

Extract from Cabinet meeting 10/11/11

139. DISCONTINUANCE (CLOSURE) OF WELTON SCHOOL

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented a report on the Discontinuance (Closure) of Welton School.

The report explained the background to the publication of the proposal and the outcome of the subsequent period for representations. It then went on to ask Members to consider whether or not to approve the proposal based upon all relevant factors as set out in the statutory guidance at appendix A to the report. Members were advised that Welton was a small rural primary school which would have had just 9 pupils on roll in September 2011, however given the consultation exercise parents had chosen to transfer their children to nearby schools of Raughton Head and Rosley both of which were rated good by Ofsted. When Welton had 18 children on roll the cost per pupil equated to £7k per pupil against the average cost of £3.4k per pupil. Given the lack of suitable footpaths the school was not on a safe route to school. During the consultation period on the proposal to discontinue the school no representations were received which suggested a general consensus that the school was no longer viable with such small pupil numbers.

The school was not used for community events as a village hall directly opposite the school fulfilled this function and therefore the loss of the school would not impact on this aspect of village life. The broadband hub located within the building would be moved.

Remaining staff would either be redeployed or made redundant. 12

The Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services confirmed that all procedures had been complied with and Cabinet were able to take a final decision on the proposals.

RESOLVED, that the statutory proposal to discontinue Welton School on 31 December 2011 be approved.