Cabinet Member for All-age Learning – 1 October 2018

Consultation on admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2020

This addendum to the above report seeks authorisation to proceed to consultation on the following:

- Furzefield Primary School reduction of PAN from 60 to 58.
- Admission authorities are not required to consult on proposed increases to PAN but are required to consult on any decrease to PAN. Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1 (see updated Appendix 1 in supplementary agenda) sets out the proposed admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2020 admission. Changes are highlighted in bold. As Surrey is proposing to reduce the PAN for Furzefield Primary School the local authority will be required to consult on this change.
- 2. Furzefield Primary School currently has a Reception PAN of 60. However this school is now operating an infant SEND Learning and Additional Needs centre and it is intended that the two children being admitted to the centre each year will spend more than 50% of their time in the mainstream class.
- 3. However with a PAN of 60 it would not be possible for two extra children to spend more than 50% of their time in a mainstream class. This is because it would put the school in breach of infant class size legislation which only permits 30 children in a class to one teacher.
- 4. As such it is proposed to reduce the PAN from 60 to 58 to ensure that each year group can accommodate two centre children in the mainstream classes and thereby ensure that class sizes do not breach 30.
- 5. An alternative approach would be to leave the PAN at 60 but to allocate the two centre children as part of the PAN. However if at any one time the SEND centre was not full, the local authority would have to allocate the remaining place(s) to any remaining mainstream children. Essentially this would mean a mainstream child could take the place of an SEND child and if another centre child subsequently needed the place they could not be educated in the mainstream class without breaching Infant Class Size legislation.
- 6. On balance the local authority proposes to reduce the PAN at this school as this will protect the centre places that have been commissioned for SEND children and will reduce the likelihood of the school having to take qualifying measures to comply with Infant Class Size legislation.
- 7. This proposal is supported by the school and by School Commissioning.

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