception class (2017/18) there is only 1 spare place across 13 schools. A glance at these figures should flag something wrong with projected figures in the area. Published offered numbers for Reception 2018 for these schools show a very different picture - with most classes offering their maximum PAN. Please provide us with the most up to date breakdown of confirmed admission numbers in each school for Reception 2018.**

**Byfleet and West Byfleet (11 FE)**

**Byfleet (1FE)**

**Pyrford (2FE)**

**St. Mary's (2FE)**

**West Byfleet (3FE)**

**Additional 3 classes (please detail which schools you have included here and the number in Reception 2018 for each school)**

This does not include The Marist 2FE. We have required bulge classes within this planning area. The Council has been planning to provide further additional places within this planning area. Current pupil numbers and applications have not supported this action, this has also

been evidenced by the forecasts within the report. Currently whilst we have the capability to provide additional places within this planning area we are not bringing proposals forward.

**South Woking (6FE)**

**Barnsbury (2FE)**

**Kingfield (1FE)**

**Westfield (2FE)**

**Additional 1 class (please detail which school you have included here and the number in Reception 2018 for this school)**

Westfield Primary School has provided 3 years of bulge provision from 2014-16 with the further ability to provide permanent places. Current forecasts and pupil preference numbers as indicated in the report have not supported this continued action. The capability to provide these additional places is retained however we are not currently proposing this action.

**5. Can SCC Officers, put their hand on their heart and say that none of the "local schools" outlined in the report will see expansion in the next five years? Can SCC state here and now that there will be no expansion of any of the schools listed in the report? If not, please explain.**

As stated in the report, the Council has the statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. If there is a significant increase in demand for school places over the places available, in line with the Council's statutory duties, we would take action to provide additional places. The Council accepts that sometimes numbers of places have to be reduced, and then may need to increase in the future in line with demographic demand.

**6. The SCC report states that there is a covenant on the school site, restricting future use of the land. It is our understanding that this covenant does not actually exist on the current site. Please provide evidence of this covenant.**

The 1847 grant document states 'To hold the same unto and to the use of the said Vicar and Churchwardens and their successors for the purposes of the said Act and upon trust to permit the said premises and all buildings thereon erected to be forever hereafter appropriated and used as and for a School for the education of children and adults or children only for the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Parish of Send and Ripley aforesaid and for the residence of the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress of the said School and for no other purpose which said School shall always be in union with and conducted upon the principles and in furtherance of ends and designs of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the Education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church and shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Inspector or Inspectors for the time being appointed'

The 1972 transfer of the land states 'TO HOLD the same except and reserved as foresaid unto the Trustees upon trust for the purposes of the School and in particular upon the Trust declared by the Trust Deed and the said Scheme as if the same were here repeated and set out'.

**Mr David Hodge CBE  
Leader of the Council  
9 July 2018**