

Public Notice

Pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, notice is hereby given for a key decision for which it was not possible to include in the Forward Plan 28 days before the decision was taken. The following decision has been taken under the urgent action procedure by the Director of Law and Assurance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and with the agreement of the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee, under Standing Order 5.23 (Part 4, Section 1 of the County Council's Constitution).

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

Demand for places at single-sex boys schools in West Sussex has been declining in recent years. 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.

Public consultations took place during June 2020 in relation to the co-education proposals and following a review of the comments received the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took a decision to agree the publication of statutory notices to implement both changes with effect from September 2021 ([Decision reference ES05\(20/21\)](#)). Statutory notices were issued, and members of the public were able to make further representations regarding the proposed changes during a four week period that closed on the 3 September 2020. A decision to confirm the conversion of both schools to become co-educational, following the closure of the representation period, now needs to be taken.

The decision is urgent due to recent communication from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator indicating a further decision to that already taken in July 2020 in relation to these proposals ([Decision reference ES05\(20/21\)](#)) is required to enable action by that office.

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 used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 to agree:

- (1) The conversion of The Forest School, Horsham to become a co-educational school with effect from September 2021
- (2) The conversion of St Andrew's CE High School for Boys, Worthing to become a co-educational school with effect from September 2021.

Urgent decisions are not subject to a call-in period and come into effect immediately (copy of letters available).

Details available from Wendy Saunders – 033 022 22553

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

29 October 2020