
Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19

- 1** Under regulation 19 of the The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the County Council is required to receive a report from the Leader on any decisions taken under regulation 11. These are key decisions which were not in the Forward Plan and which needed to be taken with less than five clear days' notice. Such urgent decisions can only be taken with the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman or, in his or her absence, the Chairman of the County Council. Key decisions taken with less than five clear days' notice which are in the Forward Plan are reported via the Executive Decision Database.
- 2** Such action is avoided wherever possible as it circumvents the normal mechanism for publication of decisions and ensuring that members have the opportunity to comment before decisions are taken.
- 3** However, on occasion this is not possible and the County Council is asked to note the following decisions which have been taken by the Director of Law and Assurance with the agreement of the relevant decision-maker and Scrutiny Committee chairman.

Change of status for The Forest School, Horsham and St Andrews CE High School for Boys, Worthing to co-educational schools - Determination of Statutory Notices

- 4** Demand for places at single-sex boys' schools in West Sussex has been declining in recent years and this is evidenced by a reduction in the overall number of families applying for boys schools as first preferences. Reduced pupil numbers impacts upon the finances available to schools and thereby on how the school can deliver the opportunities required to both staff and pupils. To address these issues the governing bodies of The Forest School, Horsham and St Andrew's CE High School for Boys, Worthing feel that conversion to become co-educational schools will not only enable increased pupil numbers but also increase opportunities for girls and provide a wider range of curriculum benefits for boys through co-educational subjects.
- 5** The Director of Education & Skills agreed to consult on the proposed significant change of character to alter The Forest School, Horsham from a single sex boys' school to a co-educational school from September 2021 entry. At the same time, the Governing Body of St Andrew's CE High School for Boys, Worthing, an aided church school, consulted on changing from a single sex boys' school to a co-educational school from September 2021 entry. The proposed changes would mean the schools will no longer admit only boys as Year 7 pupils from September 2021 and each year of entry thereafter would be co-educational.
- 6** The initial consultations took place during June 2020 and, following a review of the comments received, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took a [decision](#) (ES05(20/21) refers) to agree the publication of statutory notices to implement both changes with effect from September 2021. Statutory Notices were issued in August 2020 and members of the public and interested parties had the opportunity to make further representations regarding the proposed changes during a four-week period. During this time one email was received in relation to the proposals for The Forest School, Horsham but this was not substantial or

significant in content to amend, alter or delay the decision. There were no representations received for St Andrews CE High School for Boys.

- 7** Notice of the intention to take the decision to determine the Statutory Notices was published in the Forward Plan on 8 July 2020. It was removed from the Forward Plan on 10 September 2020 as it was determined that a further decision would not be necessary. However, communication from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator indicated a further decision was required to enable action by that office.
- 8** Due to the need for the matter to be determined by 3 November 2020, the Director of Law and Assurance, with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee, has therefore used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to agree the conversion of The Forest School, Horsham to become a co-educational school and the conversion of St Andrew's CE High School for Boys, Worthing to become a co-educational school with effect from September 2021.

Financial Support to the Care Sector - Infection Control Grant, Round 2, 20% Allocation

- 9** On 17 September 2020 the Government announced a second support package for adult social care providers backed by a further £546m infection control fund. The specified purpose of the grant is to provide continued support to adult social care providers, including those with whom the Council does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience to enable improved infection control. The West Sussex allocation of this money is £10.958m. The expectation from the Government is that 80% of the money be passported directly to registered care home providers and other CQC regulated community care providers.
- 10** A previous decision ([OKD40\(20/21\)](#) refers) allocated 80% of the Infection Control Grant Funding be paid to care homes and other CQC regulated community care providers, in line with government guidance, subject to the Government grant conditions, and the providers' acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Council's grant agreement with them.
- 11** The allocation of the remaining 20% of the Infection Control Funding is the subject of this further decision. The Director of Law and Assurance, with the agreement of the Executive Director Adults and Health and the Chairman of the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Committee, has used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to approve the payments of the remaining 20% of the Infection Control Funding, subject to providers' acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Council's grant agreement with them.

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