

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Urgent Business

SKERTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CONSULTATION

Thursday 16th January 2014

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To note Lancashire County Council's intention to close Skerton Community High School with effect from 31st August 2014, and to consider responding to the subsequent consultation.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) That the Committee considers sending a response to the announcement that Lancashire County Council intends to close Skerton Community High School on Sunday 31st August 2014.
- (2) That, should the Committee decide that a response is appropriate, members are asked to formulate its content at this meeting and to authorise the Chief Officer (Governance), in consultation with the Chairman, to finalise the response.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting of 12th September 2013, Council Business Committee considered proposals from Lancashire County Council to close Skerton Community High School. The closure had been proposed due to concerns over educational standards, low pupil numbers, and financial viability.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed to respond in opposition to the proposal, and officers drafted a letter which was submitted to the consultation. A copy of that letter is attached as an appendix.
- 1.3 Lancashire County Council has since announced its intention to close the school with effect from 31st August 2014. The notice period will be six weeks, from 16th January to 26th February, during which time any interested party can submit their representations to the authority. This is a statutory consultation governed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Representations can be in the form of expressions of support for, or objections to, the proposals

and must be received by 26th February 2014.

- 1.4 The Council Business Committee Chairman agreed to accept this as an item or urgent business, as the notice of proposals for closure was issued subsequent to the agenda's publication.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 It is for the Committee to decide whether to submit a representation to Lancashire County Council and, if so, to determine its content. A copy of the public notice and detailed proposals for the closure are attached in the appendices to this report.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are requested to determine whether a response is required to Lancashire County Council's notice of intention to close Skerton Community High School and, if so, to formulate the draft response at this meeting and authorise the Chief Officer (Governance) to finalise the response in consultation with the Chairman.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None.

Information Services:

None.

Property:

None.

Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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