

FULL COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2015

Written question from Councillor Julie Jones-Evans to Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Leader and Executive Member for Children's Services

I request the following information in relation to the proposed merger of Carisbrooke and Medina Colleges. I am asking that all preparatory background work carried out since October 2013 be included.

1. How many officers have been involved?
2. How many hours have they collectively worked?
3. What is the total cost to date?
4. What are the budget savings for the IW Council should the Executive decide on Option 2b?
5. What would be the process for Christ the King College to be able to relocate to the Carisbrooke College site should a merger (Option 2b) be the decision of the Executive?

Response

Numerous officers have been directly involved at different stages in the exercise (see below). These have included: specialists in school admissions, home to schools transport and school organisation; schools capital managers; finance officers; school improvement managers; and three of the Departmental Management Team including the Director. A core group of approximately five has steered the work throughout.

This would be impossible to quantify. It is worth remembering that this exercise has included a number of substantial phases. It commenced in 2013 with what appears to have been the first detailed analysis of school placements, need and organisation that the island has conducted in many years (there was certainly little if any baseline information for officers to work from). That led to the detailed options appraisal in late 2014 culminating in the preparation for and implementation of the Council's decision to consult. There followed the consultation process which was inevitably labour intensive, and the process of consultation analysis. There was then the final report preparation and related presentations. In the meantime there was a separate discreet strand of work in negotiating with the EFA.

There are no IWC budget savings to 2b. On current analysis there would be a cost to the IOW of approximately an additional £100k on home to school transport (as set out in the Executive report). The potential savings to Carisbrooke/Medina would be approximately £1m in year on year site-specific and related costs.

They could ask and the DfE could consider whether they would be willing to refurbish the Carisbrooke site for CtK and save the cost of a rebuild on the CtK site. There would then need to be negotiations with the IOW Council around land swaps.