

**David Barling**

Chairman of the Children and Young People's  
Services Scrutiny Committee

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15 April 2020

BY EMAIL:

Nigel Jupp

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Dear Nigel,

**Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee – Small Schools Proposals**

At the virtual Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 April 2020, members considered the above item. The draft decision report laid out proposals for the following small and rural schools; Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School, Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School, Stedham Primary School, Compton and Up Marden CE Primary School and Warninglid Primary School.

The Committee made a series of recommendations for your consideration, as listed below:

1. The Committee does not believe that the DfE threshold for closure of rural schools is met for **Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School** and that the Covid-19 crisis is placing unprecedented pressure on the County Council, schools, teachers, parents and children. It therefore recommends that:
  - Cabinet rejects the proposal to close Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School, Clapham, Worthing
  - The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) is asked to explore the academisation option with SDET as soon as is practical given the Covid-19 Crisis.
2. The Committee considers that as closure of **Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School, Chichester**, would make subsequent academisation impossible, and in light of the Covid-19 crisis, that now is not the time to close the school. The Committee recommends that the Cabinet should therefore decline the closure of Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School, Chichester.
3. The Committee supports the recommendation to request County Council Officers to continue to work with Governors of **Stedham Primary School** and Harting CE Primary School to progress the Federation Action Plan towards a hard federation by January 2021. The Committee commented

that there may be need for some flexibility in timing given the current Covid-19 crisis.

4. The Committee supports the recommendation to Request County Council Officers continue to work with Governors to progress proposals for the federation of **Compton and Up Marden CE Primary School, Compton** with an appropriate partner.
5. The Committee supports the recommendation to issue prescribed alteration notices for the relocation of **Warninglid Primary School, Warninglid, Haywards Heath** to a new site in Pease Pottage Crawley, by September 2021 (subject to developers completing in June 2021) and implement the proposals submitted by Warninglid Primary School and at least one other partner to Federate.

I trust that you will take the Committee's comments into consideration and share these recommendations with Cabinet colleagues ahead of any decision being taken on 22 April 2020. I would be very grateful if you could provide any written response you wish to make to this letter by 22 May 2020 to [Katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk), in time for the Committee's next meeting on 4 June 2020.

With best regards,

David Barling

Chairman, Children and Young Peoples Services Scrutiny Committee.