

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

14 March 2018

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
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Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13 March 2018 to provide an opening statement and answering questions on the **School Admission Arrangements 2019/20 – draft Cabinet Report.**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, and Brett Andrewartha, School Organisation Team Manager, for the report and answers to Members questions. The Members particularly wished to express their appreciation for all the hard work that the Education Directorate staff have undertaken to produce this very detailed report.

The Committee was pleased to have the opportunity to consider the outcome of the consultation on the two proposed options, and also provide the community with the opportunity to express their feelings around the proposals. In addition the Committee was happy to ask a number of questions that concerned parents had provided., and wished to thanks you for answering these specific questions.

During the item the Members raised a number of concerns about elements of the two options together with their respective impact on children, and the Committee noted the answers and explanations provided by yourself and the Officers.

The Members discussed at some length, during the way forward section of the meeting, the various aspects of the draft report, the implications of each option, the consultation responses and equality impact assessments, as well as the answers to member and public questions.

The Members were particularly concerned around the broadness of the Equality Impact Assessments, attached at Appendix 8 of the report, which did not reference the impact on the present cohort of pupils. The Committee considered that to enable the Council to satisfy its duties and obligations under the Equalities Act 2010, it must undertake a further Equality Impact Assessment of Option A on the present cohort of pupils

In conclusion the Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the consideration of the draft report “Schools Admission Arrangements 2019/20” be delayed to enable the Directorate to undertake a further equality impact assessment, to assess the impact of Option A on the present cohort of pupils, to satisfy its duties and obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN
Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger