

By: Ian Craig, Director - Operations

To: Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE

Subject: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF AXTON CHASE SCHOOL, LONGFIELD, DARTFORD AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH A GOVERNMENT FUNDED ACADEMY.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Cabinet Member is requested to agree to the issuing of a public notice for the closure of Axton Chase School, Longfield, Dartford and its replacement with a government-funded Academy

Introduction

1. The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 7th February 2008, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposal to close Axton Chase School, Longfield, Dartford and replace it with a government-funded Academy.

The Proposal

2. (1) It is proposed to close Axton Chase Community Secondary School on 31st August 2008.

(2) It is proposed that a new government funded Academy will replace Axton Chase School, opening on 1st September 2008. The name of the Academy is likely to be The Axtane Academy. The Academy will be federated with the Leigh Technology Academy, which is the lead sponsor with co-sponsors Kent County Council (KCC) and the University of Kent.

(3) It is proposed that the Academy will open on the existing site and premises with a Published Admission Number of 180, and a capacity of 900, plus up to 200 post 16 places. The new buildings are expected to be completed in September 2010 on the same site, adjacent to the current premises.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

3. 25 responses have been received, of which 20 are in favour, 4 against and 1 undecided.

Views of Local Members

4. The Local Member for the County Division where Axton Chase School is sited is Mr Bertie Bassam. Mr Bassam is also the Chair of the Governing Body of Axton Chase School. Mr Bassam has been informed of the proposal and is fully supportive.

Views of the Governing Body

5. The Governing Body of Axton Chase School is fully supportive of the proposal.

Views of the Cluster Board

6. The Cluster Board has been informed of the proposal and is fully supportive.

Resource Implications

Capital

7. (1) There are no capital costs to KCC connected with the closure of Axton Chase School.

(2) Part of the site is due to be sold with the subsequent receipt being used to support the Academies and Building School for the Future (BSF) Programme. The Academy will take on the rest of the site.

Revenue

(3) Running costs for Academies are paid by the government and the sponsors.

Views of the School Organisation Advisory Board

8. At its meeting on 2 April 2008, the School Organisation Advisory Board supported the proposal to issue a public notice for the closure of Axton Chase School and its replacement by a Government Funded Academy. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation

9. The Cabinet Member is requested TO AGREE to issue a public notice to close Axton Chase School, Longfield, Dartford and reopen it as a Government funded Academy.

Simon Webb
Area Education Officer
Dartford & Gravesham
Tel: 01732 525110

The Local Member is Bertie Bassam

Background Documents:

None

Previous Committee Reports:

Report to School Organisation Advisory Board 7 February 2008
Report to School Organisation Advisory Board 2 April 2008