

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee

The Cabinet

Date of Committee

7th September 2006

Report Title

Rokeby Primary Schools

Summary

This report seeks formal approval for the amalgamation of Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]

No

Background papers

- School Organisation Framework 2005/10
- Cabinet reports 8.10.05, 23.2.06, 25.5.06 and 13.7.06
- Consultation documents, November 2005 and March 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

- Rugby Area Committee 11.1.06, 30.1.06 and 10.5.06

Local Member(s)

- Cllr John Vereker – Caldecott – *“I have no further comment to make on this report, which I support”*
Cllr Ian Smith – Caldecott

Other Elected Members

- Cllr John Whitehouse – *“noted”*
CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy
Cllr Richard Grant
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Alan Cockburn – *“approved for consideration”*
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould – comments incorporated in the report
- Finance Virginia Rennie on behalf of David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources – *“no comments to make”*
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Governing bodies, staff and parents/carers of pupils at the two schools
Other local schools in the area, Diocesan Authorities, neighbouring Local Authorities and all other stakeholders

FINAL DECISION **YES**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet Report to Cabinet within two years concerning resolution of buildings issue
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

The Cabinet – 7th September 2006

Rokeby Primary Schools

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendations:

- (1) That Cabinet confirm its decision to close Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School and establish a 4-11 community primary school with effect from September 2007.
- (2) That the new primary school continue to use the existing buildings of both schools to facilitate the transition to a one-form-entry school and allow for further exploration of the demand for extended school services in the Rokeby area.

1. Background

Cabinet agreed on 25th May to publish proposals to amalgamate Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School. Statutory notices setting out the proposal were published between 15th June and 27th July and as no objections were received, the amalgamation can now be determined by Cabinet.

2. The proposal

- 2.1 Technically the determination is to close Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School as from 31st August 2007 and establish a new 4-11 primary school from 1st September 2007.
- 2.2 The new primary school would have a capacity of 210 pupils (excluding nursery) to reflect current and forecast pupil intake numbers, rather than the existing 420 places. Notwithstanding the development of additional extended school provision, it is envisaged that the school should move to organising around one of the existing buildings.
- 2.3 The original proposal was for a self-financed scheme, funding all refurbishments and enhancements to the new school through the sale of a surplus building and site.
- 2.4 During the formal consultation stage, the issue of the siting of the new school revealed deep divisions in local opinion. Whichever of the two buildings is used:

- (a) there will be a need to employ a number of additional classrooms during a transition period while the larger year groups from earlier intake years graduate from the school, and
- (b) the new school will wish to review accommodation required to undertake its extended services provision (even though it is extremely unlikely this would necessitate the retention of a second school building).

Therefore it was agreed by Cabinet on 25th May that the amalgamation of Rokeby Infant and Rokeby Junior Schools should be taken forward without further delay but that both the infant and junior buildings will be retained for a period of two years.

- 2.5 In taking this decision it was acknowledged that there would be a cost to the new school of retaining both buildings in terms of maintenance, heating, lighting and rates, etc. It was accepted that these costs could be offset by continuing the established practice of allowing the new school to retain two base allocations for a period of two years to aid transition to a single school. This arrangement would enable the new school to fund its continued occupation of the larger site for that two year period.
- 2.6 Further proposals on the siting of the new school will be brought to Cabinet after consultation with the governing body of the new primary school with a view to establishing its long-term accommodation needs by September 2009. This will also provide an opportunity to explore the details of any capital funding required and how those costs could be met either from capital receipts from the disposal of one of the buildings if appropriate, any additional resources from the DfES for primary school renewal, or the capital resources available to the Authority overall for the development of services, including New Deal for Schools.
- 2.7 Cabinet also agreed on 13th July to convene the temporary governing body for the proposed school and this has been provisionally scheduled for 28th September. It is also noted that Cabinet asked for the temporary governing body to consider recommending a name for the proposed new school.

3. Summary

This report seeks the formal approval of Cabinet to amalgamate Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School given that there have been no statutory objections to the proposals. The report also confirms that a further report will be made to Cabinet in order for arrangements to organise the new school in its long-term accommodation can be effected by September 2009.

MARION DAVIS
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23rd August 2006