

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – EDUCATION** held on 3 August 2021.

PRESENT

Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance – Councillor M Yates.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N Gourlay, G Hickton and J Patten

07/21 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** to confirm that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education held on 6 July 2021.

08/21 **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS**
The Cabinet member had been asked to confirm the nominations of persons to serve as local authority school governors.

Nominations to school governing boards were proposed as set out below:

Any appointments made by governing boards would be subject to the completion of a Declaration of Eligibility form, a proof of identity check and an enhanced DBS check

Name	School	Nominating Councillor	Appointment
Amber Valley F Atkinson	Belper School & Sixth Form	J Nelson	Re- appointment
Chesterfield A Downing	Hady Primary School	L Ramsey	Re - appointment
North East M Fairclough	Ridgeway Primary School	C Renwick	Re -appointment

RESOLVED that to confirm the nominations for persons to serve as local authority governors as detailed in the report

09/21 **DEDICATION OF LAND IN CHILDRENS SERVICES PORTFOLIO AS PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY** Approval was sought from the Cabinet Member to dedicate land, held under the portfolio of Children’s Services, as a public footpath

with concessionary rights for cyclists. This report would also be considered by the Cabinet Member of Highways Assets and Transport.

Derbyshire County Council acquired the Clowne Branch Line in 2014 and had subsequently carried out a project to remove dereliction, regenerate a wildlife corridor and provide approximately 5 miles of traffic free highway between Seymour and Creswell. This route, known as the Clowne Greenway, forms a section of Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network. It is now available for use and has proven highly popular with all users

The eastern end of the route issues from the former branch line through a housing development off Skinner Street in Creswell, recently under construction by AVANT Homes. The internal path structure within this housing site provided a connection to the Clowne Greenway. A Section 106 agreement was also secured through the Bolsover District Council's Planning Department to include a financial contribution towards the development of a further off-site link path to allow access directly to the village centre and the Creswell railway station. Without this link, the route to the railway station is significantly increased by road and pavement by way of Skinner Street and Elmton Road.

In the interests of promoting Active Travel through walking and cycling, and in line with current Government policy, a short path between the Greenway and the railway station would provide a joined-up approach to promote car free journeys.

The land was included in the portfolio of Children's Services and provided a more direct connection to the station. The corridor was in two parts, the first part forming Gypsy Lane carriageway and footway, which was currently used as the main entrance to the Infant School. However, a new entrance to the school is being designed to connect directly from the new estate road within the housing site. The second part was a grass and stoned surface, allowing access for grounds maintenance vehicles. The intended works would form a bound surfaced track with a stoned edging to minimise onward maintenance costs.

It was intended that the full width and length of this land would be dedicated as a public footpath, initially with concessionary cycle rights, but subsequently converted into a cycle track, in order that future maintenance of its surface would become the responsibility of the Place Department in perpetuity. Ownership of the subsoil remains with Children's Services who will be responsible for maintaining the new security boundary fence.

The public footpath to be dedicated was shown on the plan appended to the report. Once the public footpath has been dedicated, a statutory consultation process would be undertaken for a Cycle Track Order to be made to establish the legal rights for cyclists to use the route, as well as pedestrians.

RESOLVED to approve the dedication of land, as shown on the plan

appended to the report, as a public right of way carrying the status of public footpath with concessionary rights for cycling.

10/21 SCHOOL BUDGETS: DEFICIT BALANCES AND RECOVERY PLANS BRINGING BUDGETS INTO BALANCE OVER MORE THAN ONE FINANCIAL YEAR

Approval was sought to requests from governing bodies of schools with budget deficits to implement budget plans in order to repay the deficits over more than one year, and to report on the schools which have still to agree a deficit recovery plan.

Section 4.9 of “The Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools” provides that a governing body unable to prepare a balanced budget may make a formal request to the Cabinet Member for Education to implement a plan to bring school’s budget into balance over more than one year. Cabinet Member approval is required where a school plans to operate a deficit exceeding: Nursery/primary/special schools both 3% of the budget share and £10,000; and Secondary schools either 3% of the budget share or £150,000.

Before making such a request, the school must demonstrate to officers from Children’s Services and Corporate Finance that all other options had been exhausted. Approval to repay a deficit was normally only allowed over a maximum of three years. However, additional years may be granted if, in the opinion of the Executive Director for Children’s Services, the school’s ability to deliver the national curriculum would otherwise be seriously jeopardised and that no other reasonable course of action is available.

The estimated balances and pupil numbers of the schools referenced were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED (1) to approve that Charlesworth Primary School, Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School and Calow Primary School be allowed to recover their budget deficits over more than one financial year;

(2) to note the position of the Wirksworth CE Infant School and New Mills School that were currently unable to submit a balanced budget recovery plan within three years, as detailed in the report; and

(3) to require the Governing Bodies of Wirksworth C.E. Infant School and New Mills School to agree and submit plans to the Authority by the end of the current financial year that eliminate the accumulated deficit within a timeframe acceptable to the Authority

11/21 SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021-22 The Cabinet Member was asked to note that term dates for 2021-22 would need to be amended by schools and academies closing for an additional day to take account of the extra bank holiday in 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and that each

school or academy would be asked to determine the additional day they will close

The DfE had confirmed that they intended to amend the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document to reflect the additional bank holiday in teachers' terms and conditions and would be consulting with teacher unions on the proposed changes over the summer as part of the Governments consultation process for the 2021 pay award.

RESOLVED that in anticipation of the proposed changes being implemented with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2021, .to note the proposal in relation to school term dates to be recommended to Derbyshire schools and academies in 2021-22