

**Cabinet – 9 January 2020**

**Written question from Jamie Allen to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

Could the cabinet demonstrate they have adequately considered the impact on local businesses in Yarmouth if they are to close All Saints school, and support the moving of Yarmouth School to Freshwater? A recent petition signed by Yarmouth businesses' indicates that nearly 30 businesses believe they will be adversely affected by the removal of Yarmouth School. Parents and carers spend significant amounts within the town, whether it be meeting for a coffee after dropping children off in the morning or treating children to ice-cream after school. Yarmouth businesses also provide, haircuts for both children and parents, stationary, food, supplies and a pharmacy with the custom from school related visits making up a large proportion of 'out of season' takings. I feel the impact on the local businesses have been overlooked within the council.

***Response***

The Council has been clear through-out the consultations it has undertaken and the reports it has produced, that its primary aim is to ensure a sustainable, high achieving primary school offer is provided across the West Wight. The closure, if approved of All Saints' allows this process to begin. The subsequent relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School if decided by the governing body provides the next very positive step on that journey.

The council has fully considered the implications of it supporting a decision by the governing body of Yarmouth and Shalfleet to relocate Yarmouth CE Primary School to the All Saints' site. In this instance it fully believes supporting this proposal is a positive way forward. It ensures that a strong and robust educational offer is provided in the area's largest community and, a multi million pound capital investment opportunity is secured that will benefit the wider Island and its businesses'. The council remains committed to working with the Yarmouth community and Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese to consider how if it becomes available, the Yarmouth school site could be re-purposed to again play an active role in the area.