
Report to Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee

1 March 2023

Review of primary age pupil provision across Worthing and Durrington Area: Publication of Statutory Notices – Focus for Scrutiny

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

In November 2022 the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills approved the launch of a public consultation on proposed solutions to reduce the number of surplus primary school places across the Worthing and Durrington area ([Decision LS08\(22/23\)](#) refers).

The consultation ran from 28 November 2022 to 20 January 2023 inviting comments from interested parties to assist in further shaping the proposals.

Following the review of the consultation feedback, the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills proposes to take a decision to approve the progression of proposals to reduce the surplus places in the Worthing and Durrington area, as set out in the attached draft decision report.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the proposals to reduce surplus primary school places in the Worthing and Durrington area and provide any comments to the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills for consideration as part of the decision-making.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- 1) The aims of the reduction in surplus places in Worthing and Durrington and how these will be met by the proposals
- 2) The consultation findings, how these have informed the proposals set out in the draft decision report and any lessons learnt for the future

The Chairman will summarise the debate for consideration by the Committee.

1. Background and context

- 1.1 The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient primary and secondary school places for all children. The number of places is reviewed annually and pupil projections for the Worthing and Durrington locality showed significant surplus provision of places at primary schools in

the borough. Following engagement with schools, a set of proposals were developed to reduce surplus places and a public consultation was carried out to seek views on these proposals. Part of these proposals were in regard to the re-organisation of three Worthing schools (Chesswood Junior School, Lyndhurst Infant School and Springfield Infant School). The outcomes of the consultation have been considered and an approach to reduce surplus places is being proposed.

- 1.3 The background and context to the service proposal are set out in the attached draft decision report together with an account of the information and considerations provided to support the proposed decision presented for the committee's scrutiny and comment.

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Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft Key Decision Report – Review of primary age pupil provision across Worthing and Durrington Area: Publication of Statutory Notices

Appendix to the decision report: Table of responses received to the online consultation.

Background Papers: None