



meeting	CABINET	
date	8 July 2009	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Bramcote Hills Sport and Community College and Alderman White Community School and Language College Sections 15 and 19 Notice

Purpose of report

1. This report seeks the approval of Cabinet for the implementation of the following proposals:-
 - to close the Bramcote Hills Sport and Community College with effect from 31 August 2009 and
 - to enlarge the Alderman White Community school and Language college with effect from 1 September 2009
2. These proposals are a key decision as defined by the category 'Opening, merging or closing schools' in the Constitution and was first published in the Forward Plan in February 2009.

Information and advice

Background

3. Formal proposals were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 4 March 2009 and in accordance with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the County Council is required to publish a Sections 15 and 19 Notice. An appropriate Notice was subsequently published on 27 March 2009 which provided details of the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 above.
4. For school closures there is a six week period following the publication of Notices during which objections and comments can be made. For the enlargement of schools this representation period is four weeks.
5. Part 1 of the Notice, relating to the formal closure of the Bramcote Hills Sport and Community college, expired on 8 May 2009. The proposed enlargement of the Alderman White school was covered in Part 2 of the

Notice and this expired on 24 April 2009. In relation to both parts, no representations were received.

6. The decision on the above proposals now falls to Cabinet to determine. It is a statutory requirement that this determination has to be made within two months of the expiry of Part 1 of the notice's representation period ie by 8 July 2009. Failure to meet this requirement would result in the linked proposals having to be referred to an independent Schools Adjudicator for determination.

Statutory and policy implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is, however, drawn to the following:-

Personnel implications

8. The governors of both schools will be supported by officers to ensure that decisions about staffing are made in accordance with employment law and the Authority's previously determined policies.

Financial implications

9. When a school closes any balances (whether surplus or deficit) revert to the County Council. The County Council may make allocations to successor schools which are equal to or less than the surplus of relevant closing schools. Bramcote Hills College is likely to be operating with a deficit of £540,000 by the end of August 2009. The school ended the 2008/09 financial year with a deficit (£17,359). In addition to this, the school's contribution to the overall building costs that are required on site is £250,000. The remainder of the deficit will result from the loss of School Standards Grant (£150,000), loss of LSC funding (£40,000) and the existing federation staffing costs which are currently in the process of being reduced (£82,000). This deficit will be funded from the Non-Individual Schools Budget element of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The enlarged Alderman White School will receive increased School Standards Grant and LSC allocations, together with increased pupil-led funding as a consequence of an increase in its pupil numbers.

Equal opportunities implications

10. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed 'enabling document' and which will follow an agreed standard format.

Implications for service users

11. If the recommendation is accepted, pupils on roll at the Bramcote Hills college at the time of closure will automatically transfer to the enlarged Alderman White school as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

12. That Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the proposals to close the Bramcote Hills College with effect from 31 August 2009 and to enlarge the Alderman White School from 1 September 2009.

COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

Reasons for recommendation

13. This is perceived as being in the best educational interests of both the schools and the surrounding communities. Closing a school requires statutory notices to be published under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Other options considered

14. Bramcote Hills college to continue but with current projected pupil numbers due to fall further across the existing three school federation of Bramcote Hills, Alderman White and Bramcote Park school.

Also:-

- amalgamation of all three schools within the federation
- closure of Bramcote Park
- closure of Alderman White

Legal Services' comments (KK/28.5.2009)

15. The proposals in this report are within the remit of Cabinet

Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)

16. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

The 'complete proposals' referred to in the published statutory notice.

Electoral division affected

Bramcote and Stapleford

M19C2403