

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

Decision No: 13/00044

Subject: Governing Body proposal to close St Philip Howard Catholic (Aided) Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee 21 June 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Herne Bay

Summary: Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 21 June 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the decision to agree that the Governing Body of St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School should implement the closure of the school.

Recommendations: That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree that the Governing Body of St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School should implement the closure of the school.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Governing Body of St. Phillip Howard met on the 25 February 2013 and voted on a resolution to consult on closure of the school due to a falling school roll, the school going into Special Measures following inspection in May 2012 and a projected budget deficit of £36,000 with further demands on the budget due to infrastructure needs.
- 1.2 The consultation period ran from 11 March to 26 April 2013 with a public meeting being held on 13 March 2013. The views expressed at the meetings and in the written responses were taken into account at a meeting of the governors on 29 April 2013 where the decision was made to issue the public notice.
- 1.3 The Public Notice ran from 2 May to 14 June 2013 and (at the time of print) no objections had been received

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The school is projecting a budget deficit of £36,000 with further demands on the budget due to infrastructure needs.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition, “to ensure every child can go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in Bold Steps for Kent.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out at the start of this consultation and is available via the following link:
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome>
- 4.2 The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Following consultation the Governing Body of St Philip Howard took the required steps to close the school with the final stage requiring Cabinet Member agreement.
- 5.2 The Local Authority has been working with the school, the Diocese and Herne Bay and Whitstable primary schools to ensure that all children are provided with places in other schools and that siblings are placed together.

6. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked agree:

that the Governing Body of St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School should implement the closure of the school.

7. Background Documents

- 7.1 COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17
<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s34295/FINAL%20VERSION%20Kent%20Comm%20Plan%20Ed%20Prov%202012-17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf>
- 7.2 Education Cabinet Committee report – 19 March 2013 - Governing Body proposal to close St Philip Howard Catholic (Aided) Primary School
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s38873/Item%20C4%20St%20Philip%20Howard%20RC%20Primary%20School%20Herne%20Bay.pdf>
- 7.3 The public consultation document is available via the following link:
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome>
- 7.4 Report to Education Cabinet Committee – 21 June 2013 - Decision number: 13/00044 Governing Body proposal to close St Philip Howard Catholic (Aided) Primary School
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40850/Item%20B1e%20Decision%20number%201300044%20Governing%20Body%20proposal%20to%20close%20St%20Philip%20Howard%20Catholic%20Aided.pdf>

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