

Cabinet – Thursday 11 July 2019

Written Question from Paul Mocroft

Re: West Wight School Places – Outcome of Consultation

71% of the surveyed West Wight community do not support this proposal. 87% of Federation parents do not support this proposal. The governors and headteacher of the Federation do not support this proposal. St Saviours' do not support this proposal. The results of this four-week consultation show overwhelmingly that this proposal is not supported by the majority, and most importantly by those who it will impact most heavily. Why has this been ignored and why is cabinet considering consulting on this option when it could face a legal challenge at huge unnecessary cost to the public purse?

Response

The feedback received from the respective governing bodies along with the feedback from all other stakeholders has been fully and very carefully considered through-out the decision-making processes, nothing has been ignored. Should cabinet approve the recommendations set out in my report and we enter a period of formal consultation. I can say unequivocally that all the feedback we receive during that period will also be fully considered before any final recommendation is put before Cabinet in October.

School organisation matters such as these are always very emotive as we are all very passionate about ensuring our children get the best education they possibly can. We face a situation on the West Wight where declining pupil numbers can not be simply ignored, very few parents are now choosing to send their children to All Saints and the school is undersubscribed by 129 pupils; difficult decisions must now be taken to ensure the long-term stability of education in the area, I believe what is being put forward tonight does that, by now coming together on this matter we can successfully secure the future of the four remaining schools on West Wight and, provide greater opportunity for all children in the area to access high quality schools that are being fantastically led and managed.