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Mr Nick Harrison
Chairman
Audit & Governance Select Committee
c/o Room 122
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
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23 September 2014

Dear Nick

SEN Strategy

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2014 and please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

The SEN Strategy was agreed in 2010 for five years and thus now needs updating. As you know there have been major changes in the law governing SEN in the intervening period, most of these being implemented on 1 September this year. The new SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Governing Board which was convened in June on which I sit is looking at a new strategy on 8 October, and I would then expect a revised text to go to Cabinet in the following cycle.

A consultant was hired for the Residential Strategy to demonstrate a measure of independent advice in an area where the Council's agreement to fund is often controversial. The consultant made his report before the summer break and officers are currently considering how best to implement it. The key issues are the need for residential provision for (1) children with autism, and (2) children with behavioural difficulties. We are currently discussing these policy issues with our special schools and other interested parties.

I hope this information is helpful but I would be happy to update the Committee on this issue in, say, 6 months time..

Yours sincerely

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning

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