

Select Committee on Children's Services – 26th March 2007

Report of the Lead Officer

Report of the Working Party
– Review of Consultation Arrangements on School Closures

Purpose of Report

1. To seek the Select Committee's endorsement of the report from the Working Party on Review of Consultation Arrangements on School Closures and to recommend that it now be sent formally to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Background

2. Following the general reaction to proposals to close and/or amalgamate a number of primary schools in the Borough during 2005, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services asked the Select Committee to review the policies and arrangements for consultation on proposed school closures.
3. The Select Committee appointed a Working Group to undertake the review and the Working Group's final report is attached for consideration.
4. The Select Committee is recommended to endorse the report and agree that it is now formally sent to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Law

6. The Council may publish proposals to discontinue schools under section 29 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and must have regard to guidance given by the Secretary of State in carrying out consultations before publishing any such proposals.

Equality Impact

7. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
8. The principles of this report are specifically focussed on the effects of consultation arrangements on school closures and ultimately the effects on children and young people.

Recommendation

9. The Select Committee is recommended:-
 - to endorse the report from the Working Group;
 - to agree that it is now formally sent to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.



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Mike Williams
Lead Officer

Contact Officer: Mike Williams
Telephone: 01384 814800
Email: mike.s.williams@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Report of the Working Party – Review of Consultation Arrangements on School Closures